



**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND
AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES EXECUTIVE
on FRIDAY, December 12, 2025, 9:00 a.m.
Held electronically via Zoom**

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor Ben Geselbracht, City of Nanaimo, President
Chair Vanessa Craig, RD of Nanaimo, 1st Vice President
Councillor Sarah Fowler, Village of Tahsis, 2nd Vice President
Penny Cote, Alberni-Clayoquot RD, Past President
Councillor Will Cole-Hamilton, City of Courtenay, Director at Large
Councillor Trina Isakson, City of Powell River, Director at Large
Councillor Alison MacKenzie, Town of View Royal, Director at Large
Director Donna McMahon, Sunshine Coast RD, Electoral Area Representative Director

STAFF ATTENDANCE: Theresa Dennison, AVICC Executive Director

President Geselbracht called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA & MINUTES

- a. On motion by Past President Cote, seconded by Director Cole-Hamilton
THAT the agenda for the December 12, 2025 meeting be adopted was CARRIED

- b. On motion by 2nd Vice President Fowler, seconded by Past President Cote
THAT the minutes for the October 17, 2025 meeting be adopted was CARRIED

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Geselbracht reported that since we last met, we have been busy. We had a successful virtual session on the Cowichan Tribes Case review. Staff worked on actions from the last meeting, including increased work on convention planning including callouts for resolutions, nominations, sessions, and tours. We have also done some advocacy relating to legislation and enforcement around Privately Managed Forest Lands – the focus will now be on data sharing and collaboration so that we can make clear asks from the Province on what they can focus on short term.

The UBCM Executive met in November. There was a fair amount of discussion on the Private Members Bill on Professional Reliance at the UBCM Executive table – there was little process around bringing it forward and it is unlikely that it will go through as it does not have enough data and information behind it. The UBCM Governance Review is underway at UBCM and they will present at our convention. A staff person has not yet been assigned to the RD Legislative Reform initiative – the Province has been really slow to respond. The UBCM President asked a few questions when the Ministers were there about timelines and commitment levels, and the Province apologized for the delay but that they are working on it – the submission is long and will include time. A meeting will be organized soon.

President Geselbracht expressed that for personal reasons, he would like to have 1st VP Vanessa Craig take his place on the UBCM Executive, including his appointment to the Environment and Convention Committees. UBCM is aware that he would like to make the change and next steps is to send them a letter. The AVICC Executive showed support for this decision to ensure the appointed seat for AVICC

on the UBCM Executive is able to best represent our members.

On motion by EA Representative McMahon, seconded Past President Cote
THAT staff write to UBCM requesting that 1st Vice President Craig be appointed to the UBCM Executive and all UBCM Committees currently occupied by President Geselbracht as the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities' Representative was CARRIED

On motion by 1st Vice President Fowler, seconded by Past President Cote
THAT the President's Report be received was CARRIED

3. POLICY AND ADVOCACY

a. 2025/26 Advocacy: Update and 2026 Planning

Staff presented a report that provided an update on the advocacy activities for the 2025/2026 Term and shared information about the Advocacy conversations that took place on advocacy planning at the 2025 meetings earlier in the term. This update a brief update on the initiative to reform Regional District legislation, that is now with the Province for review.

The AVICC Executive has confirmed that as part of our advocacy role for our members that we host two virtual education and discussion sessions. On November 27th, 2025, Mr. Reece Harding of Young, Anderson led a session for our members on the important topic of the recent and historic Cowichan Tribes vs Canada case. Reece did not charge AVICC for his time, and the software expense was \$700. The session was attended by 75 AVICC member elected officials and staff, and the video recording and slides were shared with all AVICC members the following day. The post-event survey was completed by 25 attendees and the results demonstrated that the session was very well-received and provided excellent value for our members.

At the October 17th, 2025 meeting, the AVICC Executive carried a motion directing staff to work with Director Cole-Hamilton to confirm a session on Local Government Housing Corporations. Now that the Cowichan Tribes session is complete, staff has begun to work on getting panelists together for the next session, which will take place in mid-February.

Staff also updated the Executive on the regional resolution advocacy that took place since the 2025 AVICC Convention. There were three regional resolutions endorsed, and all were conveyed to the Province. Minister meetings took place at the UBCM Convention on two of these issues, including the Cowichan Valley RD's resolution on privately managed forest lands (PMFL) legislation and enforcement, and the Alberni-Clayoquot RD's request for a part of the Island Rail Corridor to be upgraded to be used as an emergency route. Following the UBCM meetings, additional meetings with members have taken place and an update was provided to the AVICC Executive.

One of these issues, on PMFL, would benefit for additional advocacy and collaboration as identified at the last meeting with members on this topic. Many of the resolutions submitted are from AVICC but not all – moving forward we should be cognisant of the language in resolutions to ensure Provincial relevance. Advocacy on this topic could benefit from direction in our strategic planning session to take place in 2026.

On motion by Past President Cote, seconded by 1st Vice President Craig
THAT the AVICC Executive direct staff to work with President Geselbracht to invite all AVICC regional districts, and other identified districts with significant Privately Managed Forest Lands

(PMFL) owned by forestry companies, to collaborate on sharing information regarding PMFL access, data, and regulatory enforcement was CARRIED

At the October 17th, 2025 AVICC Executive meeting, staff was asked to conduct research on advocacy initiatives for consideration with the 2026 budget, including adding a searchable Resolutions Database to our website, and to arrange for a Strategic Planning and advocacy session for the AVICC Executive.

It was recommended that Staff reach out to a potential facilitator to conduct a strategic planning session. [Allison Habkirk](#), who has more than 30 years of experience in local government as a professional, elected official, and educator. She met with staff following the last meeting, and has expressed that she will provide a proposal when she is back from vacation. She has also agreed to attend the January 23, 2026 Executive meeting as a delegation to answer any questions. A detailed quote will be provided in advance of that meeting.

The Executive had the following comments:

- Ask Allison to reach out to the Executive in advance with pre-work, and a two-hour session before the session to provide specific direction.
- May be worthwhile to have her reach out to each of the Executive members individually
- Once the quote is presented, staff will send it to the Executive, and then in advance of the January delegation we set up a meeting
- A discussion occurred about hosting one full day session, or possibly having a two-hour virtual session first, followed by an in-person session. It was identified that to make the travel worthwhile, there was support for the 2-day session with a Zoom option if necessary (and appropriate).
- March 10-13 is LGLA, FCM meeting and FCM Zambia mission may get in the way of schedules (early March)

It was also identified that AVICC Staff should research what it would cost to have a functional resolutions database on our website similar to [UBCM's Resolutions Database](#). Pixelmakers, who designed and supports our current website provided a quote for \$8500 that includes everything we would need for the website infrastructure to be created within our existing website, as well as the data entry for resolutions going back to 2019, to be completed by April 2026. For \$6500, they would create the usable site and staff would do the data entry of the resolutions (or contract someone else to do the data entry).

- We should ensure that both the AVICC and UBCM results and responses are included
- Resolution database touch point at the Jan 23 meeting regarding the functionality
- Can we use drop downs in the search functions rather than it being completely open-ended? Can AI be built in to help?
- Include a field that demonstrates if this the first time this motion has been brought up and if the resolution is Regional or non-regional?

On motion by 1st Vice President Craig, seconded by Director Cole-Hamilton
THAT the AVICC Executive direct staff to include \$6500 in the 2026 Budget to be allocated to the development of a searchable resolutions database to be included on our website was CARRIED

On motion by 1st Vice President Craig, seconded by EA Representative McMahon
THAT the report on 2025/26 Advocacy Planning be received for information was CARRIED

b. AVICC Communications

AVICC members and other area associations have been including AVICC on communications to the Province their own advocacy initiatives. A response is not required for communications on which AVICC is cc'ed, and communications addressed to AVICC directly may warrant a response. Staff shared seven letters for consideration, and the Executive discussed the following:

1. The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District sent a letter in July, that was shared with the AVICC Executive at the August meeting. The AVICC Executive responded by limiting the number of resolutions per member to three for 2026 per the request in this letter. Following the call-out for resolutions, ACRD send a letter on November 14th, indicating that they think limiting resolutions to three is “far too low”.
 - Staff should write a letter to ACRD with the information shared in the report and the rationale behind the decision, and that we are continuing to review our process.
 - We have already set the Policy and done the call-out – ask for feedback afterwards.
 - This topic could benefit from a conversation at our strategic planning session: What about collaborative, joint resolutions? Should regional districts be treated differently because of the complexity of RD Boards?

On motion by Director Isakson, seconded by Director MacKenzie

THAT Staff work with President Geselbracht to send a response to the ACRD thanking them for the feedback, and explaining the rationale and that we will look at this for next year was

CARRIED

The following letters were considered, and it was determined that no response is required:

2. The Regional District of Nanaimo cc'ed AVICC on a letter dated November 14th on the “Extended Producer Responsibility Program for Mattresses”.
3. Bowen Island Municipality cc'ed AVICC on the BC Coastal Marine Strategy and accompanying legislation, dated November 26, 2025.
4. The LMLGA cc'ed AVICC on a letter to the Premier about concerns with Bill M216 – *Professional Reliance Act* on November 24, 2025 and SILGA cc'ed AVICC on a similar letter, sent on December 3, 2025 in opposition to Bill M216. [UBCM Recently also issued a submission in opposition to Bill M-216](#) that references the concerns identified in these letters.
 - It was noted that some of our members are submitting individual letters to the Province, seeking a legal review of the Province’s housing bills. MIABC is also submitting a legal review of the motion.
 - There was also a conversation about whether there would be value in us also submitting a letter, and it was determined that we had no additional points to make that the other area associations, and members have already included.
5. SILGA cc'ed AVICC on a letter to the BC Minister of Finance “Requesting Postponement of BC Assessment’s Roll Transmission Line Valuations”.

On motion by Director Cole-Hamilton, seconded by Past President Cote

THAT the report on AVICC Communications be received for information was

CARRIED

c. 2026 AVICC Bylaw & Policy Update – Subcommittee Recommendations

At the June 6, 2025 meeting, staff requested input from the AVICC Executive on potential updates to the AVICC Bylaws and Executive Policies. Per the direction from that meeting, President Geselbracht, Past President Cote, and Director Cole-Hamilton and met in July to make recommendations to staff on edits to the Bylaws and Executive Policies for consideration by the AVICC Executive. It was determined that the intent of the Bylaw update is to:

1. Increase the number of Board Members on the AVICC Executive Committee;
2. Improve participation from the South Island Members at AVICC; and
3. Update the Bylaws for administrative purposes and inclusive language

At the August 15 2025 Executive Meeting, Staff presented the subcommittee’s recommendations to the Executive. After a lengthy debate, staff was asked to invite the Mayor of Victoria, Marianne Alto, to attend an Executive meeting to discuss ways to increase participation by our south-island members at the AVICC Executive Board and at our convention before the Board made any decisions about our composition to be included in the Bylaw update.

The following motion was carried:

THAT the AVICC Executive TABLE the conversation regarding including a CRD Representative on the AVICC Executive until the next meeting

An invitation was sent to Mayor Alto to attend an AVICC Executive meeting. She was unavailable to attend our October and December meetings, but has now confirmed that she will meet with President Geselbracht and staff on Friday, January 9th at 2:00pm via – all members of the AVICC Executive were invited.

Once the Executive provides staff with direction on Bylaw updates, as a next step, staff will draft the Extraordinary Resolution for the Executive’s endorsement and propose a communication plan to ensure that members are prepared to vote on these amendments.

Following the meeting with Mayor Alto, staff will bring the Bylaw update considerations back to the AVICC Executive at the January 23 meeting.

On motion by 2nd Vice President Fowler, seconded by Passt President Cote

THAT AVICC Executive receive the December 12, 2025 report on Bylaw Amendment Update for information was CARRIED

The Executive Took a break at 10:04 a.m. and returned at 10:15 a.m.

4. CONVENTION

a. 2026 AVICC AGM & Convention Program Planning

The AVICC Executive were presented with the updated approved “Convention at a Glance” document. The schedule follows the format of the program from 2025 (and other recent years) with consideration given to feedback from last year. In 2024 and 2025, the program ran late throughout and with the addition of in-person candidate speeches, staff have adjusted the schedule to include slightly less content. In the attachment, you will see that there are no longer two 15-minute information session(s) that have taken place on Saturday morning in between the resolutions sessions.

The Keynote Speaker and Sunday Plenary session have already been confirmed. There is an

additional session that has been approved to fill either the Friday morning Workshop or a 90-minute concurrent workshop on Saturday afternoon called “Navigating Big Divides” that comes highly recommended for its relevance and high quality facilitation style.

The Executive considered the 34 session proposals available to fill the 1 pre-convention workshop, 2 plenary sessions, and 6 concurrent workshops. It is significant to note that last year we had 19 proposals and in 2024 we had 21. For 2026, all members of the AVICC Executive participated in an initial ranking survey that asked them to grade each proposal on “interest” “relevance” and asked for comments on each proposal, as well as asked for ideas for new sessions. The results were shared with the AVICC Executive on the day before this meeting.

President Geselbracht led a round-table discussion about initial thoughts on the sessions and the Executive had the following comments:

- There seems to be a few housing sessions that would be interesting. The ranking didn’t show them at the top, which may be surprising due to the relevance.
- Should we ensure that we allow the space for forestry/ resource communities, challenges and opportunities? Could we ask Rob Douglas to lead a forestry panel? They are big in the news at the moment and has a centric view of forestry – put out the request for conversation that shows both sides? How does forestry relate to UNDRIP?
- Many topics are very municipal – could we ensure during the concurrent sessions that if there is a municipally-focused topic that we schedule a concurrent one with relevance for Electoral Areas.
- Many of the topics were very interesting, but some are targeted more to Staff than elected officials.
- A lot of the sessions are described to be presentations/ sharing of information. We should ensure that we prioritize sessions that are facilitated and engaging based on past feedback.
- We should be cautious of session proposals that are ‘lobbying’ or selling services. Some could be an email / handout rather than a session.
- Keep in mind that the term is ending – what new would be worth hearing about rather than confirming things we already know? We should ensure that we keep in mind, and remind all speakers that it’s an election year
- We should look at historical successes - organizations like MIABC and Young Anderson have been scored highly in the past.
- The session on Coulson Aviation school is unique and is member-driven, comes from a resolution, and pushes the ability to fight wildfires through aviation and it could be very interesting and an excellent example of what can be done to improve communities.
- There were not a lot of sessions proposed on Health – Would like to see broad diversified offerings. Alberni- Clayoquot Health Network suggested a session from Health Networks regarding Social Determinants of Health, integrated Children & Youth Services, Foundry and Community Engagement & Change.
- There are three buckets for a potential housing session – how to speed up the process, housing as a human right and the other social aspects of housing. Perhaps we should avoid presentations from duplicate organizations from past sessions? Hearing about roadblocks and being lectured by industry is not helpful.

The following sessions were identified as sessions to be confirmed now:

- **Cowichan Tribes Case** – will there be updates? There would be different perspectives that the ones at our virtual webinar. New information comes up frequently on this file. It

is good that there is the perspective of someone from a First Nation with a modern treaty on the panel who comes from, as well as different lawyers than what we have shared in the past. **This session should be confirmed as a 90-minute concurrent.**

- **UBCM Governance Review** – this is a must- have and it can be confirmed as a 60-minute concurrent workshop or plenary session.

The following sessions were ranked highly in both relevance and interest, and may require additional information before confirming the sessions:

- **Community Assembly Network – How do we solve a problem like engagement”** – this will be an interesting session that is designed to be interactive and could be fun. It’s new content, and engaging. The speakers are known to the group, and come with great presentation skills. There should be a solution for reaching those who aren’t engaged- could it be brought to relevancy as the election is taking place. Could they come back next year? **This session *could* be confirmed as a 90-minute concurrent, or ask them for 60-minutes instead**
- **Young Anderson – Troubled Waters** – could they refocus the session to talk about watershed management for potable water, and also with respect to the issue of liveaboards. They should be mindful that we are dealing with PMFL in large parts of the region and how to deal with that additional element of complexity. **Yes, if they are able to pivot a bit to talk about additional water elements such as fresh water watersheds, this *could* be a 60-minute session.**
- **MIABC – From Risk to Resilience** – is this more of a “staff” presentation? They have been very well-received in the past as presenters. A transition letter from one board or Council to the next is an interesting idea. This could be relevant to elected officials who are running or not running in the next election. They do not have a specific amount of time on the proposal – could they work as a pre-convention workshop? If they could speak about general transfer of knowledge from one board or Council to the next, this could work but the description seems much more staff-focused. **Can only fit as a Friday session due to speaker availability.**

Past President Cote left the meeting at 11:27 a.m.

- **Housing Session:** Do we want to combine some housing session proposals to create a workshop or session as has been done in past years? Excellent that Saanich submitted session suggestions in response to the letter from President Geselbracht to CRD members – their “Rapid Deployment of New Market Housing” session seems like it could be quite interesting and include examples. **Reach out to ask for some of the examples that would be included. We should ensure that there is a rural and small community perspective offered in some way. We should ask if they would be interested in collaborating on a session to include BC Housing & Sciuss Advisory DASH session as a tool to support rapid deployment.**
- **Island Health – Healthcare Recruitment** – lots happening in Nanaimo and BCNU could also be included. People would also be interested in hearing about the “Colwood’ model. – Can we also talk about retention? including Tod Maffin (former CBC broadcaster, and local political commentator) would be excellent to speak to this. **Reach**

out to Island Health and ask if we can hear from someone from Island Coastal Health as many of our members are in the ICH region (not Island Health). If selected, this should be a concurrent workshop.

Past President Cote returned to the meeting at 11:42 a.m.

- **BC Ferries Update** –Will this just be a corporate update?. We are the only area association who can hold them accountable to issues relating to ferries in our communities. They have a lot of new Communications staff, and don't have a Ferry Advisory Committee anymore. We should ensure that this session would be heavy on the Q & A and little on the presentation. This is a very regional conversation that won't be had elsewhere. **There is a lot of interest in engaging with BC Ferries, but it would mean a lot if you could take us up on the booth offer. This session *could* work as a concurrent workshop.**
- **ICET & JEDI: Fostering Collaborative Governance** – significant progress with FN endorsement, and are working on modernizing organizations. It's of relevance in all of the communities at AVICC on inclusive governance. The focus of the session is more on the transition process and inclusive governance through legislative updates and includes perspectives from Province, First Nations, and local government about this process. **This could be a 60-minute concurrent workshop.**
- **Permissive Tax Exemptions, Grants and More:** This looks like a great interactive session that allows our members to collaborate, share tools and tips, and engage with each other. The speaker is an experienced facilitator and it would take very little staff time to organize. **90 minute concurrent is ideal, but 60 minute concurrent is also an option.**

On motion by 2nd Vice President Fowler, seconded by Director Cole-Hamilton
THAT the meeting be extended to 1:00pm was

CARRIED

- **Community Energy Association** could be asked to present on any CEA topics of interest – we would want to make sure that these are actionable items in their presentation. What things have been implanted and done? How does this speak to RDs. This one is diverse as compared to other sessions, and seems like it will offer actionable items and practical tools. They presented at the past 4 conventions, to excellent reviews. This session **to be considered for a concurrent workshop.**
- **Forestry Session:** There were several sessions relating to forestry that speak to forestry as a resource industry, and the conservation of forests as a natural resource. North Cowichan Mayor Rob Douglas has demonstrated knowledge on both sides of this conversation. **A session on forestry could be included as a concurrent workshop, or the pre-convention workshop.**

On motion by President Geselbracht, seconded by 1st Vice President Craig
THAT Staff work with President Geselbracht to speak to Mayor Rob Douglas to get an opinion on how to develop a concurrent or longer workshop on forestry using the proposals submitted was

CARRIED

On motion by 1st Vice President Craig, seconded by Past President Cote
Minutes of the December 12, 2025 Meeting of the AVICC Executive

THAT the AVICC Executive direct staff to confirm the following sessions:

- UBCM Governance Review as a 60-minute Saturday Plenary Session
- Lidstone and Company “Cowichan Tribes Case” as a 90 minute Concurrent Workshop

was

CARRIED

Staff will conduct additional research based on the comments and direction from the AVICC Executive in advance of the January 23 meeting, where all sessions must be confirmed.

The AVICC Executive also considered seven study tour proposals for the 2026 convention.

On motion by 1st Vice President Craig, seconded by Past President Cote

THAT the AVICC Executive direct staff to confirm the following study Tours for the 2026 AVICC AGM & Convention:

- KJ Gardener & Placemaking Tour – WCMRC & City of Victoria
- CFB Esquimalt Tour – Township of Esquimalt
- Rewilding Tour – District of Saanich

CARRIED

Invitations will be sent to the Premier, the leaders of the opposition to address AVICC delegates, including the current Green Party Leader, and Conservative Party of BC. Per recent changes to AVICC’s policies, the leaders of the opposition will be invited to speak, and they are now permitted to invite another elected member to speak in their place.

An invitation will be sent to the President of UBCM, Cori Ramsay. We will also invite a representative from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to update our delegates. Currently the AVICC member who sits on the FCM Board includes Will Cole-Hamilton, Councillor – City of Courtenay, Chair of the CVRD and AVICC Director at Large.

In 2024 and 2025, the President sent a letter to the Mayors and Chairs of our member local governments, inviting them to extend our invitation for the non-member First Nations Chiefs or their delegates to attend the convention, and that we would waive the registration fees. We had 5 Chiefs or Councillors accept our invitation, and 3 attended in 2024 and in 2025 this increased to 9 First Nations attendees. The complimentary registration was covered by the TAC Reserve Fund. If the Executive would like to extend invitations once again, staff will do so early in early February, as soon as registration opens.

There was a conversation about invitations to be sent to Provincial representatives to address our delegates. Should the Premier decline our invitation, Staff is seeking direction on who should be invited in his place.

The AVICC Executive deferred the decision about invitations to the next meeting.

On motion by EA Representative McMahon, seconded by 1st Vice President Craig

THAT the Report on Program Planning for the 2026 AVICC AGM & Convention be received for information was

CARRIED

b. 2026 AVICC AGM & Convention Planning

The City of Victoria will be the host community of the 2026 Convention, in partnership with other municipalities in the Greater Victoria area to take place April 23-26, 2025. The convention was last held in Victoria in 2024. The City of Victoria Council committed to approve the City as host of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) AGM and

Convention in 2026, approve an in-kind contribution of up to \$28,000.00 for room rental at the Victoria Conference Centre, and approve a cash contribution of up to \$1000.00.

At the August 15th AVICC Executive Meeting, staff was directed to work with President Geselbracht to reach out to the CRD and the municipalities within the CRD to offer opportunities to participate as Co-Host members at the upcoming convention. The template for the letter that was sent to 12 municipalities and the CRD on September 12th with a request to be added to their Council/Board's meeting agenda). To date, we have confirmation of the following contributions:

- **City of Colwood** – confirmed as a Contributing Member Sponsor (\$500)
- **Township of Esquimalt** – confirmed they will suggest Study Tour and Entertainment. Councillor Meagan Brame reached out to suggest tours and will assist with connecting us with local schools and students for entertainment.
- **District of Metchosin** – offered 2 staff to volunteer at the registration desk
- **The District of Saanich** – has made several recommendations for study tours and sessions as discussed in the previous report.

The remaining members have not responded as of the time this report was published.

Staff provided updates on the planning for the convention, which includes information about the venue, hotel room rates, elections, audio-visual and catering from the venue, which can include 'Island Good' products.

The revenue from sponsors allows AVICC to keep its registration fees low while delivering a high-quality convention. At the August 2025 Executive meeting, all approved sponsors from 2019-2025 have been re-approved for sponsorship in 2026. Staff have reached out with AVICC sponsorship information to all previous sponsors to continue their contributions for 2026, as well as several organizations that sponsor the UBCM Convention. To date, \$60K from 13 of 27 returning sponsors has confirmed, and it is anticipated that most of the sponsors will return.

There have been two new requests from organizations who would like to sponsor for the first time in 2026 for a total of \$8000:

- Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) has been pre-approved as a Group 1 sponsor as it is provincially legislated and publicly funded organization. They will sponsor our closing Keynote at the Gold level of \$5000.
- Mosaic Forestry has reached out to request approval to sponsor at the Bronze level with a contribution amount of \$3000. In the past, Mosaic has been approved as a trade show participant, and has participated with a booth, but they have asked to upgrade their contribution as a sponsor. Per our Sponsorship Policy, Mosaic would be a Group 3 (for profit) sponsor, and requires approval and as a Group 3 sponsor, they would not be provided with a speaking opportunity.

On motion by 2nd Vice President Fowler, seconded by 1st Vice President Craig
THAT the AVICC Executive approve Mosaic Forest Management Corporation to be a Bronze level sponsor for the 2026 AVICC AGM & Convention was CARRIED

The fee for a non-sponsoring organization to participate in the trade show is \$2000.

Organizations who have expressed interest in our trade show have been informed that the non-

sponsor booths would be confirmed in the coming months, as Sponsors make their requirements known. In 2024, we had space for 9 paid non-sponsor booths (\$18,000) and in 2025 we had space for 8 (\$16,000). So far, the following organizations have reached out to request a booth at our trade show at the rate of \$2000:

- Western Canada Marine Response (returning)
- Managed Forest Council (returning)

On motion by President Geselbracht, seconded by 1st Vice President Craig THAT the AVICC Executive approve Western Canada Marine Response and Managed Forest Council to be approved to participate in the 2026 AVICC Trade Show was CARRIED

Attendance at the Banquet has been declining in recent years and at the June 2025 meeting, the Executive considered our options for the Saturday Night Banquet. Traditionally the Banquet has included a reception beforehand, followed by a three-course plated dinner, and a band. The AVICC Executive confirmed that for the 2026 Convention, we would host a reception style event in [The Rattenbury Ballroom](#) at the Fairmont Empress. It has a lot of 'soft seating' options in the foyer, directly outside of the ballroom where we could have round tables for about 120-150 people. Rather than serving a sit-down plated dinner, we would offer a stationed reception event including Chef's action stations, passed hors d'oeuvres, and enough 'reception food' that it's sufficient for dinner. We will also save money by providing two drink tickets per person instead of offering wine on the tables, and the tone of the event would be slightly less 'formal'.

At the October meeting, staff was asked to review options for including the banquet event in the ticket price. Staff reviewed options for ticket pricing for both the banquet as a separate ticket, as well as an included event feature. Three options were presented – the difference between proposed budget options relates to the following options for the banquet:

1. **Option 1: A separate Banquet ticket**, similar as in past years, with the event running from 6:30pm-11:00pm. Staff has reduced the cost of the **Banquet ticket to be \$100** (\$125 in 2024 and 2025) and has justified this by reducing entertainment, food costs, and by offering drink tickets instead of wine on the tables. Staff also recommends that we **increase the delegate registration cost by \$50 to \$450** – this is still lower than all of the other area associations, and we did not show an increase at all last year. **Overall convention revenue = \$33K**
2. **Option 2: A Banquet ticket included in the ticket price**. This option includes all of the same timing and features as Option 1 and estimates that there would be 280 people who attend the banquet (including partners). This requires that we order food and beverage for everyone in attendance, and that the space can accommodate that many. This can be achieved by adding the adjacent Shaughnessy Ballroom to our order, which adds a rental fee of \$2000 to the costs. The included ticket price would be \$550 for everyone (a \$150 increase for members who don't historically register for a separate banquet ticket, or \$170 for non-members). The tables would be separated into two ballrooms to accommodate this number. **Overall convention revenue = \$22K**
3. **Option 3: Replace the Saturday Banquet to a Saturday Reception**. There is also the option to host a reception immediately following our final session (that ends at 4:30) and move immediately into a reception event from 5:00-8:00pm. The included ticket price is still \$550 per person in this scenario to achieve a similar overall revenue to Option 1, but the entertainment and food and beverage offerings have been reduced to be for a 'reception'

and not a banquet. Calculations are based on 320 delegates attending this reception (including partners) by hosting it immediately following the business sessions. The idea is that people can leave the event to have dinner, as the budget does not include enough food to be considered dinner. Sponsorship Revenue has been reduced, as this may impact banquet sponsorship revenues overall. The additional rental fee in Option 2 still applies to this larger number of delegates. **Overall convention revenue = \$29K**

The AVICC Executive has acknowledged that profitability will be higher in Nanaimo than in Victoria and maintained the registration fees for 2025 at the same level as in 2024. Profits from the Nanaimo convention are intended to help offset costs at the Victoria convention, with the goal of avoiding significant increases to registration fees.

Staff demonstrated the other factors that impacted the 2026 Convention Budget, including an increase in speaker fees, but a decrease in A/V to make up for it. The food and beverage costs are significantly higher in Victoria than in Nanaimo, and the budget reflects this. In addition a budget has been included to increase accessibility features at our event.

The Executive had the following comments and questions:

- This is not the year to have the banquet included in the price – we should consider doing this for next year when we are in Nanaimo, when there is a ‘new’ group of elected officials following the next civic elections.
- Some members prefer not to attend the banquet because there is an opportunity to connect with their community members outside of their communities.
- Ensure that we communicate appropriately to members so they are aware of the change when we send out the brochure with convention information.

On motion by EA Representative McMahon, seconded by Director Isakson
THAT the AVICC Executive approve “Option 1” for the 2026 AVICC AGM & Convention Budget that includes a business session registration fee of \$450 and a separate banquet ticket at a rate of \$100 per ticket as presented at the December 12, 2025 meeting was CARRIED

On motion by Director MacKenzie, seconded by EA Representative McMahon
THAT the report on 2026 Convention Planning be received for information was CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:57 p.m. on motion by 2nd Vice President Fowler, seconded by EA Representative McMahon
THAT the meeting be adjourned was CARRIED

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the AVICC Executive is set for Friday January 23, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. to be held via Zoom.