

Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities 76th Annual General Meeting & Convention

April 11-13, 2025 – Vancouver Island Conference Centre,
101 Gordon Street, Nanaimo B.C.



PROGRAM Friday, April 11th, 2025

PRE-CONVENTION PROGRAM

8:00 am	Registration Desk Opens (Newcastle Island Lobby)
8:30 am – 11:30 am	Tour: <i>Revitalization and Reconciliation</i> (meet at Registration Desk)
9:00 am – 11:30 am	Tour: <i>Regional Landfill</i> (meet at Registration Desk)
9:00 am – 11:30 am	Workshop: <i>Community Healthcare Solutions</i> (Shaw Auditorium)
11:30 am – 1:30 pm	Chiefs, Mayors and Chairs Forum and Lunch (Nanaimo River Room)
11:30 am – 1:30 pm	Electoral Area Forum and Lunch (Departure Bay Room)
1:00 pm	Trade Show Opens (Mt. Benson Ballroom A/B)

AGM & CONVENTION MAIN PROGRAM – [Mt. Benson Ballroom C/D](#)

2:00 pm	Convention Welcome & Opening Remarks: AVICC President Ben Geselbracht Blessing – Honoured Elder Geraldine Manson O' Canada Welcome from Hosts: Nanaimo Mayor Leonard Krog and RDN Chair Vanessa Craig Provincial Welcome and Address: Minister of State for Local Governments and Rural Communities, Hon. Brittny Anderson
2:25 pm	Nominating Committee Report: Past President Penny Cote Municipal Finance Authority BC Update
2:30 pm	Keynote Address: Keith Baldrey & Vaughn Palmer: <i>B.C. Political Pulse</i>
3:30 pm – 3:55 pm	Refreshment Break (Newcastle Island Lobby & Mt. Benson Ballroom A/B)
3:55 pm	Island Health Update: Leah Hollins, Chair, Island Health Board of Directors
4:00 pm	Nominations from the Floor for Table Officers and Candidate Speeches
4:10 pm	Provincial Address: Minister of Health, Hon. Josie Osborne
4:25 pm	E-Comm 911 Update
4:30 pm	Plenary Session: <i>Regional District Legislation: A Roadmap</i>
5:30 pm	Final Comments and Wrap-Up, Door Prize Draw, Adjourn
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Welcome Reception (Newcastle Island Lobby & Mt. Benson Ballroom A/B)
5:30 pm	Voting for Table Officers begins (voting is on-line if required)

PROGRAM

Saturday, April 12th, 2025

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

7:15 am	Breakfast Service Starts (Upstairs Lobby)
7:30 am – 8:30 am	Working Breakfast: <i>Towards Prosperity for All: Redefining Regional and Community Economic Development</i> (Mt. Benson Ballroom C/D)
8:30 am	Convention Day 2 – Opening Remarks (Mt. Benson Ballroom C/D) Annual General Meeting and President's Address <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Convention Rules and Procedures○ Minutes of 2024 Annual General Meeting○ Annual Report○ 2024 Audited Financial Statements
8:40 am	Municipal Insurance Association Update
8:45 am	Federation of Canadian Municipalities Update: Will Cole-Hamilton
8:55 am	Consideration of Resolutions, Session 1
9:45 am	UBCM President Address: Trish Mandewo
10:05 am – 10:30 am	Refreshment Break (Newcastle Island Lobby & Mt. Benson Ballroom A/B)
10:30 am	Voting for Table Officers closes (voting is on-line if required)
10:30 am	ICET Update: <i>Transforming Coastal Economic Development — A Path to Co-Governance and Sustainable Investment</i>
11:00 am	Consideration of Resolutions, Session 2
11:50 am	Nominating Committee Report Nominations from the Floor for Directors at Large and Candidate Speeches
12:00 pm	BCLC – Fun & Games!
12:10 pm	CREST Emergency Communications Address
12:15 pm – 1:25 pm	Delegates Lunch
1:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Private Governance Conversations with Eli Mina

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	#1 <i>Urban Matters: The Conversation We've Been Waiting For: Solutions Through Collective Learning</i> (Nanaimo River Room)
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	#2 <i>Local Governments & the TRC Calls to Action: A Legal Overview</i> (Dodd Narrows Room)
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	#3 <i>Taking Stock of the Trade War: Local Government Impacts</i> (Shaw Auditorium)
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Refreshment Break (Newcastle Island Lobby & Mt. Benson Ballroom A/B)
3:00 pm	Voting for Directors at Large opens (voting is online)
3:00 pm	Trade Show closes
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	#4 <i>21 Things® You Need to Know About Indigenous Self Government</i> (Dodd Narrows Room)
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	#5 <i>Community Housing Solutions</i> (Nanaimo River Room)
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	#6 <i>Amplify Climate Solutions through Regional Collaboration</i> (Shaw Auditorium)

BANQUET

6:30 pm – 11:30 pm	Reception and Banquet (Newcastle Island Lobby & Mt. Benson Ballroom)
7:30 pm	Dinner Service and Remarks
9:00 pm	Big Easy Funk Ensemble Band

PROGRAM

Sunday, April 13th, 2025

7:30 am – 8:30 am	Networking Breakfast (Mt. Benson Ballroom & Newcastle Island Lobby)
7:30 am	Voting for Directors at Large closes (voting is online)
8:30 am	Convention Day 3 – Opening Remarks Nominating Committee Report Nominations from the Floor for Electoral Area Representative and Candidate Speeches
8:40 am	Provincial Address (TBC)
9:00 am	Voting for Electoral Area Representative opens (voting is online if required)
9:00 am	Plenary Session: <i>Meeting Rules and Responsible Governance</i>
10:30 am	Student Delegate Address
10:35 am – 11:00 am	Refreshment Break (Newcastle Island Lobby)
11:00 am	Consideration of Resolutions and Late Resolutions, Third Session
11:00 am	Voting for Electoral Area Representative closes (voting is online if required)
11:50 am	Nominating Committee Report (as required) Installation of New AVICC Executive Remarks by President-Elect 2026 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 Nanaimo and the Regional District of Nanaimo for hosting AVICC's 76th AGM & Convention. Our hosts helped with many aspects of the planning to make the 2025 Convention a success.

Thank you for making the Convention a great experience!



TRADE SHOW



TRADE SHOW HOURS

Friday 1:00 pm – 7:30 pm
Saturday 7:15am – 3:00 pm

EXHIBITORS

- ◇ BC Assessment
- ◇ BC Council of Forest Industries
- ◇ BC Ferries
- ◇ BC Hydro
- ◇ BC Lottery Corporation
- ◇ BC Nurses Union
- ◇ BC Salmon Farmers
- ◇ BC Transit
- ◇ BCAA / E-Volve Bike Share
- ◇ CREST Emergency Communications
- ◇ CUPE BC
- ◇ CUPE Vancouver Island District Council
- ◇ Emergency Communications Professionals of BC - CUPE Local 8911
- ◇ Fair Care Alliance
- ◇ FortisBC Energy
- ◇ Insurance Corporation BC
- ◇ Indigenous Corporate Training
- ◇ Interchange Recycling
- ◇ Island Health & Health Networks
- ◇ Leadership V.I.
- ◇ VI Regional and Greater Victoria Public Libraries
- ◇ Managed Forest Council
- ◇ McElhanney
- ◇ Mosaic Forest Management
- ◇ Oceans Protection Plan – Transport Canada
- ◇ Private Forest Landowners Association
- ◇ South Island Prosperity Partnership
- ◇ Trans Mountain – TRADESHOW SPONSOR
- ◇ Urban Systems & Urban Matters
- ◇ Vancouver Island Economic Alliance
- ◇ Western Canada Marine Response Corporation
- ◇ Western Forest Products

SPONSORS

We wish to thank our sponsors for their contributions toward the 2025 AVICC Convention:

PLATINUM SPONSORS

Banquet Entertainment
BC Lottery Corporation

Audio Visual
South Island Prosperity Partnership

Friday Welcome Reception
CUPE BC

GOLD SPONSORS

Keynote Speaker
Municipal Finance Authority of BC

Delegates Lunch
CREST Emergency Communications

Saturday Morning Breakfast
Municipal Insurance Association of BC

Banquet Dinner
Young Anderson

Friday Opening Session
Island Health

Friday Plenary Session
E-Comm 911

SILVER SPONSORS

Banquet Reception: Fortis BC

Chiefs, Mayors & Chairs Forum:
Lidstone & Company

Sunday Morning Breakfast: ICBC

Trade Show: Trans Mountain

Friday Morning Session:
BC Council of Forest Industries (COFI)

BRONZE SPONSORS

Program: BC Assessment

Communications: Urban Systems/ Urban Matters

Registration Services: Western Forest Products

Transportation: BC Transit

EA Directors Forum: Fair Care Alliance

In-Session Coffee Refresh Sponsor: McElhanney

Speaker Gifts: Emergency Communications Professionals of BC

Friday Afternoon Refreshment Break: Private Forest Landowners Association

Saturday Morning Refreshment Break: Interchange Recycling

Saturday Afternoon Sessions: BC Hydro

Saturday Afternoon Refreshment Break: BCAA / E-Volve Bike Share

Sunday Morning Refreshment Break: CUPE VIDC

Grand Prize: BC Ferry Services

SPEAKER GIFT DONATION



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

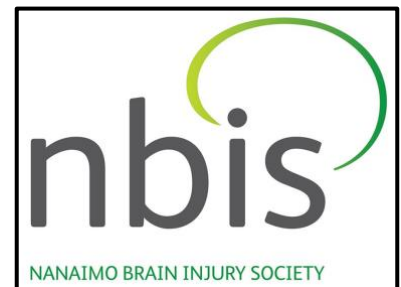
This practice is being continued for 2025, and a donation will be made to The Loaves and Fishes Food Bank, and to the Nanaimo Brain Injury Society in lieu of Speakers Gifts. Please visit their websites to learn more about how these organizations benefit our communities.



Loaves & Fishes Food Bank works to solve the crisis of food insecurity by using the problem of food waste to benefit people in need across Vancouver Island, serving individuals from Nanaimo to Port Hardy and providing food to over 100 other charities, food banks, schools and Indigenous communities across Vancouver Island. In 2022 over \$6.9 million worth of food was provided for people in need, reaching over 30 communities across Vancouver Island.

Visit <https://nanaimoloavesandfishes.org/donate> to learn more or to make a donation.

The Nanaimo Brain Injury Society (NBIS) is a registered non-profit society and registered charitable organization. We are a progressive society providing support, education and connection for people living with brain injury since 1988 through education, advocacy, and community support. Energetic and dedicated, our society members, volunteers, board of directors and staff give the society a firm foundation on which we build positive relationships with clients, family members and our wider community.



Visit <https://nbis.ca/donate/> to learn more or to make a donation.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: KEITH BALDREY & VAUGHN PALMER

B.C. Political Pulse Friday, 2:30 pm

You'll hear the most current insights from two of BC's leading political commentators who will debate, entertain, and discuss the key issues impacting the BC 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 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".



Vaughn Palmer's hard-hitting columns have seen him cover the feats and follies of B.C.'s premiers for almost 40 years. An award-winning journalist, Palmer is the Vancouver Sun's provincial political columnist, based in Victoria. Palmer is a regular commentator on radio station CKNW in Vancouver.

Palmer is the recipient of the Bruce Hutchison Lifetime Achievement Award from the Jack Webster foundation, a co-winner of the Jack Webster award for reporting, and a recipient of the Hyman Solomon award for excellence in public policy journalism from the Canadian Public Policy Forum. Since 1984, Palmer has examined an extensive range of issues, personalities and scandals that have come to define B.C.'s political scene.



Keith Baldrey is highly regarded as one of BC's best known political commentators. He currently serves as the chief political correspondent and legislative bureau chief for Global BC where he provides insightful coverage and analysis on the latest developments in BC's political landscape. In 2021, Baldrey was named Broadcast Performer of the Year by the BC Association of Broadcasters for his coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic.

He has a long history of understanding and commenting on BC politics – Baldrey joined The Vancouver Sun in 1984, becoming its bureau chief in 1989. In 1995, he joined Global BC where over the course of his career, has covered 10 premiers, 10 provincial elections, and 12 federal elections. He has covered nine premiers and the 2017 election was the ninth B.C. election campaign he has covered. He makes public speaking appearances on B.C. politics, has written numerous magazine articles, and co-authored a book on former premier Bill Vander Zalm and his Social Credit government.

FRIDAY PRE-CONVENTION WORKSHOP

Community Healthcare Solutions

Friday, 9:00 am

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. As our pre-convention workshop at the Convention, we will be offering a different kind of session on healthcare. The focus will be on providing information about some of the problems impacting communities in our region.

Regulated and unregulated substances are having devastating effects on thousands of people's lives in our communities. 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 and address community concerns about complicated challenges.

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 staffing and financial initiatives, however, much more remains to be done. This conversation will engage AVICC members in discussion about the healthcare issues in their communities and what we 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, Medical Staff Associations, communities, and government to ensure our healthcare infrastructure meets the needs of the rapidly growing and aging Island population.

MODERATORS:

Will Cole-Hamilton, AVICC Director at Large; Councillor, City of Courtenay; and Chair, Comox Valley RD

Penny Cote, AVICC Past President; EA Director, Area D, Alberni-Clayoquot CRD

PRESENTERS:

Dr. Réka Gustafson, VP of Population Health & Chief Medical Health Officer, Island Health

Andrea Derban, Clinical Nurse Specialist - Harm Reduction, CAI

Cindy Lise, Regional Facilitator Cowichan Communities Health Network

Cailey Foster, Peer Coordinator, Cowichan Community Action Table (CAT)

Caitlin Jarvis, Regional Council Member, South Islands Region, BC Nurses Union

Donna Hais, President, Chair, Fair Care Alliance

Dr. David Forrest, President, Nanaimo Medical Staff Association

FRIDAY PLENARY SESSION



Regional District Legislation: A Roadmap

Friday, 4:30 pm

Since 2021, an initiative to modernize the *Local Government Act* has been advanced by an ad-hoc working group made up of elected officials and CAOs from Vancouver Island and the lower mainland. This working group has supported education and engagement sessions at AVICC and UBCM. More recently, the other Area Association Presidents, Board members and staff have joined the conversation. As part of the process to broaden local government participation provincially, AVICC jointly hosted a virtual engagement session on February 28th, 2025, attended by over 250 participants.

The session had a broad objective of educating membership on the aspects of the *Local Government Act* that need updating, along with receiving feedback about issues relevant to specific regions within BC. The content of the session included a section-by-section review of the *LGA* using a [Roadmap Document](#) prepared by Don Lidstone, K.C., that outlined problems with the current legislation and possible solutions. The document also serves as a framework to receive feedback through an [online survey](#) on the challenges local governments from all five area associations are facing, and the feedback will be used to produce a report for UBCM and the Province that clearly defines the issues faced and the need for the modernization of the current legislation.

This session is a review of what we have heard so far, including initial results of the engagement, and a conversation about potential next steps towards advancing this initiative.

PANELISTS

Don Lidstone, K.C. is licenced in BC, Alberta, and Yukon. He practices generally in the area of local government law. His municipal law focus is in the areas of governance, finance and taxation, land use and development, environmental law, aboriginal law and bylaw/legislative drafting. Invited to speak regularly at conferences, symposia and universities, Don has chaired the Sustainable Region Initiative (Governance and Finance), Liquid Waste Expert Review Panel, Fire Services Review Panel, Whistler Waste Blue Ribbon Panel, and the Municipal Law Section of the British Columbia Branch of the Canadian Bar Association. He has published numerous papers and manuals and consulted on the development of the Community Charter and other municipal statutes in a number of provinces. Don was designated King's Counsel in 2008.

Additional Panelists To Be Confirmed

SATURDAY PLENARY SESSION

Towards Prosperity for All: Redefining Regional and Community Economic Development Saturday, 7:30am

As the limitations of traditional economic practices become increasingly evident, a new approach is essential to ensure lasting prosperity and resilience. This presentation explores data informed, collaborative strategies that go beyond GDP to create meaningful, sustainable impact. By focusing on partnerships, equity, and ecological health, it highlights innovative frameworks reshaping regional and community growth. Offering forward thinking solutions, it envisions a thriving future where shared resilience and sustainable progress benefit people, communities, and the natural environments we depend on.

PRESENTERS:

Julie Sperber, CEO of the Vancouver Island Economic Alliance is a seasoned leader in business and economic development, recognized for her innovative thinking and ability to foster growth through partnerships. With extensive experience across hospitality, manufacturing, and non-profit sectors, Julie has worked internationally and held key management roles. She has successfully built and operated three businesses, each achieving continued success. In 2015, Julie transitioned to non-profit economic development, combining her entrepreneurial expertise with her passion for creating positive community impact.

Brodie Guy, CEO of the Islands Economic Trust, the regional development organization working for Vancouver Island and coastal communities that strategically invests in inclusive economic development and innovation. Brodie serves on several boards focused on sustainable development, Indigenous leadership, and environmental stewardship including as chair of the \$200 million Blueberry River Restoration Society, B.C.'s \$100 million Watershed Security Fund, and more. Previously, Brodie was the CEO of one of the world's largest Indigenous-led conservation finance and sustainable development funds, Coast Funds, for a decade.

Aaron Stone, CEO of South Island Prosperity Partnership (SIPP) Greater Victoria's economic development alliance. With over 25 years in business development, technology, and public service, Aaron is a champion of holistic community prosperity. As the former Chairperson of ICET, Aaron led initiatives to foster regional economic development and collaboration between First Nations, local governments, and industry. In local government, Aaron served three terms as Mayor of the Town of Ladysmith and as Chair of the Cowichan Valley Regional District, where he focused on sustainable economic growth and community well-being.

Carol Anne Hilton is a visionary trailblazer of Nuu-chah-nulth descent from the Hesquiaht Nation. Hilton is an award-winning, internationally acclaimed Indigenous business leader, author, corporate director, and advocate for economic reconciliation. Hilton founded the Indigenomics movement and is CEO of the Indigenomics Institute, the Global Center of Indigenomics, and the Global Indigenous Technology House. Hilton led the establishment of the \$100 Billion Indigenous National Economy Initiative and most recently the Indigenomics AI Indigenous Economic Intelligence Engine. Hilton champions Indigenous Peoples as innovators and partners in economic growth, advocating sustainability, cultural alignment, and economic sovereignty.

Francine Carlin, Chair of the Rural Islands Economic Partnership (RIEP), the recognized vehicle for supporting regenerative rural island economies, and for facilitating connections with island settler and Indigenous communities across the Province towards effective economic action. Soon after moving to Salt Spring Island in 2008, Francine's interest in business continuity led her to join the Salt Spring Community Economic Sustainability Commission (CESC), where she co-led the groundbreaking Rural Business Accelerator program and co-founded the Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Partnership, and in 2020 she co-founded RIEP.

SUNDAY PLENARY SESSION

Meeting Rules and Responsible Governance

Sunday, 9:00 am

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 of misconduct.

*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.*

PRESENTER:

Eli Mina, M.Sc., P.R.P., author, meeting mentor and registered Parliamentarian has been in business for more than three decades. Eli has offered his clients sage advice and problem-solving services, and he leads high impact training sessions. Eli is calm, soft-spoken, yet a highly effective meeting chair. He is an engaging and compelling workshop leader and public speaker, and a seasoned expert on Rules of Order (PRP, CPP-T).

Eli helps his clients transform their meetings from potential chaos, confusion and acrimony into orderly and well focused deliberative assemblies, where three key goals are met:

- A level playing field, where all attendees share their expertise and learn from the wisdom of others
- A sensible allocation of time
- Judicious and informed decisions, seeking to optimize organizational benefits and reduce risks

IN ELI'S OWN WORDS:

"It's been said: If the only tool you have is a hammer, every problem will look like a nail. In my world this phrase can mean: If the only tools you have are rules of order, every problem can look like something that requires a motion, an amendment, a point of order, or an appeal from the Chair's ruling.

"Although I am an expert on Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR), I openly acknowledge that RONR's more than 700 pages of rules can be frustrating, confusing and intimidating. There are also instances when rules are used excessively or manipulatively, which can cause an erosion of trust, flawed decisions, heightened risks, and even the demise of a great organization. With this in mind, I always seek to apply rules in a manner that advances **common sense**: meaningful engagement of participants, effective time management, and informed decision making. Indeed, even RONR (12th edition, section 47) speaks about common sense: **'... any presiding officer will do well to bear in mind that no rules can take the place of tact and common sense on the part of the chair...'**

"With the above phrase in mind, I apply just the required amount of rules of order in meetings, and I seek to employ common sense in the face of complex and contentious issues. Before I suggest a procedural approach, I ask questions that can identify the problems at hand and their root causes. My clients have found this approach to be pragmatic, enlightening and liberating."

PLENARY UPDATE SESSIONS

Federation of Canadian Municipalities Update

Saturday, 8:45 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 actions being taken at FCM.

PRESENTER

Will Cole-Hamilton,

FCM Board Member, AVICC Director at Large; Councillor, City of Courtenay; and Chair, CVRD

UBCM President Address

Saturday, 9:45 am

UBCM President Trish Mandewo will address the AVICC delegates, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and unity among local governments. The speech will highlight key initiatives aimed at enhancing community resilience and sustainable development. The President will also address the challenges faced by local governments and encourage delegates to continue advocating for their communities' needs.

PRESENTER

Trish Mandewo, UBCM President; Councillor, City of Coquitlam

Transforming Coastal Economic Development — A Path to Co-Governance and Sustainable Investment

Saturday, 10:30 am

First Nations and local government leaders are coming together with a shared vision to transform Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) into a permanently financed and co-governed regional development organization — the first of its kind in Canada. This collaborative co-governance model will foster a dynamic, impactful approach to regional development, establishing a strong grassroots foundation for long-term economic prosperity across Vancouver Island and the surrounding coast.

At this pivotal moment for coastal communities and the region's economy, leaders attending the session will learn from Indigenous-led engagements on the future of the Trust.

PRESENTERS

Sayaac̓ath John Jack, Chief Councillor, Huu-ay-aht First Nations; Chair, Alberni-Clayoquot RD; Vice Chair, Island Coastal Economic Trust

Michelle Staples, Mayor, City of Duncan; Chair, Island Coastal Economic Trust

Ashley Wright, K'ómoks First Nation, Strategic Indigenous Governance Advisor

Jessie Hemphill, CEO of Sanala Planning

MODERATOR

Brodie Guy, CEO, Islands Economic Trust

SATURDAY CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS



Local Governments and the TRC Calls to Action: A Legal Overview

Saturday, 1:30 pm

In recognition of the 10-year anniversary of the publication of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's report of its findings and its "94 Calls to Action" (June 2015), this presentation serves to provide an overview of the legal history surrounding indigenous peoples' rights, the Calls to Action as they relate to local governments, and the various approaches by local governments in exercising their public duties since the Calls to Action were introduced. To support an understanding of local governments' roles in advancing reconciliation, this presentation will reflect on key legal developments in the last 10 years that affect local governments, their responsibilities, and their approaches. This presentation will also focus on identifying areas in which local governments can continue to support progress and advancements in reconciliation through various means within their jurisdiction.

PRESENTERS

Chris Gallardo-Ganaban, Associate, Young Anderson Barristers & Solicitors

Nick Falzon, Associate, Young Anderson Barristers & Solicitors

Taking Stock of the Trade War: Local Government Impacts

Saturday, 1:30 pm

As the US imposes tariffs on Canadian goods and the Government of Canada responds in kind, there will be economic fallout for BC communities. This session will explore the potential financial impacts on local governments based on modelling that UBCM has commissioned from Oxford Economics. The study explores risks to municipal revenues and costs from broader economic factors such as recession, investment uncertainty, currency devaluation, and inflation. This session will provide an opportunity for discussion on the findings of the study and their implications for further action locally, provincially, and federally.

PRESENTERS

Trish Mandewo, UBCM President; Councillor, City of Coquitlam

Gary MacIsaac, Executive Director, UBCM

SATURDAY CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

The Conversation We've Been Waiting For: Talking about shared challenges in a solutions-focused way Saturday, 1:30 pm

We all wish we had more time to hear from each other, learn from our collective experiences, and talk about solutions to shared challenges. This session is that chance. With a diverse perspective on how local, provincial, and First Nations governments across Western BC are tackling complex issues, our facilitators will guide participants through a series of dynamic, collaborative discussions, drawing on the unique experiences and insights of everyone in the room.

Using a World Café style, the workshop will encourage open dialogue, problem-solving, and the exchange of solutions and ideas among participants to address complex challenges our communities are facing. The facilitators will give an overview of **Systems Thinking** strategies to help frame the conversations, ultimately deepening participants' understanding of critical issues and helping to identify actionable strategies.

By the end of the workshop, participants will walk away with:

- **New insights** into effective community-driven solutions
- **Stronger connections** with peers from different sectors and regions
- **Actionable ideas** for collaboration and impact in their own communities

Join us for a dynamic session focused on strengthening our collective ability to address the complex challenges using systems thinking.

PRESENTERS

Isha Matous-Gibbs, Social Health and Wellbeing Planner, Urban Matters CCC

Jen Casorso, Social System Strategist, Urban Matters, CCC

Sarah Ochitwa, Community and Social Planner, Urban Matters, CCC

Anne Burrill, Facilitator and Community Development Consultant, Urban Matters, CCC

21 Things® You Need to Know About Indigenous Self-Government Saturday, 3:00 – 4:30 pm

What do you need to know about Indigenous Self-Government? How can local governments support their Indigenous neighbors and work towards reconciliation? Join author and Master Trainer Bob Joseph, who will be discussing Indigenous self-government, what local governments should know to effectively support reconciliation, and his upcoming book, **21 Things® You Need to Know About Indigenous Self-Government**, releasing late this summer.

Bob Joseph, co-founder and president of Indigenous Corporate Training Inc. (ICT), has provided training on Indigenous relations since 1994. ICT has a diverse range of clients, including all levels of government, Fortune 500 companies, resource development companies, and small and medium-sized businesses. Bob is also the author of the national bestseller **21 Things® You May Not Know About the Indian Act**.

PRESENTER

K'axwsumala'galis Bob Joseph, Co-Founder and President of Indigenous Corporate Training Inc.

SATURDAY CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

Community Housing Solutions

Saturday, 3:00 – 4:30 pm

Local governments in B.C. are grappling with severe housing shortages, driven by rapid population growth and escalating housing needs. Additionally, local governments are leveraging new legislative tools and funding from the Province to streamline development approvals and support the construction of diverse housing types and creative solutions in communities. Pressure from the BC Provincial Government to develop new housing has placed demands on local governments to ensure that homes are being built in their communities.

The incorporation and ownership of municipal housing corporations has become an increasingly popular tool through which local governments can participate in the planning, construction and operation of market and below market housing. Young Anderson will provide overview of how local governments can use municipal corporations to plan, build and manage housing supply and discuss the benefits of using a municipal corporation to participate in housing development through industry partnerships, bringing in private industry expertise and as a means to shield local governments from the liability risks that often arise in construction and housing management.

A presentation from Wiser Projects will explore the fundamentals of successful collaborations in housing & community development. Attendees will gain an understanding of key strategies and opportunities using real-world examples. We will learn how to effectively partner and work with non-profit, public and private organizations to deliver projects to support increased housing supply in all communities.

As calls for affordable housing expand to calls for attainable housing options in rural areas, Tiny Homes on Wheels (THOWs) are being explored as more than a boutique niche. Many local governments are interested in learning how to safely regulate tiny homes on wheels as legal dwellings in their communities. In September 2024, Islands Trust Council funded an initiative to convene technical working groups of planners, building experts, industry, and waste/water servicing professionals to develop options for a regulatory framework to regulate and enable THOWs through appropriate certification, zoning, tenure and servicing in the Islands Trust area. The Regional District of Nanaimo and Islands Trust present their initial findings, barriers, potential models and recommendations.

MODERATOR

Sarah Fowler, AVICC 2nd Vice President; Councillor, Village of Tahsis

PRESENTERS

David Giroday, Associate, Young Anderson Barristers & Solicitors

Kaeley Wiseman MCP, RPP, MCIP, PMP, Founding Principal, Wiser Projects

Tobi Elliott, Vice Chair, Islands Trust, Gabriola Island Trustee

Vanessa Craig, Chair, RD Nanaimo; Director Electoral Area B

Lisa Grant, GM of Development and Emergency Services, RD Nanaimo

Lexie Boekenkruger, Manager of Building Inspection Services, RD Nanaimo

Additional Panelist(s) To Be Confirmed

SATURDAY CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

Amplify Climate Solutions through Regional Collaboration

Saturday, 3:00 – 4:30 pm

Vancouver Island and coastal communities are facing many interconnected climate challenges, including damage to foreshore, watershed vulnerabilities, wildfire risk, flooding, drought, and health impacts. These compounding issues strain local government resources and affect local economies. Elected leaders are seeking out innovative, collaborative solutions especially where jurisdictional responsibilities are overlapping. The Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities Climate Leadership Steering Committee (VICC-CL) is tackling exactly these challenges through sharing of resources and regional connections.

This interactive workshop will highlight how regional collaboration can drive effective climate solutions by bringing the appropriate players to the table. Building on insights from the Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities Climate Summit 2024, panelists will share success stories, lessons learned, and present opportunities for the future in areas such as watershed sustainability planning, regional greenhouse gas emission reduction opportunities for buildings, and fleets, and partnerships for climate-adapted infrastructure and addressing climate-related health impacts.

Participants will explore actionable strategies for fostering collaboration across sectors and jurisdictions, amplifying impact, and integrating climate solutions into their priorities. Whether just beginning climate action planning or seeking to accelerate more advanced initiatives, this session offers tools, inspiration, and solutions to make collaboration your strongest asset. Join us to move beyond silos, embrace collective action, and create resilient communities.

PANELISTS

Dr Paivi Abernethy, Senior Scientist, Climate Change & Planetary Health, Island Health

Coree Tull, Director of Government Relations and Engagement for BC Water Legacy; Chair of the BC Watershed Security Coalition

Michelle Staples, Mayor, City of Duncan; Municipal Director, Cowichan Valley RD

Will Cole-Hamilton, VICC-CL Co-Chair; Chair Comox Valley RD; Courtenay City Councillor

Justine Gabias, VICC-CL Co-chair, Director – Electoral Area B, Sunshine Coast RD

Jessica Stanley, VICC-CL Co-Chair; Director - Electoral Area A, RD Nanaimo

MODERATOR

CarolAnn Leishman, Climate Leaders Program Manager, Community Energy Association; former two-term City Councillor, City of Powell River

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