



WELCOME FROM AVICC PRESIDENT BEN GESELBRACHT



This year, the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) is pleased to announce our 77th AGM & Convention in Victoria, BC April 24-26, 2026. We gratefully acknowledge our gathering on the traditional territories of the [ləkʷəŋən People](#), known today as the [Songhees Nation](#) and the [X̱wsepsum \(Esquimalt\) Nation](#), who have cared for these lands and waters since time immemorial. [The City of Victoria](#) will serve as our primary host community for the event. The [City of Colwood](#), [Township of Esquimalt](#), [District of Saanich](#), and [District of Metchosin](#) have contributed both financially and in-kind, offering recommendations and resources to help enrich our programming.

On behalf of AVICC, I extend my sincere appreciation to these organizations for their generous support in welcoming our members to their community. The Convention will be held at the [Victoria Conference Centre](#) (VCC), located in downtown Victoria, and we are grateful to our host community for facilitating access to this excellent venue.

The AVICC Executive is enthusiastic about the diverse range of sessions planned for the event. We are privileged to welcome Shachi Kurl as our keynote speaker (see below for more info on our keynote) With double the number of session proposals, this year’s program will showcase a wide range of expertise. Based on member feedback, the Saturday Banquet has been redesigned for broader appeal, and accessibility improvements include hearing-assist technology and a quiet room for low-stimulus needs.

This brochure includes information on Friday’s pre-Convention tours and main session highlights. More details will follow soon and will be available at www.avicc.ca.

Registration is now open online at <https://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/event/2026/AVICC>

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: SHACHI KURL

Shachi Kurl is the President of the Angus Reid Institute, a non-partisan, nonprofit research foundation committed to informing public understanding of issues that matter in Canada and globally. Frequently featured on CBC’s Power and Politics, and cited in The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and The Globe and Mail, she delivers trusted analysis on evolving public attitudes and social trends. As a respected speaker and moderator, she has chaired high-profile debates including B.C.’s only televised provincial election debate (2020) and Canada’s English-language leaders’ debate in the 2021 federal election. Her talks focus on understanding how demographic shifts, identity politics, and polarization influence public opinion and democratic engagement, with a data-informed lens that challenges assumptions and reveals emerging trends.



As a keynote speaker, Shachi Kurl takes a “kitchen table” approach to discussions of economic, cultural, and political exigency. Jobs, health care, immigration, education, US/ Canadian trade and political relations, all the way to the state of social media, entertainment, and access to technology. She does this with humor, disarming charisma, and the timeless appeal of informed, insightful commentary. As the Executive Director of the Angus Reid Institute, Kurl looks at the ripples, waves, and major tides of public opinion. Angus Reid isn’t beholden to private or government interests or corporate profits, and Kurl can guide and frame the narrative around issues that pull us together, free of obligation. Pull up a chair to Shachi Kurl’s frank kitchen table talk and come away knowing so much more!

PROGRAM IN BRIEF

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026

- 8:30 am TOUR: Victoria Placemaking & Marine Emergency Response
- 8:30 am TOUR: CFB Esquimalt
- 8:30 am TOUR: Saanich Rewilding
- 9:30 am WORKSHOP: Navigating the Big Divides
- 11:30 am Chiefs, Mayors, and Chairs Forum and Lunch
- 11:30 am EA Directors & Friends Forum and Lunch
- 2:00 pm Official Opening
Provincial Address
Keynote Address:
Shachi Kurl
- 4:30 pm PLENARY: Collaborative Governance
- 5:30 pm Welcome Reception

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026

- 7:30 am PLENARY: Healthcare Recruitment & Retention
- 8:30 am AGM & Resolutions
UBCM President: Cori Ramsay
UBCM Governance Review
- 12:15 pm Delegates Lunch
- 1:30 pm WORKSHOPS (60 mins)
- 3:00 pm WORKSHOPS (90 mins)
- 6:30 pm Member Appreciation Reception

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2026

- 7:30 am Networking Breakfast
- 8:30 am Opening Remarks
- 9:00 am PLENARY: Strong Towns
- 10:30 am Resolutions & Late Resolutions
Advocacy Prioritization
Installation of New Executive
Grand Prize Award
- Noon Adjourn



FRIDAY PRE-CONVENTION PROGRAM

Study Tour: 'Victoria Placemaking & Marine Emergency Response Tour'

8:00 am-11:30 am, Friday, April 24, 2026

Cost: \$40

Great places are what give a community its identity and drive the local economy. Sense of place is also the essence of tourism – people want to visit places that have 'that special something.' [The Greater Victoria Placemaking Network \(GVPN\)](#) is a volunteer-run non-profit society whose mission is to inspire people, neighbourhoods and communities to create vibrant public places that promote health, happiness and well-being. The [My Great Neighbourhood Grant](#) program at the City of Victoria provides residents with funding for initiatives that develop and enhance a sense of community in their neighbourhood. The GVPN operates the Pocket Places Project, which helps promote, map, stock, and build little free libraries around the region. Delegates will be guided through a walking tour in the historic James Bay community, stopping at placemaking installations along the way, including Little Free Libraries, murals, and unique community-inspired artwork.

The Pacific Ocean is one of the greatest places in Canada, with its incredible biodiversity and significant cultural and economic importance. The walking tour will take delegates to Ogden Point, where The [KJ Gardner](#), Canada's largest emergency response vessel, will be temporarily repositioned for AVICC delegates, thanks to the [West Coast Marine Response \(WCMRC\)](#). This unique vessel significantly enhances the West Coast's capacity to handle major pollution incidents with advanced skimming, containment, and emergency towing capabilities, protecting our oceans remain Participants will be given a tour of the specialized response equipment that is on board, visit the bridge, and have a chance to speak with the crew who are responsible for responding to large marine incidents on Canada's West Coast. The walking tour will conclude with stops at additional placemaking installations along the way back to the conference centre.



Study Tour: 'CFB Esquimalt Base Tour'

8:30 am-11:30 am, Friday, April 24, 2026

Cost: \$40

Discover one of Canada's most historic and operationally active military facilities with an exclusive guided tour of CFB Esquimalt, the Royal Canadian Navy's Pacific Coast naval base. This tour, will include the following:

- Experience a guided boat tour of Esquimalt Harbour, where you'll see naval vessels up close, observe dockyard operations from the water, and learn about the harbour's strategic importance to Pacific naval operations;
- Learn about CFB Esquimalt's importance as the Royal Canadian Navy's Pacific Coast headquarters and its critical role in national defence and maritime operations;
- Discover the historical significance of the Dockyard and surrounding sites, some dating back to the 19th-century Royal Navy era;
- Explore active operational and training environments where naval personnel prepare for missions; and
- Gain insight into ship maintenance, fleet support systems, and the complex logistics of port operations.

Please dress appropriately for outdoor weather conditions, closed-toe shoes are required for safety (no heels). The tour involves moderate walking and climbing stairs – unfortunately the base is not wheelchair accessible.



FRIDAY PRE-CONVENTION PROGRAM

Study Tour: 'Saanich Rewilding Walking Tour'

8:30 am-11:30 am, Friday, April 24, 2026

Cost: \$40

From Concrete to Canopy: Walking the Path of Urban Rewilding, Showcasing Green Infrastructure as a Climate Resiliency Superstar

Learn about the integration of nature-based solutions and biodiversity within recent infrastructure projects and how this approach, alongside key partnerships and a re-wilding of our District, is being used to address climate change and achieve multiple community goals.

The tour begins with a visit to the [green infrastructure and active transportation upgrade project around Tillicum Elementary School](#), highlighting partnerships with the School District, use of indigenous knowledge, tree planting, and rain gardens for climate resiliency and community goals. From there, the tour moves to Tillicum Road to observe recent bike lanes and active transportation improvements in a Primary Growth Area. The final stop is [Cuthbert Holmes Park](#), a 26-hectare green space featuring diverse wildlife and native plants. Recent enhancements by Saanich Parks include removing invasive species, supporting native fish and wildlife, building viewing areas, and creating new habitats to improve park ecology.



Join us on this walking tour to view the work conducted, learn about future goals and challenges, and understand the ongoing work restoring this park. Participants would need to be able to walk along trails with a slight grade in outdoor weather.

Workshop: 'Navigating the Big Divides'

9:30 am-11:30 am, Friday, April 24, 2026

Cost: \$40

Feeling the strain of division in your council, board or your community? Finding it challenging to engage in dialogue with those who hold diverging views? Do you want to engage more constructively across differences without compromising your core values?



Join [Lynda Gerty](#) & [NikNaz Kahnemoui](#) of LyNk Creations for an interactive workshop designed for elected leaders who want to handle divisiveness with skill and intention. You'll explore balancing firm beliefs with openness to other perspectives, gain practical strategies for building relationships across divides, and deepen your understanding of conflict and difference. Connect with peers facing similar leadership challenges, learn a framework for managing polarities, and identify actions to lead confidently and empathetically. This session focuses on developing your awareness and ability to show up courageously amid disagreement, helping you strengthen your effectiveness in any leadership setting.



This is not about changing others. It's about deepening your own awareness and capacity to show up with courage and connection in the face of disagreement. Whether you're navigating tension at the council or board table, in your constituency, or within your own leadership, this session will support you in strengthening your relational and leadership effectiveness.



FRIDAY PRE-CONVENTION PROGRAM CONT'D

Forum: Chiefs, Mayors & Chairs Forum and Lunch

Friday, April 24, 2026

Cost: \$60

The Chiefs Mayors and Chairs Forum is an opportunity to discuss successes and challenges of collaborations between the leadership from different First Nations and local governments.

This forum is open to First Nations Chiefs, Mayors and Regional District Chairs. Lunch will be provided from 11:30 am, with the session starting at 12:00 pm.

Forum: Electoral Area Directors & Friends Forum and Lunch

Friday, April 24, 2026

Cost: \$60

The EA Directors' 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, and 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. We have also identified that Islands Trust Trustees, and First Nations who sit on an RD Board are invited to attend due to the similar unique challenges they may face at their boards. Lunch will be provided from 11:30 am, with the session starting at 12:00 pm.



RESOLUTIONS PROCESS

UBCM urges members to submit resolutions first to Area Associations for consideration. Resolutions received prior to the **February 12, 2026** deadline will be processed and included in the Annual Report and Resolutions book that will be emailed to members in early-April.

Late Resolutions:

Resolutions received after the deadline are considered "late" but will be accepted by the Secretary-Treasurer up until noon, **Wednesday, April 22, 2026.**

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 12th 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 26, and time-permitting, 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 will be sent out in early April. It includes the guidelines for distributing printed materials to delegates for off the floor resolutions.

Reminder

Late Resolutions Deadline

April 22, 2026

12:00 pm

See www.avicc.ca for details



CONVENTION PROGRAM

The Program Format

The 2026 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, Leader of the Opposition Trevor Holford, and UBCM President Cori Ramsay to address our delegates. All BC Ministers and AVICC Regional MLAs and MPs will be invited to attend. We also encourage members to invite the First Nations Chiefs with whom they collaborate in their communities, to attend the 2026 AVICC AGM & Convention as our honored guests.

A draft of the detailed program is expected to be available by mid-March on the AVICC website. To accommodate emergent issues, the program is not final until just prior to the Convention. Some program highlights that have been confirmed include:

- Fostering Collaborative Governance – Modernizing ICET to Build Systems for Prosperity
- Partnering on Vancouver Island Healthcare Recruitment
- UBCM Governance Review Update
- Troubled Waters – Select Topics in Local Government Regulation of Activities In and Around Waterways
- AI Adoption for Local Government
- Permissive Tax Exemptions, Grants, and More: Exploring Good Practice in Supporting Community Impact
- Cowichan Tribes Case: Implications for Local Government
- How Do We Solve a Problem Like Engagement?
- The Future of Forestry on Vancouver Island & Coastal B.C.

SUNDAY PLENARY SESSION:

Strong Towns: A Bottom-Up Revolution to Rebuild Canadian Prosperity

Why are so many cities and towns across North America going broke? Our roads are deteriorating and local governments are struggling to keep up. No matter how much we increase them, our taxes aren't enough to fix it all. This isn't just about numbers on a budget. This is about the fate of the communities we love most, and the real people that live there. This is about how to give our citizens, today and tomorrow, a chance at the future they deserve. If we want Canadian cities to be strong and resilient, we need to change everything about the way we plan and build our places.

In this presentation, Norm Van Eeden Petersman will explain, in plain language, how so many North American cities have found themselves in decline after decades of "growth." And then we show you a revolutionary way forward that could create enduring prosperity—if we just have the courage to change our minds.

THANK YOU

to the City of Victoria

The host community for the 2026 AGM & Convention is the City of Victoria, with contributions made by the City of Colwood, District of Saanich, Township of Esquimalt, and District of Metchosin. Our sincere thanks to Mayor Marianne Alto and Council, and the contributing communities from the Greater Victoria area for their generous hospitality.

City of Victoria staff have been involved in the planning and success of the Convention. Special thanks to them for their enthusiasm and assistance.

All local contributors are thanked for their support in making the 2026 AGM & Convention a terrific experience for all.





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.

2026 Welcome Reception

The Welcome Reception will be held from 5:30-7:30 pm Friday evening in the Victoria Conference Centre adjacent to 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.



Member Appreciation Gala Reception/Banquet



This year’s Banquet will feature a refreshed format and will be held at the Fairmont Empress Hotel on Saturday, April 25 at 6:30 pm. The AVICC Executive has opted for a more interactive and engaging event to appeal to a broader range of delegates. Rather than the traditional three-course dinner with wine, attendees will enjoy diverse food stations, signature drinks, and entertainment provided by talented community members. To foster a welcoming atmosphere, ticket prices have been reduced and additional interactive activities have been introduced. We invite you to join us in celebrating as we conclude the final year of this term – your dedication and support are greatly appreciated!

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 whenever possible.

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. And now AVICC is following this lead at our AGM and Convention in Victoria by using local food and beverage products 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 a 3:00 pm close 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 12th. However, nominations are still accepted at Convention from the floor.

Elections for the 2026/27 AVICC Executive Committee will be open to all members, not just those in attendance at the in-person convention.

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





City of Victoria

2026 AGM & Convention

April 24 - 26

REGISTRATION

Online registration is available through CivicInfo at:

<https://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/event/2026/AVICC>

Fees

Register early to take advantage of the early bird discounted rates. Please note the cancellation deadline of April 10th.

	Early Bird Until April 3 rd	Late Registration Starting April 4 th
Member	\$ 450	\$ 515
Non-Member	\$ 540	\$ 630
Welcome Reception	\$ 50	\$ 60
Annual Banquet	\$ 100	\$ 125

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 April 10th at 11:59 pm
No Refunds: cancellations after April 11th at 12:00 am
Cancellations must be emailed to info@avicc.ca

Delegates who need to cancel due to illness immediately prior to the Convention (April 22 & 23) 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 Victoria Conference Centre located at 720 Douglas St. in Victoria, BC.

Parking

Parking is available for a fee at the Victoria Conference Centre.

Internet

The Victoria 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

Destination Greater Victoria (DGV) 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 Victoria](#) if you'd like to do some planning before you arrive. Take a look and you may decide to extend your visit in Victoria to see all that the region has to offer.

Included this year is a [DGV VIP Delegate Program](#) offering exclusive discounts at over 70 participating local businesses. This includes Restaurants, Whale Watching, Pubs, Craft Breweries, Retail Shops, Tours, Outdoor Activities, and more. Simply click the link to access discounts while you are in Victoria for the conference.

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 and Secretary-Treasurer
email: info@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 2026 Code of Conduct.

ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES CONVENTION CODE OF CONDUCT

2026 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](#).