



Regional District of Nanaimo &
City of Nanaimo

2025 AGM & Convention

April 11 - 13

PHOTO CREDIT: GORD MCKENNA

WELCOME FROM AVICC PRESIDENT BEN GESELBRACHT



This year the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities is excited to be back in Nanaimo – the Harbour City – for our 2025, AGM and Convention. AVICC would like to thank the Snuneymuxw First Nation, the Qualicum First Nation, and the Snaw-naw-as (Nanose) First Nation for welcoming our members to their territories for our event. The Regional District of Nanaimo and the City of Nanaimo are our joint hosts, and as President of AVICC I would like to thank both organizations for all their support in welcoming our members to their community.

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

The AVICC Executive is excited about the range of sessions available at this year’s Convention. I am very happy to announce our keynote speakers are Vaughn Palmer and Keith Baldrey. Some background on our Keynote Speakers is included below, and we look forward to having them share a ‘pulse’ on politics in B.C.

Details on the pre-Convention Friday tours and sessions are also included in this brochure, as are highlights of the business sessions that will be offered during the regular Convention. We’ll be sending out more information on the Convention sessions in the coming weeks, and updates to the program will be posted on the website at www.avicc.ca.

Delegates can register online at <https://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/event/2025/AVICC>

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

KEITH BALDREY AND VAUGHN PALMER



Keith Baldrey

You’ll hear the most current insights from two of B.C.’s leading political commentators who will debate, entertain, and discuss the key issues impacting the B.C. region within the current political landscape – locally, provincially, and nationally. Veteran journalists Vaughn Palmer and Keith Baldrey are the “go to” guys when it comes to understanding the British Columbia political landscape, past and present.



Vaughn Palmer

Vaughn Palmer has been writing a column about provincial politics for over 25 years for the Vancouver Sun. An award-winning journalist, Palmer has covered multiple premiers, with a range of issues, personalities and scandals along the way. Keith Baldrey is the Legislative Bureau Chief for Global News; an author, a radio commentator and a syndicated columnist for Postmedia. Prior to Global, Keith was the Vancouver Sun Legislature Bureau Chief for over a decade.

Vaughn and Keith take their popular CKNW radio segment Cutting Edge of the Ledge to the platform, appearing live on the AVICC stage to comment, debate, take questions and entertain our delegates as they explore the “BC Political Pulse”.

PROGRAM IN BRIEF

Friday, April 11, 2025

- 8:30 am Tour – Revitalization and Reconciliation
- 9:00 am Tour – Regional Landfill
- 9:00 am Workshop - Community Health Solutions
- 11:30 am Chiefs, Mayors & Chairs Forum and Lunch
- 11:30 am Electoral Area Directors Forum and Lunch
- 2:00 pm Official Opening
Keynote Address
- 4:00 pm Provincial Address
Plenary Session
- 5:30 pm Welcome Reception

Saturday, April 12, 2025

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

Sunday, April 13, 2025

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

Visit www.avicc.ca for program updates



FRIDAY PRE-CONVENTION PROGRAM

Study Tour: ‘Revitalization and Reconciliation’

Exploring downtown redevelopment including opportunities for reconciliation and collaboration with First Nations

8:30 am - 11:30 am, Friday, April 11, 2025

Cost: \$40

Exploring revitalization of Nanaimo’s downtown, including lands which were occupied by traditional Snuneymuxw First Nation village sites and steps towards reconciliation that are underway. The tour will start at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel (100 Gordon Street) and visit the following sites by bus and on-foot:

- **1 Port Drive:** The City of Nanaimo acquired the lands at 1 Port Drive from CP Rail in March 2013. The lands comprise 10.8 ha of land and water (26.7 acres), located in the downtown core. Work is underway to prepare the site for redevelopment as envisioned in the Port Drive Waterfront Master Plan.
- **100 Port Drive:** Passenger Terminal Building at the Port of Nanaimo, includes the Hullo passenger ferry service, Helijet heliport and the cruise ship terminal.
- **Maffeo Sutton Park:** Nanaimo’s destination waterfront park has undergone recent improvements including a new inclusive playground and the Rotary Centennial Garden. Visitors are welcomed to the park and a historic village site by a traditional Welcome Pole by Snuneymuxw Master Carver Noel Brown.
- **1 Terminal Avenue:** A highly prominent waterfront property in downtown Nanaimo and traditional village site for the Snuneymuxw people, has now been returned to the Snuneymuxw First Nation as a measure of reconciliation and for its redevelopment potential.
- **340 Campbell Street:** A six-storey development featuring 162 rental units.
- **235 Wallace Street:** A substantial rental housing development in Nanaimo’s downtown core, eventually leading to a pair of six- storey towers containing 195 residential market rental units.
- **Fire Station 1:** The official opening of Nanaimo’s new Fire Station #1 was held in June 2023. The event featured the unveiling of a welcoming pole carved from red cedar by Snuneymuxw First Nation artist Noel Brown.
- **285 Prideaux Street:** Opened in May 2024, the “Cornerstone” supportive housing building, which provides 51 new permanent homes with supports for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, was a collaborative effort by the City of Nanaimo and BC Housing.
- **388 Machleary Street:** in February 2024, construction began to erect a 145-unit seniors’ housing project where the former Malaspina Gardens care home stood for decades, a new era of seniors living will occupy the property.
- **Commercial Street Construction Project:** The first phase of Design Commercial Project is underway. An iconic and historical street in downtown Nanaimo, Commercial Street will be updated with important infrastructure updates to municipal service assets and includes improvements to sidewalks, accessibility, and creating a dynamic and flexible event space to host non-vehicle events such as the Commercial Street Night Market.
- Tour will conclude at 100 Gordon Street.

THANK YOU

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

The host communities for the 2025 AGM & Convention are the City of Nanaimo and the Regional District of Nanaimo. Mayor Leonard Krog and Council, and Chair Vanessa Craig and the Regional District Board are thanked for their generous hospitality.

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

All local contributors are thanked for their support in making the 2025 AGM & Convention a terrific experience for all.





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FRIDAY PRE-CONVENTION PROGRAM

Study Tour: 'Regional Landfill Tour'

9:00 am - 11:30 am, Friday, April 11, 2025

Cost: \$40

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) owns and operates two solid waste management facilities in the region: the Regional Landfill and Church Road Transfer Station (near Parksville). Both facilities operate under an approved Solid Waste Management Plan and serve over 170,000 people. RDN solid waste facilities safely manage and dispose of waste that cannot be composted, reused, recycled or otherwise diverted from disposal.

The Regional Landfill is located near the southern border of the City of Nanaimo and is the only landfill site in the region, receiving more than 80,000 tonnes of waste per year. The Regional Landfill operates under a Ministry of Environment and Parks approved Operating Certificate (OC-1714). In addition to receiving garbage from commercial customers and the general public, both facilities provide areas for the collection of recyclable materials (including garden waste, food waste, household recyclables and scrap metal), construction/demolition waste and disposal of controlled waste. Both facilities divert over 11,000 tonnes of recyclable materials annually (mostly organic waste).

Join us on this tour to learn what the RDN is doing to get closer to its waste reduction goal. For example:

- Using a shredder to extend the life of the Regional Landfill – to date, a 30+ per cent densification of material volume has been achieved;
- Odours captured around the plant are removed by the new biofilter and carbon filters, improving air quality for neighbouring residents;
- Applying interim closure media and infrastructure to reduce negative environmental and social impacts on the region;
- Offering funding through the Zero Waste grants program to support a circular economy and reduce waste;
- Mandatory Waste Source Separation and Waste Hauler Licensing bylaws to increase recycling and composting, and incentivize waste haulers to choose these options over landfilling;
- Expanding the organics program to increase curbside disposal of yard waste; and
- School-based zero-waste education and initiatives to educate children and youth about the many benefits recycling and composting have on society, the economy and the natural environment.



Shredder Photos Credit: CHEK News



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FRIDAY PRE-CONVENTION PROGRAM

Community Healthcare Solutions

9:00 am - 11:30 am, Friday, April 11, 2025

Cost: \$30

B.C. residents are facing serious healthcare challenges, and local governments are struggling to ensure that their residents have access to the services they need to thrive and survive. In this session, delegates will have an opportunity to hear from health-care leaders on actions already underway and to have a conversation about the healthcare challenges their communities are facing and what is needed to address them.

Regulated and unregulated substances are having devastating effects on thousands of people's lives in our communities. The public narrative around substances is polarized, oversimplified, and often rooted in perception, opinion and history, rather than facts and evidence. The 2024 Island Health Chief Medical Health Officer report offers policy timelines and health data on alcohol, tobacco, cannabis and unregulated substances that can contribute to the collective understanding and support conversations and changes in communities that lead to better health.

Informed by engagement with over 60 local governments across B.C. through the provincial project, Local Leadership United (LLU), representatives from the Community Action Initiative will provide examples of ways to support local governments with challenges related to substance use and community overdose response efforts. It will equip elected officials with practical tools, examples from other communities and resources to support community health with respect to substance use and address community concerns about complicated challenges like public consumption, new health services and overdose deaths as they relate to other social crises.

Communities across B.C. are facing serious health-care challenges, including temporary emergency room closures and long wait times for surgeries and other health-care needs. In response, the Province has taken action with initiatives that include implementing minimum nurse-to-patient ratios and investing in substantial financial incentives to retain and recruit nurses in high-needs communities. However, much more remains to be done. This conversation, led by the BC Nurses Union, will engage AVICC members in discussion about the healthcare issues in their communities and what local government can do to be part of the solution.

The Fair Care Alliance was formed in 2024 to address the inequitable healthcare facing Central and North Island residents. In the last provincial political election healthcare specifically in Central and North Island became a key issue of each party's campaign. In this session you will learn about how Fair Care is working with Island Health, MSA's, communities, and government to ensure our healthcare infrastructure meets the needs of the rapidly growing and aging Island population.

As our pre-convention workshop at the Convention, we will be offering a different kind of session on healthcare with a focus on addressing this issue in ALL communities. The focus will be on providing information about some of the problems impacting communities in our region, as well as lived examples of solutions from healthcare leaders in our region.





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FRIDAY PRE-CONVENTION PROGRAM

Workshop - Chiefs, Mayors & Chairs Forum and Lunch

11:30 am - 1:30 pm, Friday, April 11, 2025

Cost: \$55

The Chiefs, Mayors & Chairs Forum will be an opportunity for our Board and Council Leaders to network and discuss the successes and challenges of collaborations between the different governments and First Nations. This forum is open to Mayors, Regional District Chairs and First Nations Leaders.

Lunch will be provided from 11:30 am.

Workshop - Electoral Area Forum and Lunch

11:30 am - 1:30 pm, Friday, April 11, 2025

Cost: \$55

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

Lunch will be provided from 11:30 am.





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CONVENTION PROGRAM

The Program Format

The 2025 program will integrate the regular business of the annual general meeting, debate on resolutions and holding of elections with a variety of presentations and workshops on topical issues, addresses by key political speakers and opportunities for networking.

Invitations have been extended to BC Premier, David Eby and members of Cabinet; Leader of the Official Opposition, John Rustad; Leader of the BC Green Party, Sonia Furstenau; and UBCM President, Trish Mandewo.

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

Some program highlights that have been confirmed include:

- *Regional District Legislation*
- *Towards Prosperity for All: Redefining Regional and Community Economic Development*
- *Transforming Coastal Economic Development — A Path to Co-Governance and Sustainable Investment*
- *Amplify Climate Solutions through Regional Collaboration*
- *The Conversation We've Been Waiting For: Solutions Through Collective Learning*
- *Local Governments and the TRC Calls to Action: A Legal Overview*
- *Community Housing Solutions*
- *21 Things You Need to Know About Indigenous Self Government*

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

Sunday Plenary Session: Meeting Rules and Responsible Governance

Eli Mina specializes in chairing contentious meetings, using rules of order in a pragmatic and sensible manner, and informed decision making. Eli helps his clients transform their meetings from potential chaos, confusion and acrimony into orderly and well-focused deliberative assemblies. Mr. Mina will present a session to AVICC delegates on good, effective governance through today's changing culture.

Mr. Mina will also host 30-minute private sessions (by appointment) on Saturday Afternoon for our members to ask for advice on specific issues in their own councils or boards while the concurrent sessions are taking place. Please reach out to info@avicc.ca to schedule an appointment. There are limited appointments available to be scheduled in the order that they are requested.

RESOLUTIONS PROCESS

UBCM urges members to submit resolutions first to Area Associations for consideration. Resolutions received prior to the **February 6, 2025** deadline will be processed and included in the Annual Report and Resolutions book that will be emailed to members in late-March.

Late Resolutions:

Resolutions received after the deadline are considered "late" but will be accepted by the Secretary-Treasurer up until noon, **Wednesday, April 9, 2025.**

Members are reminded that, to be admitted for debate, a late resolution must be deemed to be of an urgent or emergency nature and should address an issue that has arisen after the February 6th deadline date.

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

Members can also propose a resolution from the floor of the Convention on Sunday, April 13th, and members will vote on whether to admit the resolution for debate. See the convention rules around resolutions in the **Annual Report and Resolutions Book** that has guidelines for distributing printed materials to delegates for off the floor resolutions.

Reminder

Late Resolutions Deadline
April 9, 2025
Noon
See www.avicc.ca for details



NETWORKING & SOCIAL EVENTS

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

2025 Welcome Reception

The Welcome Reception will be held from 5:30-7:30 pm Friday evening in the Vancouver Island Conference Centre just outside the main ballroom. The Trade Show will be open for delegates to peruse while enjoying refreshments.



Admission for delegates is already included in the delegate registration fee. Additional tickets may be purchased for guests through the on-line registration form on CivicInfo.

Annual Banquet

The Banquet will be held in the main ballroom of the Vancouver Island Conference Centre that will be transformed for the night. There will be entertainment from "the Big Easy Funk Ensemble" that will get us up and dancing after the 3-course meal. Formed in East Van, the vibrant musical hub of Vancouver, the Big Easy Funk Ensemble is a band that pays homage to the rich musical traditions of New Orleans while infusing their own distinct West Coast flavor. With a repertoire that spans across genres such as funk, jazz, soul, and blues.

Island Good

The Vancouver Island Economic Alliance (VIEA) is a collaborative partnership spearheading regional economic development for the Vancouver Island region. VIEA has established the **Island Good** brand with its range of products sourced from local suppliers that is increasing sales and market share for Vancouver Island & Gulf Island products. Created by VIEA in 2018, Island Good achieved an astounding 16.4% sales lift over 6 months in 45 grocery stores. In 2018, VIEA established that henceforth, all food & beverage served at its annual **Economic Summit** would be Island Good. AVICC is following this lead at our AGM and Convention in Nanaimo by requesting Island Good food and beverage whenever possible.



Trade Show

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

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

ELECTIONS PROCESS

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

The following positions are open for nomination:

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

The deadline for nominations to be included in the Report on Nominations was February 6th. However, nominations are still accepted at Convention from the floor. Voting for the 2025/26 AVICC Executive Committee will be open to all members, not just those in attendance at the in-person convention. Candidate speeches will be available in-person and online this year.

For further information on the elections process, please email info@avicc.ca or visit www.avicc.ca.





REGISTRATION

Online registration is available through CivicInfo at:

<https://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/event/2025/AVICC>

Fees

Register early to take advantage of the early bird discounted rates. Please note the cancellation deadline of March 28th, 2025

	Early Bird by Mar 19 th	Late after Mar 19 th
Member	\$ 400	\$ 460
Non-Member	\$ 480	\$ 555
Welcome Reception	\$ 45	\$ 55
Annual Banquet	\$ 125	\$ 140

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

Cancellation Policy

Full Refund: cancellations by March 28th at 4:30 pm
No Refunds: cancellations after March 28th at 4:30 pm
Cancellations must be emailed to info@avicc.ca.

Delegates who need to cancel due to illness (including experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID) immediately prior to the Convention (April 9th and 10th) will receive a refund for registration fees less a \$75 administration fee to help defray costs to AVICC.



LOGISTICS

Convention Venue

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

Parking

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

Internet

The Vancouver Island Conference Centre has complimentary WiFi for delegates.

Accommodations

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

TOURISM

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

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

MORE INFORMATION

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

For specific questions, please contact:

Theresa Dennison, AVICC Executive Director
email: tdennison@avicc.ca
phone: 236-237-1202



CODE OF CONDUCT

In keeping with practice at the UBCM Convention, AVICC will again have a Code of Conduct for this year's AVICC Convention. The online registration form is linked to a form outlining the Code. By registering, delegates are acknowledging that they are aware that they are expected to adhere to the 2025 Code of Conduct.

ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES CONVENTION CODE OF CONDUCT

2025 Convention

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

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