

**Association of  
Vancouver Island and  
Coastal Communities**



# **MINUTES OF THE 77<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CONVENTION**

**Held in Victoria, BC  
April 24-26, 2026**

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## 2025-26 AVICC EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT

Councillor Ben Geselbracht  
City of Nanaimo

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Director Vanessa Craig  
Regional District of Nanaimo

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Councillor Sarah Fowler  
Village of Tahsis

ELECTORAL AREA REPRESENTATIVE

Director Donna McMahon  
Sunshine Coast Regional District

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Councillor Will Cole-Hamilton  
City of Courtenay

Councillor Trina Isakson  
City of Powell River

Councillor Alison MacKenzie  
Town of View Royal

PAST PRESIDENT

Director Penny Cote  
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

# **ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES**

## **MINUTES OF THE 77<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF AVICC VICTORIA, BC APRIL 24-26, 2026**

### **PRE-CONVENTION PROGRAM**

The Friday morning pre-convention program ran from 8:00 am to 11:30 am with two tours and a workshop:

- Tour: Victoria Placemaking & Marine Emergency Response
- Tour: CFB Esquimalt Base
- Tour: Saanich Rewilding Walking Tour
- Workshop: Navigating the Big Divides

There were two forums from 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm:

- Chiefs, Mayors and Chairs Forum
- Electoral Area Directors Forum

### **CONVENTION OPENING SESSION – FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026**

The Convention opened with the AVICC Executive and honoured guests, led by the Lekwungen Dancers, and Songhees Nation member, Christine Sam, Minister of Health, Hon. Josie Osborne, Minister of State for Local Government and Rural Communities, Hon. Brittany Anderson, and Mayor Marianne Alto. Christine Sam welcomed delegates to the traditional territories of the Lekwungen Speaking Peoples, including the Songhees and X<sup>w</sup>sepsəm Nations.

President Ben Geselbracht called the 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities to order at 2:09 pm on Friday, April 24, 2026. President Geselbracht thanked Christine Sam and the Lekwungen Dancers for joining us and welcoming us.

President Geselbracht then introduced the 2025/26 AVICC Executive members. Delegates rose for the singing of the national anthem. President Geselbracht thanked the City of Victoria for acting as the convention's host community, and thanked the Township of Esquimalt, City of Colwood, District of Saanich and District of Metchosin for contributing as co-hosts. He introduced Mayor Marianne Alto of the City of Victoria who addressed the delegates and welcomed them to Victoria.

President Geselbracht noted the Indigenous Chiefs from the AVICC region in attendance, the MLAs who were registered for the Convention, UBCM President Cori Ramsay, UBCM and FCM Executive representatives from the AVICC region, the Student Delegates, and AVICC life members in attendance.

President Geselbracht then drew delegates' attention to the final convention program they received at registration on-site as well as the Annual Report and Resolutions Package that had been emailed to delegates in advance of the convention. Finally, President Geselbracht recognized the importance of the convention sponsors and advised of the trade show timing and location.

## **ADDRESS FROM PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES**

At 2:25, President Geselbracht introduced the Minister of State for Local Government and Rural Communities, the Honourable Brittny Anderson who addressed the AVICC delegates. Minister Anderson then introduced the Honourable Josie Osborne, Minister of Health and MLA representing Mid Island-Pacific Rim.

## **FIRST REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Past President Cote, Chair of the Nominating Committee, thanked the Ministers, and presented the first report from the Nominating Committee. Past President Cote referred to the Nominating Committee Report included in the *Annual Report and Resolutions Package* that set out nominations received in advance of the February 12th, 2026 deadline as follows:

For President:	Director Vanessa Craig, Regional District of Nanaimo
For First Vice-President:	Councillor Sarah Fowler, Village of Tahsis
For Second Vice-President:	Councillor Will-Cole Hamilton, City of Courtenay
For Director at Large:	Director Travis Hall, Central Coast Regional District
For Electoral Area Representative:	Director Donna McMahon, Sunshine Coast Regional District

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

## **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

At 2:50pm there was a word from the Keynote Speaker Sponsor, the Municipal Finance Authority of BC Board member, Melaine McCollum. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Craig then introduced our keynote speaker, Shachi Kurl, President of Angus Reid, who provided an update on the current political news locally and internationally. This was followed by a moderated Q & A session where AVICC delegates asked questions of our Keynote speaker.

President Geselbracht thanked Ms. Kurl for their presentation and advised that a donation had been made in their name to the Inter-Cultural Society of Greater Victoria.

The Convention adjourned for a refreshment break and reconvened for an update from Island Health, and the next Nominating Committee Report.

## **ISLAND HEALTH UPDATE**

At 4:15pm, following an activity hosted by AVICC Sponsor, the BC Lottery Corporation, Leah Hollins, Chair of the Island Health Board of Directors, gave an update to delegates on the work of Island Health.

## **SECOND REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Past President Cote, Chair of the Nominating Committee called for nominations from the floor for the positions of Table Officers in addition to those already placed in nomination. Those nominated at the close of the nominations for Table Officers were:

For President:	Director Vanessa Craig, Regional District of Nanaimo
For First Vice-President:	Councillor Sarah Fowler, Village of Tahsis
For Second Vice-President:	Councillor Will Cole-Hamilton, City of Courtenay

Past President Cote declared the positions of President, First Vice President and Second Vice President elected by acclamation. Past President Cote announced that the next report from the Nominating Committee would take place on Saturday at 12:00pm.

## **PLENARY SESSION: FOSTERING COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE – MODERNIZING ISLAND COASTAL ECONOMIC TRUST TO BUILD SYSTEMS FOR PROSPERITY**

After a brief update from the Friday Plenary Session Sponsor, E-Comm 911, Director Cole-Hamilton introduced Brodie Guy, CEO of the Islands Coastal Economic Trust (ICET), who introduced the following panelists:

- Tim Lesiuk, ADM, Ministry of Jobs and Economic Growth;
- Bob Chamberlin, Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation citizen and ICET co-governance advisor;
- Ashley Wright, member of the K'ómoks First Nation and Indigenous Advisor at ICET; and
- Mayor Michelle Staples, City of Duncan, and ICET Chair.

Vancouver Island and the coastal region are entering a new era of regional economic development, where the Province of British Columbia, First Nations, and local governments are jointly co-governing the Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET). This collaborative approach aims to foster innovation, trust, and shared prosperity by aligning power, vision, and resources among partners. New provincial legislation, shaped by years of partnership and consensus-building, is formalizing this model. It reflects modern governance principles that respect Indigenous rights and local input, marking a significant policy shift toward building resilient economies. Recent AVICC conventions highlighted progress, with both First Nations and local government leaders supporting legislative recommendations. This session, including the Province as a full partner, offers delegates a chance to explore how co-governance can drive lasting community-led prosperity. These efforts position the coast as a leader in co-governance, potentially informing similar models across BC and Canada.

President Geselbracht thanks the session panelists, announcing that a donation will be made to the Victoria Youth Empowerment Society in lieu of speaker gifts, and adjourned for the day following a few brief announcements.

### **WELCOME RECEPTION**

Starting at about 5:35 pm, the Welcome Reception sponsored by CUPE BC took place in the trade show area and pre-function space.

## **SATURDAY, APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

### **PARTNERING ON VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL BC HEALTHCARE RECRUITMENT**

At 7:30 am, Director at Large, Alison MacKenzie, introduced the session and Kara Ronse, Director of Workforce Strategy at Island Health, who was joined by the following panelists:

- Kent Flint, Executive Director of Human Resources & Organizational Development at Island Health;
- Damian Lange, Executive Director, Clinical Service Delivery at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital;
- Pat Deakin, Economic Development Manager for the City of Port Alberni; and
- Rudy Terpstra, Director of Education, School District 69

As we work to expand our health care workforce, through focused US, national, and local recruitment campaigns, collaboration between health authorities and local governments has never been more important. This workshop will offer perspectives and opportunities for collaboration on all parts of the recruitment journey, from first interest to working and living in the community. The interactive session will ask participants to discuss how housing resources, transportation information, and community navigation can help shape a compelling and supportive experience for prospective recruits and their families. We will generate ideas regarding how we can all welcome healthcare workers to find their place at Island Health and Vancouver Coastal Health.

President Geselbracht thanked the presenters and announced that a donation to the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria will be made in lieu of speakers' gifts.

The Convention re-convened at 8:35 am with President Geselbracht welcoming delegates back, thanking the Municipal Insurance Association of BC for sponsoring breakfast.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

President Geselbracht called the 2026 Annual General Meeting to order. He referred to the President's Report in the Annual Report (attached as Appendix A) and referenced the main activities of the AVICC Executive over the last term, including the association's many advocacy initiatives. He proceeded to the business of the AGM.

### **ADOPTION OF CONVENTION RULES AND PROCEDURES**

On regular motion, duly moved and seconded, the Convention Rules and Procedures as printed in the *Annual Report and Resolutions Package* were adopted.

### **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

On regular motion, duly moved and seconded, the Minutes of the 76<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities held in Nanaimo, April 11-13, 2025 as electronically posted and distributed, were adopted.

### **ANNUAL REPORT**

On regular motion, duly moved and seconded, the *Annual Report* was adopted.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

President Geselbracht presented the Audited Financial Statements of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities for the year ending December 31, 2025 (Appendix B).

He advised that once again the financial statements include a clean opinion from AVICC's auditors, KPMG.

On regular motion, duly moved and seconded, the statements were received.

### **2026 BUDGET**

On regular motion, duly moved and seconded, the 2026 budget was received.

### **MUNICIPAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION of BC UPDATE**

After the AGM, President Geselbracht introduced Past President Cote, who serves on the MIABC Board, to provide an update from the Municipal Insurance Association of BC.

### **ADDRESS BY UBCM PRESIDENT**

Past President Cote then introduced UBCM President Cori Ramsay who addressed the delegates on the policy initiatives and work being carried out by the UBCM. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Craig thanked President Ramsay, and announced a donation to be made to the Victoria Youth Empowerment Society.

### **FIRST RESOLUTIONS SESSION**

The first Resolutions session began at 9:00 am with 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Craig reviewing the convention rules and procedures for handling resolutions as printed in the *Annual Report and Resolutions Package*. Her presentation was accompanied by a PowerPoint for visual aid.

The consideration of resolutions commenced with 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President in the Chair with EA Representative McMahon, Director will Cole-Hamilton, and Past President Penny Cote participating. Claire Moglove acted as Parliamentarian providing parliamentary procedural support.

## **PART 1 – EXTRAORDINARY SPECIAL AND SPECIAL EXECUTIVE RESOLUTIONS**

This section includes any Extraordinary Special Resolutions or Special Executive Resolutions brought forward by the AVICC Executive. Part 1 will be presented in two sections.

### **ER – Extraordinary Special Resolutions**

Extraordinary Special Resolutions are resolutions sponsored by the AVICC Executive that are seeking membership approval to amend AVICC Bylaws. A 2/3 majority vote is required to endorse an Extraordinary Special Resolution to approve a change to AVICC's Bylaws.

*1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Craig explained that this year the AVICC Executive is putting forward two Extraordinary Special Resolutions (ER) seeking to repeal and replace AVICC's Bylaws and has offered members two options on how to increase the number of Board Members on the Executive. In addition to ER1 and ER2, there is an accompanying [backgrounder](#) that provides further explanation of the Extraordinary Special Resolution options. This information was sent to members via email on April 7, 2026, in advance of the distribution of the Annual Report and Resolutions Package.*

#### **ER1 Extraordinary Special Resolution to Repeal and Replace AVICC's Bylaws**

**AVICC Executive**

Whereas the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities currently has the fewest number of Board members as compared to the other Area Associations and would benefit from having an additional member on the Executive to better reflect the increasing activity of the AVICC Executive and the size, composition, and diversity of our membership;

And whereas the Capital Regional District represents almost 50% of the population of residents in the AVICC region, and contributed 44% of the Association's dues in 2025;

And whereas the AVICC Bylaws, last updated in 2018, contain several provisions that would benefit from enhanced clarity and administrative revision including improved definitions regarding First Nations membership, technological advancements, and the adoption of inclusive language:

Therefore be it resolved that the Bylaws of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities be repealed and replaced as set out in **Schedule A, which includes adding a Capital Regional District Representative to the AVICC Executive.**

**On MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED**

#### **ER2 Extraordinary Special Resolution to Repeal and Replace AVICC's Bylaws if ER1 is not endorsed**

**AVICC Executive**

Whereas the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities currently has the fewest number of Board members as compared to the other Area Associations and would benefit from having an additional member on the Executive to better reflect the increasing activity of the AVICC Executive and the size, composition, and diversity of our membership;

And whereas the AVICC Bylaws, last updated in 2018, contain several provisions that would benefit from enhanced clarity and administrative revision including improved definitions regarding First Nations membership, technological advancements, and the adoption of inclusive language:

Therefore be it resolved that the Bylaws of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities be repealed and replaced as set out in **Schedule B, which includes adding an additional Director at Large to the AVICC Executive.**

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

## **SR – Special Executive Resolutions**

Special Executive Resolutions address priority issues of the membership and are typically sponsored by the AVICC Executive.

*There are no Special Executive Resolutions included.*

## **PART 2 – REGIONAL RESOLUTIONS**

The following are the resolutions received by the February 12, 2026 resolutions deadline, and are resolutions that are considered regional in nature. Should any of these regionally focused resolutions be endorsed, they will not be forwarded to UBCM for consideration at their Annual Convention. Rather these resolutions will remain with AVICC where they may be actioned.

**Part 2 - Section “A”** – This section contains **regionally focused** resolutions that support existing policy and are recommended Endorse or Endorse with Proposed Amendment.

*There are no resolutions submitted to include in Part 2 Section A*

**Part 2 - Section “B”** – This section contains **regionally focused** resolutions that offer the recommendation of No Recommendation or Not Endorse – **CONSIDERED INDIVIDUALLY**.

## **COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **R1) Energy Certainty to Support Long-term Economic Development and Resource Sector Modernization**

**Campbell River**

Whereas homes, businesses, and industries in Vancouver Island and coastal communities rely heavily on energy generated outside the region and delivered through long-distance transmission systems, subsea infrastructure, and marine transport, resulting in a high degree of dependence on external energy supply and limited opportunities for local generation;

And whereas resource, transportation, and building sectors are seeking to modernize, improve efficiency, and reduce emissions while remaining competitive and affordable, and communities across Vancouver Island and the coast are working to attract investment and sustain local jobs, yet constrained energy availability—combined with accelerating provincial electrification policy and the pending expiry of BC Hydro’s electricity purchase agreement with Capital Power’s Island Generation facility—is already resulting in lost investment and development opportunities:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC urge the Province of British Columbia, BC Hydro, FortisBC, and the British Columbia Utilities Commission to collaborate with local governments, First Nations, and industry to ensure long-term energy certainty for Vancouver Island by:

- immediately convening and resourcing formal energy roundtables with the Province of British Columbia, BC Hydro, FortisBC, the British Columbia Utilities Commission, local governments, First Nations, and industry to address urgent energy supply constraints, assess interim and long-term solutions, and prevent further loss of investment and economic activity in Vancouver Island and coastal communities;
- recognizing the importance of local, dispatchable, and redundant energy generation—and the critical role of existing facilities such as Island Generation—in supporting economic development, grid reliability, and industrial modernization;
- ensuring that long-term energy planning and contracting decisions consider the economic development needs of AVICC communities alongside the timelines for new renewable energy projects to come online; and

- supporting interim energy solutions that allow resource industries and new investments to remain, modernize, and grow in coastal and island communities while Indigenous-led renewable projects advance to completion.

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

### **PART 3 – RESOLUTIONS**

The following are the resolutions received by the February 12, 2026 resolutions deadline. Should any of these resolutions be endorsed, they will be forwarded to UBCM for consideration at their Annual Convention.

**Part 3 - Section “A”** – This section contains resolutions that support existing policy and are recommended Endorse or Endorse with Proposed Amendment – **CONSIDERED AS A BLOCK.**

### **HOUSING**

#### **R2) Supportive Housing Residential Tenancy Act Amendments** **Duncan**

Whereas supportive housing plays a critical role in providing safe and stable housing and supports for vulnerable people;

And whereas supportive housing currently falls under the *Residential Tenancy Act*, amendments are required for clarity on the role and enforceability of Good Neighbour Agreements to ensure supportive housing providers have the appropriate tools to address urgent safety concerns while continuing to uphold tenant rights, procedural fairness, and human-rights obligations:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and/or UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to amend the *Residential Tenancy Act* to ensure supportive housing operators have clear, proportionate, and transparent authority to enforce Good Neighbour Agreements in a manner focused on safety of residents and staff, early intervention, housing stability, and positive relationships with neighbouring communities.

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

### **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

#### **R3) Property and Public Disorder Intervention Initiative** **Duncan**

Whereas existing bail, sentencing, and justice system responses have not deterred repeat property crime and public disorder offences, leading to ongoing negative impacts to residents, businesses, and perceptions of safety and business stability;

And whereas cross-sector intervention programs that combine accountability with timely access to health, housing, and social supports that address the underlying drivers including mental health, substance use, trauma, and housing insecurity, may be more effective in reducing recidivism and improving community safety:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and/or UBCM call on the Province of British Columbia to implement the Chronic Property and Public Disorder Intervention Initiative province-wide.

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

#### **R4) Provincial Volunteer Firefighter Training Fund** **Parksville**

Whereas volunteer and composite fire departments across British Columbia provide essential emergency services to local, often rural and remote communities and often rely on local government budgets to meet provincially required training standards;

And whereas members of volunteer departments frequently pursue paid full time firefighting positions elsewhere in the province, creating a mobility dynamic that benefits the provincial emergency system but places training costs on local taxpayers:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM respectfully request that the Government of British Columbia:

- (i) Establish a Provincial Volunteer Firefighter Training Fund to cover the cost of provincially mandated training for volunteer and composite fire departments across the Province; and
- (ii) Encourage sustainable cost sharing options whereby the Province covers a baseline percentage of training costs and local governments contribute a predictable matching share.

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

## **LAND USE**

### **R5) Strengthening the Administration of BC's Private Managed Forest Land Program to Protect Water, Fish Habitat, and Community Confidence** **Cowichan Valley RD**

Whereas British Columbia's Private Managed Forest Land (PMFL) Program is intended to balance long-term forest production with the protection of water quality, fish habitat, streamside vegetation, and critical habitat; however, experience in the Cowichan Valley indicates that these environmental protections are not being realized in practice, accountability and transparency are limited, and jurisdictional gaps impede timely enforcement and remediation, undermining public confidence in the program;

And whereas local governments have documented activities on PMFL parcels—including stream and wetland alterations, culvert and pipe installations, deposit of gravel/fill, extensive land clearing of sensitive ecosystems, and delays in reforestation—while provincial enforcement has been limited, investigation records have not been shared, and the Managed Forest Council (MFC) has interpreted a wide range of activities as "Schedule A" forest management activities that are exempt from local regulation, effectively restricting local governments from addressing impacts to water and habitat:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC **and UBCM** urge the Province of British Columbia to implement legislative, regulatory, and administrative reforms to the Private Managed Forest Lands (PMFL) Program that:

1. Strengthen protection of water, fish habitat, and streamside vegetation, including clearer standards and timely reforestation requirements;
2. Clarify jurisdiction and improve coordination among provincial agencies and the Managed Forest Council (MFC) for compliance, enforcement, and restoration under the *Water Sustainability Act* and related statutes; and
3. Enhance accountability and transparency, including requirements for the MFC and relevant ministries to share inspection reports and compliance outcomes with affected local governments and the public, subject to FOIPPA;

And be it further resolved that AVICC **and UBCM** request the Province to close regulatory loopholes that allow non-forestry land uses to proceed under the guise of "Schedule A" forest management activities, to require the MFC to promptly report suspected *Water Sustainability Act* contraventions to the appropriate ministry, and to enable appropriate local government input where PMFL activities materially affect community water security, habitat, and infrastructure.

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED as AMENDED**

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **R6) Ministry of Forests Binding Materials** **Zeballos**

Whereas many rural and remote communities rely on Forest Service Roads (FSRs) as their primary or only access routes for residents, emergency services, commercial deliveries, and essential travel;

And whereas current Ministry of Forests major maintenance programs typically exclude funding for topping materials, binding fines, and full surface stabilization necessary to maintain safe, all-weather passenger-vehicle conditions, while industrial users are not uniformly required to reinstate surfaces to that standard following haul activity:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request that the Ministry of Forests include funding for topping materials, binding fines, and full surface stabilization as required components of all Forest Service Road major maintenance projects and industrial user maintenance requirements.

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

## **COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **R7) Raw Log Exports**

**Nanaimo City**

Whereas the lack of adequate and affordable fiber supply has been identified as a key factor in the continued curtailment or permanent closure of BC's sawmills and pulp mills, causing loss of employment and tax income for resource-based and resource-dependent communities;

And whereas from 2.8 to 3.5 million cubic meters of raw logs have been exported from BC annually over the last five years, in addition to lumber cant exports not included in those statistics:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM call on the provincial government and federal governments to ban the export of raw logs and lumber cants from BC to ensure that forests harvested in BC from crown land and private managed forest lands are processed in BC, encouraging value-added manufacturing in BC and supporting employment in BC's forest industry, and that BC mills are supported in a transition to utilize a full spectrum of marketable tree species.

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**Part 3 - Section "B"** – This section contains resolutions that offer the recommendation of No Recommendation or Not Endorse – **CONSIDERED INDIVIDUALLY**

## **HOUSING**

### **R8) Scaling Building Code Requirements**

**Nanaimo RD**

Whereas small residential homes (under 1000 ft<sup>2</sup>/93 m<sup>2</sup>) are an important part of British Columbia's affordable housing supply and provide entry-level, workforce, and downsizing options for residents in communities of all sizes, and are relied on in rural and remote areas of BC as a primary form of affordable housing;

And whereas energy performance and seismic requirements in the BC Building Code are similar across residential building sizes and do not reflect relative risk or provide the same benefits to small homes compared to larger and multi-storey homes, and result in disproportionately increased construction costs for small homes:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada engage a qualified, independent third party to undertake a cost-benefit review of the Building Code's impacts on affordability, safety, and energy efficiency for single-storey residential homes and accessory buildings under 1000 ft<sup>2</sup>/93 m<sup>2</sup> and investigate the potential for a simplified rural building standard/alternative compliance pathway for small homes under 1000 ft<sup>2</sup>/93 m<sup>2</sup> that meets safety, climate, and seismic resilience requirements in a less complex and therefore more affordable way, while still ensuring safety.

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

## COMMUNITY SAFETY

### **R9) Provincial Standards, Funding, and Regional Solutions for Police Detention Services**

**Central Saanich**

Whereas local police and RCMP services are increasingly being required to detain individuals for extended periods due to limited court transport availability, expanded use of virtual bail, and restricted intake at correctional facilities, resulting in the downloading of court- and correction-related custodial responsibilities onto local police and RCMP services, causing operational strain, staffing pressures, costs, and legal risk;

And whereas local police and RCMP detention facilities are not designed, resourced, or governed to meet correctional standards, and there is currently no provincially legislated framework for police detention facilities or jail guard functions, despite growing Charter, safety, and liability risks and the Province's increasing reliance on police detention as part of the justice system continuum:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to:

1. Support timely transfer of detained individuals to the BC Sheriff Service or BC Corrections, consistent with their statutory mandates;
2. Establish clear provincial standards for police detention facilities and jail guard functions, including infrastructure, staffing, training, health, safety, and oversight requirements;
3. Provide sustainable provincial funding to municipalities and police boards for any downloaded and/or formally expanded detention and court-related responsibilities; and
4. In collaboration with local governments, police boards, RCMP, and police services, explore and evaluate the feasibility of a regional or centralized police detention facility model for communities in BC to improve detainee safety, operational efficiency, staffing stability, legal compliance, and system resilience.

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

### **R10) Policing Costs for Communities under 5,000 Population**

**Lantzville**

Whereas in 2007, the Province of British Columbia established a threshold of 5,000 municipal residents for a municipality's increased financial responsibility for policing costs, and this threshold has not been adjusted since its adoption;

And whereas British Columbia's population has grown from an estimated 4,290,987 in 2007 to an estimated 5,698,430 in 2024, thereby making the fixed 5,000-person policing threshold an increasingly smaller proportion of the provincial population which has caused small municipalities to reach this threshold more quickly and with less financial preparation time:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM advocate to the Province of British Columbia to retroactively adjust the 5,000 person policing cost threshold to reflect the same percentage growth as the provincial population since 2007;

And be it further resolved that the Province of British Columbia establish a policy ensuring that the policing cost threshold is thereafter maintained as a consistent ratio of the provincial population to be updated following each official census.

**On MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED**

## ENVIRONMENT

### **R11) Soil Relocation Regulations**

**Oak Bay**

Whereas the regulatory framework governing soil relocation under the *Environmental Management Act* and Contaminated Sites Regulation is designed and implemented to ensure protection of both human and

environmental health, the required soil testing, storing, and relocation results in significant increased costs of soil management for local governments;

And whereas the Ministry of Environment requires soil relocation to meet provincial remediation standards at a receiving site location that includes a threshold for chloride ion of 100 ppm to qualify as “Residential Low Density” which does not account for the natural presence of chlorides in soils, from the deposition of salt spray:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to review the thresholds for chloride ions in soil to qualify as “Residential Low Density” with consideration of the naturally occurring chloride elements that are higher in areas close to the Pacific Ocean.

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**R12) Advocacy to Create Enabling Authorities Allowing Local Governments to Regulate Carbon Pollution from Existing Buildings**

**Victoria**

Whereas climate change is a leading driver of increased costs and disruptions at the local government level that requires action from all levels of government, and that GHG emissions from the built environment often constitute a high percentage of the total emissions in local government jurisdictions;

And whereas local governments (except Vancouver, under its Charter) currently lack authority to regulate the emissions from existing buildings, and in many cases have struggled to reduce emissions from the built environment and meet their own emissions reduction targets:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request that the Province create enabling authorities that would allow local governments to regulate GHG emissions from existing buildings.

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

The first resolutions session concluded at 10:10 am and was adjourned to the second resolutions session. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Craig sent everyone on a coffee break, to reconvene in 25 minutes for the next session from UBCM.

**UBCM GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

After a refreshment break, Past President Penny Cote, welcomed Gary MacIsaac, Executive Director of UBCM and Allan Neilson, who facilitated an engagement session on the UBCM Governance Review that is currently underway. President Geselbracht thanked the presenters and invited delegates to connect with them in the Metchosin Room following the presentation.

**SECOND RESOLUTIONS SESSION**

The second Resolutions session began at 11:00 am with President Geselbracht in the Chair with 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Fowler, Directors at Large Alison MacKenzie and Trina Isakson participating. The delegates resumed Part 3, Section B of the resolutions for individual consideration.

**FINANCE**

**R13) Streamlining the Municipal and Regional District Tax Program Renewal Process**

**Nanaimo City**

Whereas the Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) Program was created to assist municipalities, regional districts and eligible entities in funding local tourism marketing, programs and projects to grow visitation and provide economic benefits for communities;

And whereas in order for an application to be renewed under the current MRDT Program, demonstrated support from the accommodation sector is required, despite the fact that the program is already established in the community and the funding collected benefits many sectors of the tourism industry:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM advocate for the Province to amend the Municipal and Regional District Tax Program requirements to remove the requirement for an Accommodation Sector in Support of MRDT Form when applications are being renewed, given the impact that MRDT funding has across numerous sectors in a community and the increased risk to established programs and projects should accommodation sector support not be obtained during the renewal process.

**On MOTION, was WITHDRAWN**

**R14) Improvement District Governance: Policy Statement 2006**

**qathet RD**

Whereas the Province of British Columbia's Improvement District Governance: Policy Statement (2006) establishes a framework that encourages the eventual conversion of improvement districts to municipal or regional district jurisdiction with the main tool being prohibiting improvement districts' access to provincial sewer and water infrastructure grants and long-term borrowing through the Municipal Finance Authority;

And whereas these policy constraints limit improvement districts' ability to finance required infrastructure renewal and regulatory compliance, creating significant financial barriers to both continued independent operation and orderly conversion, and increasing the likelihood that deteriorating systems and unfunded liabilities will ultimately be transferred to regional districts without adequate transition support, provincial guidance, or in any shape worthy of conversion:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to modernize the Improvement District Governance: Policy Statement (2006) to remove structural financial barriers to the sustainability and orderly transition of improvement districts, including by enhancing provincial oversight capacity, enabling improvement districts to access long-term borrowing through the Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia, and removing barriers to enable improvement districts to access provincial sewer and water infrastructure grant programs.

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**LAND USE**

**R15) Agricultural Land Reserve Residential Flexibility**

**qathet RD**

Whereas the purpose of British Columbia's Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) is to preserve valuable agricultural land for present and future food production, and thus residential development needs to be limited in size on the ALR;

And whereas the current *Agricultural Land Commission Act* (ALCA) and ALR Use Regulations limit residential development to:

- “• a principal residence up to 500 m2 total floor area,
- a secondary suite within that principal residence, and
- an additional residence up to 90 m2 total floor area for parcels 40 ha or less, or up to 186 m2 for parcels larger than 40 ha”,

and this can result in development that is inconsistent with the purpose of ALR when considering alterations to existing structures:

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM request the provincial government to amend the ALCA and ALR Use Regulation, to limit residential development to:

- “• the residential floor area of all dwellings shall not exceed 590 m2 total floor area for parcels 40 ha or less, or 686 m2 for parcels larger than 40 ha.”

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**R16) Community Supported Agriculture Incentive Program**

**Metchosin**

Whereas the Province of Nova Scotia has introduced the Nova Scotia Loyal Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Incentive Pilot Program, which provides a consumer incentive for purchasing CSA shares directly from local farmers while reimbursing participating producers, strengthening local food systems and farm viability;

And whereas many communities depend on small and mid-scale agriculture for food security, rural employment, environmental stewardship, and economic resilience, particularly in the face of climate change, natural disasters, supply chain disruptions, and global trade uncertainty:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia, in collaboration with local governments, First Nations, and agricultural stakeholders, develop and implement a provincial Community Supported Agricultural (CSA) incentive program modeled on the Nova Scotia Loyal CSA initiative.

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**TRANSPORTATION**

**R17) Prince Rupert-Alaska Ferry Terminal Reinstatement**

**North Coast RD**

Whereas the closure of the Prince Rupert-Alaska Ferry Terminal in 2019 significantly reduced economic activity and cross-border connectivity for the community and region;

And whereas reinstatement of the Prince Rupert-Alaska Ferry Terminal has been delayed due to unresolved intergovernmental and administrative processes between Canada and the United States, contributing to the ongoing deterioration of the facility:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM advocate to the Province of BC to collaborate with the Government of Canada to support the reinstatement of the Prince Rupert-Alaska Ferry Terminal.

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**R18) Updates to the BC Motor Vehicle Act**

**Nanaimo City**

Whereas communities across the Province are tasked with designing and implementing transportation options which support more affordable, accessible and sustainable forms of transportation;

And whereas the BC Active Transportation Design Guidelines issued by the Province, as well as other emerging industry best practices, establish new expectations and recommendations, some of which are not supported by the BC *Motor Vehicle Act*:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM advocate for the provincial government to update the BC *Motor Vehicle Act* and associated regulations and design guidelines to include design standards and regulation which align with the BC Active Transportation Design Guide and best practices;

And be it further resolved that the provincial government consult with municipalities as part of the update process, providing the opportunity to bring forward suggestions for additional improvements based on current challenges, community needs and public input.

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**R19) Wheelchairs and Mobility Scooters in Bike-and-Roll Mobility Lanes and Routes**

**Victoria**

Whereas BC's *Motor Vehicle Act* and associated regulations currently inhibit the ability of seniors and people with disabilities to be active, independent, and engaged by prohibiting the use of wheelchairs and 3 and 4 wheel mobility scooters on municipal bike and roll lanes and routes;

And whereas many groups including the Council of Senior Citizens Organizations of BC and the BC Cycling Coalition are calling for an update to the provincial legislation to clearly allow the use of wheelchairs and 3 and 4 wheel mobility scooters on bike and roll routes:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and the UBCM advocate to the Province that the provincial *Motor Vehicle Act* and regulations be updated to allow the use of wheelchairs and 3 and 4 wheel mobility scooters on bike lanes and traffic calmed bike routes across BC.

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

## **ASSESSMENT**

### **R20) Split Tax Classification for Short-Term Rentals Based on Floor Area**

**Tofino**

Whereas communities across the Province of British Columbia face severe housing shortages and challenges in providing affordable, attainable, and long-term housing, which is essential to community livability and well-being;

And whereas short-term rental residential properties have reduced housing supply for long-term residents, which is supported by the current tax classification rules restricting split classification of residential properties even when operating a commercial business, creating a need for fair and practical taxation based on actual use:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to amend legislation to allow split tax classification of residential properties operating a short-term rental based on the actual floor area contributing to the short-term rental operations.

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

### **R21) Fair Property Taxation through Accurate BC Assessment Classifications**

**Ucluelet**

Whereas BC Assessment property classifications do not always reflect actual property use, creating unequal tax burdens on other property owners; and this misalignment undermines municipalities' ability to ensure fair and sustainable funding for local services;

And whereas current tools available to municipalities to address these inconsistencies are limited and reactive, leaving taxpayers and councils without meaningful recourse:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to provide local governments with stronger authority and practical tools to review, challenge, and correct property classifications, ensuring equitable taxation and a fair distribution of local fiscal responsibility.

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

## **COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **R22) Immediate Action Required to Prevent Irreversible Economic Harm**

**Campbell River**

Whereas many BC communities rely on resource industries—including forestry, aquaculture, mining, energy, and related sectors—as foundational drivers of employment, municipal revenues, essential services, and extensive downstream economic activity such as contractors, ports and transportation, suppliers, processing, Indigenous-owned businesses, and small and medium-sized enterprises;

And whereas prolonged regulatory delays, inconsistent provincial and federal policy direction, and poor intergovernmental coordination are undermining investment and accelerating closures—particularly in forestry and aquaculture—triggering cascading downstream impacts including widespread job losses, business failures, reduced port and transportation activity, housing instability, population out-migration, weakened supply chains,

increased cost-of-living pressures, and declining municipal revenues, placing many communities at or near a point of no return:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM urgently call upon the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada to take immediate, coordinated action to restore certainty and predictability to the regulatory environment affecting resource industries by:

- establishing clear, transparent, time bound decision-making processes for consultation/ regulatory requirements and permitting approvals;
- reducing duplication and misalignment between provincial and federal regulatory requirements;
- assessing cumulative and downstream economic impacts on employment, supply chains, Indigenous economic participation, and municipal finances before decisions are finalized; and
- engaging local governments early when proposed changes may materially affect community stability, infrastructure, or long-term economic sustainability.

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

### **SELECTED ISSUES**

#### **R23) Rescinding the UBCM 2025-ER1 (Extraordinary Resolution on the Resolutions Process)**

**North Coast RD**

Whereas at the 2025 Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Convention, the membership endorsed Extraordinary Resolution ER1, which introduced significant changes to the resolution submission process;

And whereas the changes implemented through ER1 represent a fundamental shift in the resolutions framework that may impede the ability of local governments to collectively advance advocacy priorities and respond to evolving concerns:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM reconsider Extraordinary Resolution 2025-ER1 to restore the prior resolutions submission process.

**On MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED**

### **PART 4 – RESOLUTIONS CAPTURED BY FOUR CRITERIA PER UBCM EXTRAORDINARY RESOLUTION 2025-ER1**

The following are the resolutions received by the February 12, 2026 deadline that UBCM has deemed to be captured by one or more of the four criteria as outlined in the Extraordinary Resolution 2025-ER1 Extraordinary Resolution to Amend the UBCM Bylaws to Streamline the Resolutions Process. Should any of these resolutions be endorsed, they **will be forwarded to UBCM** but they will not be considered at their annual convention and instead, they will be **included in an Appendix** to their Resolutions Book. Resolutions containing Current Policy that have been endorsed at UBCM are eligible for advocacy at UBCM – members are encouraged to reach out to the UBCM Executive for any issues they deem as a priority for advocacy.

**Part 4 - Section “A”** – This section contains resolutions that support existing policy and are recommended Endorse – **CONSIDERED AS A BLOCK**

#### **CURRENT POLICY (per UBCM)**

### **HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

#### **R24) Access to Affordable Epinephrine Auto-Injectors (EpiPens)**

**Port Hardy**

Whereas anaphylaxis is a severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction that requires immediate treatment with epinephrine, and timely access to epinephrine auto-injectors (commonly known as EpiPens) is critical for saving lives;

And whereas the current cost of EpiPens in British Columbia ranges between \$100 and \$150, creating a significant financial barrier for individuals and families who require this essential medication, particularly those without comprehensive drug coverage:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC urge the Province of British Columbia to implement a program to provide epinephrine auto-injectors at a nominal cost to residents, thereby eliminating financial barriers and ensuring equitable access to this life-saving medication.

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**FINANCE**

**R25) Public Library Funding**

**Powell River**

Whereas Public Libraries in British Columbia are primarily funded by local governments, the Provincial Government's financial contribution is also critical to ongoing library operations and the Province's \$14 Million in core funding for BC's 71 library systems has not increased since 2021, even as the population has grown by nearly 30 percent and inflation by more than 35 percent and libraries continue to shoulder growing expectations without the necessary provincial support;

And whereas libraries have taken on an ever-expanding role in advancing provincial objectives for community well-being: helping job seekers and small businesses, providing safe spaces during emergencies and extreme weather, supporting residents facing mental health, substance use, and housing challenges, and advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to:

- a. immediately increase the annual core funding for public libraries to \$30 million, and
- b. index that amount to cost-of-living and inflationary pressures in future years, both recommended by the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services and repeatedly requested by the BC Public Library Partners, and
- c. establish both:
  - i. a dedicated capital funding program to assist local governments in upgrading expanding, and constructing library facilities, and
  - ii. an advisory body under Section 52(1) of the *Library Act* to review the provincial library funding model in consultation with local governments and First Nations.

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**R26) Exemptions, Income Thresholds and Compliance Support –  
Agricultural Land Reserve**

**Qualicum Beach**

Whereas only 5% (approximately 4.6 million hectares) of the Province's land base is dedicated to agriculture through the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), and the Farming Income Thresholds (the minimum gross income a farm must generate from qualifying agricultural products to be eligible for Farm Class status) are low and outdated, and further, property within the ALR is partially exempt from school tax, hospital, regional district, Transit Authority, BC Assessment and municipal financial authority fees, regardless of Farm Class status;

And whereas the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) employs only six Compliance and Enforcement Officers for the entire province for the purpose of investigating complaints and enforcing land use regulations to protect agricultural land:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province that properties within the ALR that are not actively farmed should not benefit from exemptions from taxes and fees such as school tax, hospital, regional district, Transit Authority, BC Assessment and municipal financial authority fees;

And be it further resolved that the Farming Income Thresholds be reviewed and revised to require higher levels of productive farming to achieve Farm Class status;

And be it further resolved that the ALC receive adequate funding from the provincial government to support the resources required to support hiring of additional Compliance and Enforcement Officers to protect agricultural land.

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

## **TAXATION**

### **R27) Modernization of Section 644 of the *Local Government Act***

**Ucluelet**

Whereas Section 644 of the *Local Government Act* is outdated and fails to include modern communications services—such as cellular, broadband, fiber-optic, and satellite—that increasingly rely on municipal rights-of-way;

And whereas municipal infrastructure costs are soaring while revenues under Section 644 have stagnated, failing to keep pace with inflation or the technological growth of the utilities industry:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to modernize Section 644 of the *Local Government Act* by including all modern communications services and adjusting the 1% revenue cap to ensure fair, sustainable, and predictable funding that reflects true municipal infrastructure costs.

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **R28) Active Transportation as a Core Ministry Priority**

**Comox Valley RD**

Whereas active transportation has not been included as a priority in the most recent Mandate Letter for the Minister of Transportation and Transit;

And whereas the Ministry is falling behind BC municipalities in creating safe pedestrian and cycling supportive policies and amenities on Ministry-owned roads in electoral areas across BC, often leaving critical gaps and connections to and between nearby municipalities:

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC and/or UBCM advocate to the Premier and Minister of Transportation and Transit to:

- Explicitly include active transportation as a core Ministry priority in the Ministry of Transportation and Transit mandate letter, with direction that this priority applies to rural and semi-rural contexts outside of and between municipalities as well as urban areas;
- Review and amend provincial active transportation policies, guidelines, and standards to explicitly address rural and semi-rural road conditions outside of municipalities, including constrained rights-of-way and safety considerations, and to amend the BC Supplement to Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) Geometric Design Guide where it does not adequately support active transportation infrastructure in rural and semi-rural areas outside of municipalities, in order to address the current disconnect between road operations and active transportation objectives;
- Develop and implement a formalized, cross-departmental/organizational framework for collaboration between the Ministry of Transportation and Transit and Regional Districts to align Ministry capital projects with Regional District active transportation priorities, leverage funding and delivery opportunities, and ensure accountability and consistency in advancing shared rural active transportation, safety, and community connectivity objectives.

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**R29) Interregional Transit**

**Comox Valley RD**

Whereas BC Transit operates regional bus services in partnership with municipal and regional districts across BC;

And whereas affordable private interregional bus services have been greatly reduced since the withdrawal of Greyhound and similar private bus lines:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask BC Transit and the Ministry of Transportation and Transit prioritize to their efforts to bring forward actionable policies and programs, based on the commitment by the provincial government to support interregional transit, and that includes equitable funding provisions for interregional connections that provide reasonable, affordable travel for the general public in both municipal and electoral areas of the province.

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**R30) Small Craft Harbour Management and Divestiture**

**North Coast RD**

Whereas the Department of Fisheries and Oceans is mandated to divest non-core small craft harbours to local governments or other interested parties, or alternatively to decommission them;

And whereas the Department of Fisheries and Oceans retains responsibility for ensuring public safety at all federal harbours, including non-core small craft harbours:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM urge the Province of BC to oppose the divestiture of non-core small craft harbours without adequate funding and to call upon the Government of Canada to commit sufficient, long-term funding for the maintenance and public safety of non-core small craft harbours.

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**R31) Cease Divestment Efforts of Remote Port Facilities**

**Strathcona RD, Islands Trust  
qathet RD**

Whereas “remote port facilities” are essential services, defined by Transport Canada as serving isolated communities where marine transportation is the primary mode of transportation;

And whereas Transport Canada has ongoing efforts to divest remote port facilities simultaneous with commitments to maintain remote ports despite the remaining remote port facilities in BC not being conducive to transfer according to Transport Canada’s 2020 evaluation of its Port Asset Transfer Program:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC, UBCM and FCM request Transport Canada and the federal government to cease further efforts to divest remote port facilities, to continue the National Marine Strategy commitment to ongoing maintenance of remote port facilities, and to provide transition funding for divested facilities that provide critical access to remote communities without the capacity to maintain the infrastructure.

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**R32) Expansion of Fare Free Youth Transit**

**Capital RD**

Whereas the Province of British Columbia’s Get on Board! program provides fare-free transit for children aged 12 and under, and youth older than 12 face cost barriers that limit access to education, employment, and community services and to establish lifelong, sustainable travel habits;

And whereas the immediate expansion of fare-free transit to all youth aged 13 to 18 may present fiscal challenges for the Province:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia implement a phased expansion of the fare-free youth transit program by increasing eligibility by one year at a time until fare-free transit is available to youth aged 13 through 18.

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

## **LEGISLATIVE**

### **R33) Legislative Changes Consultation Process**

**Zeballos**

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

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

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

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

## **ASSESSMENT**

### **R34) Expansion of Strata Accommodation Property Definition**

**Tofino**

Whereas communities across the Province of British Columbia face housing affordability challenges and require fair taxation policies to ensure municipalities can collect appropriate revenue from properties used for commercial accommodation purposes;

And whereas the current definition of Strata Accommodation Property limits business classification to strata plans with twenty or more units, resulting in smaller strata plans used for overnight commercial accommodation being assessed and taxed as residential properties:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to amend legislation to expand the definition of Strata Accommodation Property to include strata plans with fewer than twenty units.

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**Part 4 - Section "B"** – This section contains resolutions that offer the recommendation of No Recommendation or Not Endorse – **CONSIDERED INDIVIDUALLY**

## **CURRENT POLICY (per UBCM)**

## **INDIGENOUS RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION**

### **R35) Framework for Intergovernmental Relations with First Nations**

**Port Alberni**

Whereas the Province of British Columbia recognizes the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples, as outlined in the *Constitution Act* of 1982, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP);

And whereas meaningful collaboration and engagement between municipal governments and First Nations are essential for fostering mutual respect, understanding, and shared decision-making in matters affecting local communities;

And whereas the lack of a consistent and formalized framework for intergovernmental relations has led to challenges in communication, resource sharing, and coordinated service delivery between First Nations and local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM advocate to the provincial and federal governments for the establishment of a comprehensive framework for intergovernmental relations with First Nations;

And be it further resolved that this framework should include:

1. Guidelines for Engagement: Clear protocols for consultation and collaboration between municipalities and First Nations, ensuring that all parties are involved in decision-making processes that affect their communities.
2. Resource Sharing Models: Mechanisms to facilitate the equitable distribution of resources, funding, and support to First Nations and municipal governments to advance shared goals and objectives.
3. Capacity Building Initiatives: Programs to enhance the capacity of both First Nations and local governments to engage in effective intergovernmental relations, including training and development opportunities.
4. Conflict Resolution Processes: Established pathways for addressing disputes or challenges that arise in intergovernmental engagements, fostering a culture of cooperation and mutual respect.
5. Monitoring and Evaluation: A system for assessing the effectiveness of the framework and its implementation, allowing for continuous improvement and adaptation based on the needs of the communities involved.

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

## **LAND USE**

### **R36) Short Term Rentals on ALR Land**

**Alberni-Clayoquot RD**

Whereas many farmers are diversifying their operations into agri-tourism accommodation in order to remain financially solvent and there are financial and temporal costs associated with registering with the province's Short Term Rental Accommodation Registry that further stress agricultural producers with agri-tourism accommodations;

And whereas short-term rentals on Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) land are already regulated by the Agricultural Land Commission through the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* and Regulations, as well as local government bylaws and planning processes:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request an exemption to the *Short Term Rental Accommodations Act* for ALR properties that are in compliance with the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* and Regulations and local government bylaws for agri-tourism accommodation.

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

## **OUTSIDE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SCOPE (per UBCM)**

## **HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **R37) Student Food Security Grant**

**Oak Bay**

Whereas since 2020 an approximately 20 percent inflation rate has contributed to a cost-of-living crisis that has particularly impacted students, and post-secondary food banks are seeing dramatically increased use, including a tenfold increase in visits to the University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS) food bank from Spring 2020 to Spring 2024;

And whereas local businesses and the broader community regularly support campus food banks with donations, but student societies require stable funding for student part-time staff positions in order to operate and expand food bank programs to meet the increased needs on their campuses:

Therefore be it resolved AVICC and UBCM advocate to the Honourable Minister Sheila Malcolmson, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, to provide funding support to BC post-secondary student unions, by

establishing a food security grant, equivalent to \$1.50 per student, to address student food insecurity as evidenced by the increased use of post-secondary campus food banks.

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**R38) Post-Secondary Affordability**

**Victoria**

Whereas post-secondary students are facing greater cost-of-living challenges, due to a variety of factors including a lack of affordable housing options, longer and more expensive commutes, a lack of food security and underfunded food banks, and a range of other cost increases, resulting from a university funding model that's over reliant on international students;

And whereas student advocacy organizations have put forward a Student Issues Backgrounder 2025 with policy solutions that can help make life more affordable for students on campus, help bring down housing and transportation costs, and help ensure students have access to affordable food and services that they need to thrive while pursuing higher education:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request that the Province implement all 15 policy solutions identified in the Student Issues Backgrounder 2025.

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

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

**THIRD REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

At 12:00 pm, Past President Cote announced the nominee for the now **FOUR** Director at Large Position to be:

- Director Travis Hall, Central Coast Regional District

Past President Cote called for nominations from the floor for Director at Large. Nine additional nominations were received:

- Mayor Vickey Brown, Village of Cumberland
- Chair Kate Segall, Cowichan Valley Regional District
- Councillor Tony St-Pierre, District of Sooke
- Councillor Mary Wagner, City of Langford
- Councillor Ray Gourlay, Town of Ladysmith
- Trustee Tobi Elliott, Islands Trust
- Councillor Keith Yacucha, City of Langford
- Councillor Susan Kim, City of Victoria; and
- Director Mark Gisborne, qathet Regional District

After a brief address and video from our Delegates' Lunch sponsor, CREST Emergency Communications, everyone was encouraged to get their lunches and were invited back into the main room. The candidates present each made 2-minute candidate speeches. Past President Cote declared that the election for the four Director at Large positions would open at 3:00pm that afternoon, and close at 7:30am on Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

Concurrent workshops were held between 1:30-2:30 pm and then 3:00-4:30 pm with a refreshment break served from 2:30-3:00 pm. The session descriptions and presenters are detailed in the program attached as Appendix C to these minutes.

- #1 Troubled Waters – Regulation of Activities In and Around Waterways (Carson Hall C)
- #2 Permissive Tax Exemptions Grants and More: Exploring Good Practices (Sidney Room)
- #3 What Councils Need to Know – AI in Local Government: Strategy, Governance, and Responsible Adoption (Colwood Room)
- #4 *How Do We Solve a Problem Like Engagement?* (Sidney Room)
- #5 *Cowichan Tribes Case: Implications for Local Government* (Colwood Room)
- #6 *The Future of Forestry on Vancouver Island & Coastal BC* (Carson Hall C)

## **ANNUAL BANQUET**

The Annual Banquet was held at the Fairmont Empress Rattenbury Ballroom.

Shortly before 7:30 pm, delegates and guests took their seats. President Geselbracht welcomed our host Lil' Jam Jam of Salty Broads Productions to host us for the evening. She thanked our sponsors and introduced the food and entertainment. There were several local entertainers and the event concluded at 10:45pm.

## **SUNDAY, APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

The Convention reconvened at 8:30 am with Past President Cote being surprised by a Bagpiper, who escorted her into the convention for her Life Membership Award ceremony. President Geselbracht noted his appreciation for Director Cote, who served 10 years on the AVICC Executive and over 22 years in service to her community of Sproat Lake. Past President Cote was awarded a Life Membership at AVICC on her final day in service to AVICC.

## **FOURTH NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Past President Penny Cote announced the results of the Director at Large election to be as follows:

- Mayor Vickey Brown, Village of Cumberland
- Director Mark Gisborne, qathet Regional District
- Councillor Mary Wagner, City of Langford
- Director Travis Hall, Central Coast Regional District

She thanked everyone who put their names forward, and those who participated in our elections.

Past President Cote then announced that the nominee for Electoral Area Representative was as follows:

- Director Donna McMahon, Sunshine Coast Regional District

She called for nominations from the floor, and after none were confirmed, she announced that Director Donna McMahon was acclaimed as AVICC Electoral Area Representative for the 2026/27 term.

The morning session sponsor, ICBC shared a brief update before the next speaker.

## **BC CONSERVATIVE CAUCUS PARTY ADDRESS TO DELEGATES**

MLA Brennan Day, representing Courtenay-Comox addressed the delegates on behalf of the BC Conservative Caucus.

## **FCM UPDATE**

Will Cole-Hamilton; AVICC Director at Large; Councillor, City of Courtenay; and Chair, Comox Valley RD, and representative on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Board provided an update on FCM.

## **STRONG TOWNS: A BOTTOM-UP REVOLUTION TO REBUILD CANADIAN PROSPERITY**

At 9:10 am Director Will Cole-Hamilton introduced the Sunday Plenary Sponsor, Island Coastal Economic Trust, who shared a few brief words, and then Director Isakson introduced our next session and speaker, Norm Van Eeden Petersman, Director of Membership at Strong Towns.

Why are so many cities and towns across North America going broke? Our roads are deteriorating. Our governments are in debt. No matter how much we increase them, our taxes aren't enough to fix it all. And no one seems to be able to agree on how we got here, much less how to change the course. 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 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, we explain, in plain language, how so many Canadian 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.

Director MacKenzie thanked Mr. Van Eeden Peterman and announced that a donation in lieu of a gift would be made to the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria. She announced a 25-minute coffee break.

## **BC GREEN PARTY ADDRESS**

Following the refreshment break, EA Representative McMahon introduced Emily Lowan, Leader of the BC Greens for a short address.

## **STUDENT DELEGATE ADDRESS**

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Fowler thanked the previous speaker and introduced our Six Student delegates. Two of these delegates addressed the convention- Venice Tran from the Regional District of Nanaimo, and Colin Smart, sponsored by the Sunshine Coast Regional District.

Past President Cote thanked the students and invited everyone to participate in the final resolutions session.

## **FINAL RESOLUTIONS AND LATE RESOLUTIONS SESSION**

Resolutions resumed at 10:45 am with Past President Cote in the Chair with President Geselbracht, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Craig and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Fowler participating. The session continued from yesterday's session with the remaining resolutions for individual consideration.

## **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

### **R39) CC-130H Hercules Fleet**

### **Alberni-Clayoquot RD**

Whereas escalating wildfires and climate change are increasing in intensity and cost across British Columbia and Canada threatening the unceded territories of many First Nations and impairing the ability of Indigenous peoples across Canada to exercise their rights protected under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982, including rights related to land, culture, and traditional practices and resulting in mounting economic costs and greater risk to life and critical infrastructure, demanding bold and timely action;

And whereas larger fires emit greenhouse gases and black carbon smoke that intensify warning and harm air quality and converting Canada's retired CC-130H Hercules fleet into modern air tankers would protect communities, critical infrastructure, and help reduce catastrophic carbon emissions from wildfires:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia collaborate with the Government of Canada to:

1. Partner with First Nations and the private sector to retrofit a portion of Canada's retired CC-130H Hercules fleet into large air tankers for wildfire suppression in Canada.
2. Deploy these aircraft as part of a strengthened national wildfire response capacity, to be shared with provinces and territories and, where appropriate, used for international humanitarian and emergency

missions. Consider that the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre assist in managing deployment under a transparent cost-sharing framework, with initial operating capability by the 2027 wildfire season.

3. Prioritize this made-in-Canada solution that leverages Canadian engineering, protects lives and communities, upholds Indigenous rights, and contributes to environmental sustainability.

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **R40) Student Ferry Fares**

**Oak Bay**

Whereas post-secondary students currently pay full adult BC Ferries fares, despite facing significant cost-of-living pressures and limited incomes, and this creates affordability barriers to travel to co-op employment, internships, conferences, networking opportunities, and travelling home to visit family, particularly for students who must regularly travel between Vancouver Island and the mainland;

And whereas Indigenous students and students from rural communities are more likely to rely on ferry services, post-secondary students paying a full adult fare reinforces barriers to being able to travel home with ease, increasing inequities in mobility:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM advocate to the Honourable Minister Mike Farnworth, Minister of Transportation and Transit, for a \$10/day flat rate ferry fare pilot program, during non-peak hours, for post-secondary students.

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

## **PART 5 – LATE RESOLUTIONS**

Late Resolutions are the resolutions received after the February 12, 2026 resolutions deadline, and before the April 22, 2026 deadline for Late Resolutions. Late Resolutions are deemed to be appropriate for discussion **ONLY** if the topic is such that it has arisen since or was not known prior to the regular deadline date for submission of resolutions. The Resolutions Committee evaluated the Late Resolutions submitted and made recommendations according to the *Convention Rules*. The *Report on Late Resolutions* was distributed to delegates onsite at the convention, and posted on the website, on April 24, 2026. Sponsors of Late Resolutions that do not meet the criteria for consideration are encouraged to submit their resolutions directly to UBCM before their June 15, 2026 deadline.

**There was one Late Resolution that met the criteria for Late Resolutions that was considered:**

### **LR1) Changes to Provincial Property Tax Deferment Program**

**Esquimalt**

WHEREAS the provincial property tax deferment program was established to help seniors and other eligible homeowners with limited incomes remain in their homes by allowing payment of annual property taxes to be deferred until the property is sold or transferred;

AND WHEREAS the 2026 provincial budget changes to the program, including increased interest rates and changes to the compounding formula, are making it significantly more expensive and risk reducing its effectiveness for lower-income seniors, while concerns about higher-income participants could be more appropriately addressed through targeted eligibility criteria;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that AVICC and UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to review the recent changes to the Property Tax Deferment Program with consideration for the needs of low-income seniors on fixed incomes, including the introduction of an income threshold, so that the program continues to support low-income seniors as originally intended.

**On MOTION, was ENDORSED**

## **PART 6 – OFF-THE-FLOOR RESOLUTIONS**

Off-the-Floor Resolutions are the resolutions submitted after the April 22, 2026 deadline for Late Resolutions, per the procedures outlined in the *Convention Rules*.

*There were no Off-the-Floor Resolutions Submitted for 2026.*

At 11:35am, Past President Cote announced that the resolutions sessions are now adjourned, and invited President Geselbracht to lead us through the next part of the convention.

## **AVICC ADVOCACY PRIORITIZATION & CONVENTION SURVEY**

President Geselbracht invited members to participate in a survey designed to inform the next term's AVICC Executive on the advocacy issues and actions most important to our members. The survey also featured an online convention survey. Member representatives were informed that upon completion of the survey, that they could enter to win the grand prize to be announced shortly.

## **INSTALLATION OF THE NEW EXECUTIVE**

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

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

She announced the full 2026/2027 Executive:

President	Director Vanessa Craig, Regional District of Nanaimo
First Vice President	Councillor Sarah Fowler, Village of Tahsis
Second Vice President	Councillor Will Cole-Hamilton, City of Courtenay
Electoral Area Representative	Director Donna McMahon, Sunshine Coast Regional District
Directors at Large	Mayor Vickey Brown, Village of Cumberland
	Director Mark Gisborne, qathet Regional District
	Councillor Mary Wagner, City of Langford
	Director Travis Hall, Central Coast Regional District
Past President	Councillor Ben Geselbracht, City of Nanaimo

## **PRESIDENT ELECT'S REMARKS**

President-Elect Craig thanked the assembly for acclaiming her as President, saying she was very honoured and looked forward to working with the Executive Committee. She thanked outgoing Executive members Councillor Alison MacKenzie and Councillor Trina Isakson, and thanked outgoing Past President Cote for her leadership and guidance.

She thanked City of Victoria Mayor Marianne Alto and their Council for their support in hosting this year's convention, and CRD co-hosts the Township of Esquimalt, District of Saanich, District of Metchosin and City of Colwood for their contributions. She thanked AVICC staff, and the venue for hosting such a great event.

## **2027 HOST COMMUNITY**

President-Elect Craig announced the 2027 Convention would be held in Nanaimo at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre, with the City of Nanaimo and Regional District of Nanaimo as our hosts. City of Nanaimo Mayor Krog, and RDN Chair Stuart McLean were invited to announce 2027 Convention in Nanaimo and they announced that they are looking forward to welcoming our delegates to their community.

**CONVENTION CLOSING**

President-Elect Craig then closed the 77<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting at 11:55 am on Sunday April 26, 2026.



Theresa Dennison  
AVICC Secretary-Treasurer and Executive Director

DRAFT

## 2026-27 AVICC EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT

Director Vanessa Craig  
Regional District of Nanaimo

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Councillor Sarah Fowler  
Village of Tahsis

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Councillor Will Cole-Hamilton  
City of Courtenay

ELECTORAL AREA REPRESENTATIVE

Director Donna McMahon  
Sunshine Coast Regional District

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Mayor Vickey Brown  
Village of Cumberland

Director Mark Gisborne  
qathet Regional District

Director Travis Hall  
Central Coast Regional District

Councillor Mary Wagner  
City of Langford

PAST PRESIDENT

Councillor Ben Geselbracht  
City of Nanaimo



## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### **Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities**

**2025-2026**

It is my great honour to welcome delegates to the 2026 AVICC AGM & Convention in Victoria, where we are grateful to be guests in the lands of the ləkʷəŋən People, known today as the Songhees Nation and the Xʷsepsum (Esquimalt) Nation.

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 City of Colwood, Township of Esquimalt, District of Saanich, and District of Metchosin have contributed financially and in-kind to support and enrich this year's convention. On behalf of AVICC, I sincerely thank them for helping welcome our members to their community.

This year marks AVICC's 77th year representing local government on Vancouver Island and in Coastal Communities. I encourage everyone to use this convention to connect with colleagues. Our strength as a region comes from sharing experience, understanding each other's challenges, and acting together on common goals.

It has been a privilege to serve as AVICC President this past year, and I want to thank the 2025–26 Executive for their skill, passion, and hard work:

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

A special thank you to Penny Cote, who has been a thoughtful and steady member of the Executive since 2016 and has served her community of Sproat Lake since 2005. I am deeply

grateful for her contributions to AVICC, local government, and her community. Penny will be made a Life Member at this year's AGM.

We recognize the importance of strong partnerships with First Nations. AVICC members are committed to fostering inclusivity and advancing the TRC Calls to Action. At our first Executive meeting in June 2024, we formally recognized that every First Nation in our region is eligible to apply for AVICC membership, regardless of treaty status. This year, we have proposed a bylaw amendment to make that recognition official. We have again invited all First Nations Chiefs in our region to attend the convention and strengthen these relationships.

The convention will include several sessions supporting reconciliation, including a presentation on new co-governance legislation involving the Province, First Nations, and local governments in jointly managing the Island Coastal Economic Trust, as well as an update on the Cowichan Tribes case.

Since UBCM ended staffing and operational support for AVICC in 2023, our executive director Theresa Dennison has played a key role in ensuring a smooth transition and strengthening the organization. With two full fiscal years operating independently, the Executive undertook strategic planning and developed AVICC's 2026–2030 Strategic Plan. It focuses on effective advocacy, meaningful engagement and learning, and maintaining a strong, responsive organization. It will guide our decisions, priorities, and resource allocation in the years ahead.

As the UBCM resolutions process has evolved, AVICC has refined its own resolutions and advocacy prioritization process. We recently launched a Resolutions Database on our website so members can access and review past policy decisions. Following the final resolutions session at this year's AGM, members will again be surveyed on advocacy and resolutions priorities, and the Executive will hold a dedicated Advocacy Planning meeting early in the new term.

This year, AVICC continued to expand member learning opportunities. In November, we hosted a virtual session on the Cowichan Tribes case with over 90 attendees. In February, we hosted another on housing corporations and rural housing solutions, attended by more than 60 members. We intend to continue offering virtual sessions next term, including opportunities to collaborate with other area associations.

Advocacy surveys in 2024 and 2025 identified watershed security as a leading regional priority. Executive members met with the Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship in 2024 and the Minister of Forests in 2025 to highlight the importance of watershed security and land conservation, including the unique challenges created by the historic E&N land grant. Members also met several times to explore next steps.

AVICC also continued to support modernization of regional district legislation in the Local Government Act. To deepen understanding and broaden engagement, the Executive, alongside other area associations and Don Lidstone K.C., co-hosted a Joint Area Association Virtual Engagement Session, launched an online survey, and gave

presentations across the province. The feedback informed recommendations to UBCM and the Province. In June 2025, the UBCM Executive added this issue to its workplan, and progress is now underway.

UBCM remains an important partner in advocacy with senior governments. We look forward to an update from UBCM President Cori Ramsay at this year's convention. Last term, the AVICC Executive also raised concerns about unequal representation at the UBCM table and requested a governance review, which is now underway. Despite a strategic election approach this year, AVICC secured only one elected UBCM position in addition to the President's appointed role. We look forward to further updates on this matter.

During the term, the AVICC Executive also completed its own governance review and is proposing updated bylaws for members to consider at this AGM. We identified outdated provisions and explored ways to broaden Executive participation as AVICC's membership and advocacy role continue to grow.

AVICC is also represented at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities through Councillor Will Cole-Hamilton, FCM board member and BC caucus chair. We thank him for advocating for our region at the federal level, and we look forward to his update at this year's convention.

To improve access, six educational sessions will be professionally recorded and made available to all members after the convention. For the 2026/27 AVICC election, electronic voting will again be used, along with the return of in-person candidate speeches for contested positions. These speeches will also be available online, and the election process will be open to all members, not only convention delegates.

This year's convention will also feature several new accessibility measures, including a quiet space with sensory backpacks, GoodMaps indoor navigation, KultureCity®-trained staff, wireless microphones and spotters, and Auracast™ Bluetooth® audio broadcasting for assistive listening. AVICC welcomes feedback as we continue improving accessibility.

In your package, you will find the annual audited financial statements, the 2026 budget and member dues, the Nominating Committee report for the 2026/27 term, and the resolutions for this year's convention.

The Executive has carefully reviewed AVICC's finances to maintain both value and affordability. AVICC remains a cost-effective, high-value area association, with membership and convention fees still among the lowest of the area associations. While rising convention and operating costs reflect broader inflation, membership dues will remain unchanged for 2026. Registration fees have been adjusted modestly, with the business session increasing by \$50 and the banquet fee decreasing by \$25 under a new format. The Executive has also increased the budget for speakers and panelists in response to member feedback and approved a planned 2026 deficit, offset by previous years' revenues, while using some surplus funds to strengthen advocacy on behalf of members.

We are looking forward to a productive, educational, and engaging convention, including resolutions debate, political speakers, keynote sessions, elections, and, most importantly, opportunities to connect with colleagues.

It has been a great honour to serve AVICC as President for 2025–26, my second and final term in the role. I hope this weekend’s convention is valuable for all of you, and I look forward to connecting in the meeting rooms and hallways of the conference centre.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Geselbracht". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "B".

Ben Geselbracht, AVICC President  
Councillor, City of Nanaimo  
Director, Regional District of Nanaimo

Financial Statements of

**ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER  
ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES**

And Independent Auditor's Report thereon

Year ended December 31, 2025



**KPMG LLP**

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

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the Members of Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

***Opinion***

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

- the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2025
- the statement of operations and changes in net assets for the year then ended
- the statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies

(hereinafter referred to as the "financial statements").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Entity as at December 31, 2025 and its results of operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

***Basis for Opinion***

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***" section of our auditor's report.

We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

***Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.



In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with Governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

### ***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.



*Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

*Page 3*

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation
- Communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

***Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements***

As required by the Societies Act (British Columbia), we report that, in our opinion, the accounting policies applied in preparing and presenting financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding period.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'KPMG LLP' with a long horizontal line underneath.

Chartered Professional Accountants

Victoria, Canada

March 27, 2026

# ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2025, with comparative information for 2024

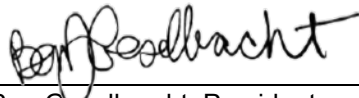
	2025	2024
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents (note 2)	\$ 303,264	\$ 317,546
Prepaid expenses	18,183	15,592
	<u>321,447</u>	<u>333,138</u>
Investments (note 3)	92,367	50,000
	<u>\$ 413,814</u>	<u>\$ 383,138</u>

## Liabilities and Net Assets

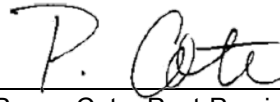
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 4)	\$ 25,033	\$ 23,530
Deferred revenue	-	4,500
Deferred contributions (note 5)	25,776	30,468
	<u>50,809</u>	<u>58,498</u>
Net assets:		
Unrestricted	363,005	324,640
	<u>\$ 413,814</u>	<u>\$ 383,138</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

On behalf of the Elected Executive:



Ben Geselbracht, President



Penny Cote, Past-President

# ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

## Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

Year ended December 31, 2025, with comparative information for 2024

	2025	2024
Revenue:		
Association dues	\$ 125,321	\$ 121,036
Annual meeting - registration	125,605	150,045
Annual meeting - sponsorships	104,000	92,500
Annual meeting - exhibits	16,000	18,000
Interest	13,415	18,823
Other (note 5)	4,750	7,799
	<u>389,091</u>	<u>408,203</u>
Expenses:		
Annual meeting	154,095	223,863
Salaries and benefits	127,703	122,188
Executive meetings	19,725	21,828
Consulting fees	17,673	15,434
Professional fees	12,840	12,505
Postage, office and miscellaneous	11,752	9,664
Communication and staff travel	3,843	3,992
Insurance	3,095	3,014
	<u>350,726</u>	<u>412,488</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	38,365	(4,285)
Net assets, beginning of year	324,640	328,925
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 363,005</u>	<u>\$ 324,640</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

# ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

## Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended December 31, 2025, with comparative information for 2024

	2025	2024
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operations:		
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$ 38,365	\$ (4,285)
Changes in non-cash operating working capital:		
Increase in prepaid expenses	(2,591)	(9,347)
Decrease in accounts receivable	-	700
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	1,503	(463)
Increase (decrease) in deferred revenue	(4,500)	4,500
Decrease in deferred contributions	(4,692)	(7,099)
	<u>28,085</u>	<u>(15,994)</u>
Financing:		
Investment in guaranteed investment certificates	(42,367)	(50,000)
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(14,282)	(65,994)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	317,546	383,540
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	<u>\$ 303,264</u>	<u>\$ 317,546</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

# ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended December 31, 2025

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## Nature of operations:

Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (the "Association") is registered under the Societies Act (British Columbia) and is exempt from the requirement to pay income taxes. Its purpose is to promote autonomy within local government and to advance the principles of local government. The Association represents the various municipalities and regional districts of Vancouver Island, Powell River and the Sunshine and Central Coasts.

## 1. Significant accounting policies:

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-For-Profit Organizations ("ASNPO") in Part III of the CPA Canada Handbook. The Association's significant accounting policies are as follows:

### (a) Basis of presentation:

These financial statements present the financial position, results of operations and changes in net assets of the Association and, as such, do not include all the assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses of the members of the Association.

There is no provision in the accounts for income taxes as the activities of the Association are conducted on a not-for-profit basis.

### (b) Cash and cash equivalents:

Cash and cash equivalents are defined as cash and highly liquid investments consisting of term deposits with original maturities at the date of purchase of three months or less.

### (c) Revenue recognition:

The Association follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Annual meeting sponsorships, registration and exhibit revenues are recognized as revenue when the conference takes place.

Association dues are recognized as revenue in the year they are earned and collection is reasonably assured.

# ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2025

---

## 1. Significant accounting policies (continued):

### (d) Contributed materials and services:

Due to the difficulty in determining fair value, contributed materials and services are not recognized in the financial statements.

### (e) Financial instruments:

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value on initial recognition and are subsequently recorded at cost or amortized cost, unless management has elected to carry the instruments at fair value. The Association has not elected to carry any such financial instruments at fair value.

Financial assets are assessed for impairment on an annual basis at the end of the fiscal year if there are indicators of impairment.

### (f) Capital assets:

In accordance with the ASNPO Handbook section 4433, *Tangible Capital Assets held by Not-for-profit Organizations*, and section 4434, *Intangible Assets held by Not-for-profit Organizations*, the Association has met the criteria to be considered a small organization and as such has not capitalized any expenditures. Capital assets and intangible assets owned by the Association but which have not been capitalized under this accounting policy include computer hardware and website costs. During the year, a laptop was acquired for \$2,000 and recorded in postage, office and miscellaneous expenses (2024 - no acquisitions of capital assets or intangible assets).

### (g) Use of estimates:

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with ASNPO requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the year. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

# ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2025

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## 2. Cash and cash equivalents:

	2025	2024
Cash	\$ 44,171	\$ 66,162
MFA Money Market Fund	77,972	76,048
MFA Government Focused Ultra-short Bond Fund	77,750	75,336
MFA high interest savings account	103,371	100,000
	<b>\$ 303,264</b>	<b>\$ 317,546</b>

## 3. Investments:

Investments consist of a two year guaranteed investment certificate, bearing interest at 3.6% per annum, maturing on October 29, 2026 and a two year guaranteed investment certificate, bearing interest at 3.0% per annum, maturing on October 20, 2027.

## 4. Accounts payable and accrued liabilities:

Included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities are government remittances payable of \$9,130 (2024 - \$7,224) related to payroll taxes and goods and services tax payable (GST).

## 5. Deferred contributions:

Deferred contributions include \$25,776 (2024 - \$30,468) of provincial grants restricted for the facilitation of the activities of the Treaty Advisory Committee. During the year, \$4,692 (2024 - \$7,099) was spent on initiatives to increase relations and reconciliation between the Association members and our local First Nations. The remaining balance will be used for the purposes of continuing and offsetting costs of future reconciliation initiatives.

# ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2025

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## 6. Municipal pension plan:

The Association and its employees contribute to the Municipal Pension Plan (a jointly trustee pension plan). The board of trustees, representing plan members and employers, is responsible for administering the plan, including investment of assets and administration of benefits. The plan is a multi-employer defined benefit pension plan. Basic pension benefits are based on a formula. As at December 31, 2024, the plan has about 273,000 active members and approximately 133,000 retired members. Active members include approximately 47,000 contributors from local governments.

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

The most recent actuarial valuation for the Municipal Pension Plan as at December 31, 2024, indicated a \$2,675 million funding surplus for basic pension benefits on a going concern basis.

The next valuation will be as at December 31, 2027.

The Association paid \$9,649 (2024 - \$9,323) for employer contributions while employees contributed \$8,923 (2024 - \$8,622) to the plan in fiscal 2025.

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

# ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2025

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## 7. Financial risks and concentration of risk:

The Association's financial instruments consist of cash and cash equivalents, investments, accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued liabilities. The Association believes that it is not exposed to significant interest rate or cash flow risk arising from its financial instruments.

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Association will be unable to fulfil its obligations on a timely basis or at a reasonable cost. The Association manages its liquidity risk by monitoring its operating requirements. It prepares budget and cash forecasts to ensure it has sufficient funds to fulfil its obligations.

There has been no change to the risk exposures from 2024.

## 8. Employee and director remuneration:

The BC Societies Act has a requirement for the disclosure in the financial statements of the remuneration of directors, employees and contractors. For the period ended December 31, 2025, nine directors received remuneration totaling \$18,300, with amounts ranging from \$225 to \$7,800 per director (2024 - nine directors received remuneration totaling \$18,750, with amounts ranging from \$675 to \$5,725 per director). For the period ended December 31, 2025, one employee received remuneration of \$104,035 (2024 - one employee received remuneration of \$100,358).

# Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities 77th Annual General Meeting & Convention

April 24-26, 2026 – Victoria Conference Centre, 720 Douglas Street, Victoria



## PROGRAM Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026

### PRE-CONVENTION PROGRAM

- 7:30 am Registration Desk Opens ([Upstairs Lobby](#))
- 8:00 am – 11:30 am Tour: Victoria Placemaking & Marine Emergency Response ([meet at Registration Desk](#))
- 8:30 am – 11:30 am Tour: CFB Esquimalt Base ([meet at Registration Desk](#))
- 8:30 am – 11:30 am Tour: Saanich Rewilding Walking Tour ([meet at Registration Desk](#))
- 9:30 am – 11:30 am Workshop: Navigating the Big Divides ([Carson Hall C](#))
- 11:30 am – 1:30 pm Chiefs, Mayors and Chairs Forum and Lunch ([Sidney Room](#))
- 11:30 am – 1:30 pm Electoral Area Directors & Friends Forum and Lunch ([Colwood Room](#))
- 1:00 pm Trade Show Opens ([Upstairs Lobby and Carson Hall A](#))

**TRADE SHOW HOURS: 1:00 pm – 7:30 pm**

### AGM & CONVENTION MAIN PROGRAM – Carson Hall B & C

- 2:00 pm Lekwungen Dancers & Territorial Welcome  
Convention Welcome & Opening Remarks: President Ben Geselbracht  
Welcome from Host: Mayor Marianne Alto
- 2:20 pm Provincial Address
- 2:30 pm Nominating Committee Report: Past President Penny Cote
- 2:35 pm Municipal Finance Authority Update
- 2:40 pm Keynote Address: Shachi Kurl: *Where are We Headed? And Where are We Now?*
- 3:40 pm – 4:05 pm Refreshment Break ([Trade Show – Carson Hall A](#))
- 4:05 pm BCLC Trivia!
- 4:15 pm Island Health Update: Leah Hollins, Chair, Island Health Board of Directors
- 4:20 pm Nominations from the Floor and Candidate Speeches for Table Officers
- 4:25 pm E-Comm 911 Update
- 4:30 pm Plenary Session: *Fostering Collaborative Governance – Modernizing ICET*
- 5:30 pm Final Comments and Wrap-Up, Door Prize Draw, Adjourn
- 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm Welcome Reception – CUPE BC ([Upstairs Lobby and Trade Show – Carson Hall A](#))
- 5:30 pm [Voting for Table Officers begins \(voting is on-line\)](#)

FINAL PROGRAM – April 22, 2026

# PROGRAM

## Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026

### TRADE SHOW HOURS: 7:15 am – 3:00 pm

- 7:00 am – 8:30 am Breakfast Service (Upstairs Lobby)
- 7:30 am – 8:30 am Working Breakfast: *Partnering on Vancouver Island & Coastal BC Healthcare Recruitment* (Carson Hall, B & C)
- 8:30 am Convention Day 2 – Opening Remarks  
Annual Meeting and President’s Address
- Convention Rules and Procedures
  - Minutes of 2025 Annual General Meeting
  - 2026 Annual Report
  - 2025 Audited Financial Statements
- 8:40 am MIABC Update
- 8:45 am UBCM President Address: President Cori Ramsay
- 9:00 am Consideration of Resolutions, Session 1
- 10:05 am – 10:30 am Refreshment Break (Trade Show – Carson Hall A)
- 10:30 am Voting for Table Officers closes (voting is on-line)
- 10:30 am UBCM Governance Review Update
- 11:00 am Consideration of Resolutions, Session 2
- 12:00 pm Nominating Committee Report  
Nominations from the Floor and Candidate Speeches for Directors at Large
- 12:10 pm CREST Emergency Communications Address
- 12:15 pm – 1:25 pm Delegates Lunch (Upstairs Lobby, Desserts served in Trade Show – Carson Hall A)

### CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

- 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm #1 *Troubled Waters – Regulation of Activities In and Around Waterways* (Carson Hall C)
- 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm #2 *Permissive Tax Exemptions Grants and More: Exploring Good Practices* (Sidney Room)
- 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm #3 *What Councils Need to Know – AI in Local Government: Strategy, Governance, and Responsible Adoption* (Colwood Room)
- 2:30 pm – 3:00 pm Refreshment Break (Trade Show – Carson Hall A)
- 3:00 pm Voting for Directors at Large opens (voting is online if required)
- 3:00 pm Trade Show closes
- 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm #4 *How Do We Solve a Problem Like Engagement?* (Sidney Room)
- 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm #5 *Cowichan Tribes Case: Implications for Local Government* (Colwood Room)
- 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm #6 *The Future of Forestry on Vancouver Island & Coastal BC* (Carson Hall C)

### GALA RECEPTION (BANQUET)

- 6:30 pm – 10:30 pm Gala Reception (‘Banquet’) (Fairmont Empress, Rattenbury Ballroom & Foyer)  
Vancouver Island Sparkling Wine and beverages, Chef’s Action Stations & Reception-Style Dinner Service, “Four Frames” Photobooth, DJ Jill Cooper, “Four Suits” Close-Up Magicians, Elena Antontevca – Cellist, and Sarah Murphy aka “Lil Jam Jam” as our host

# PROGRAM

## Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026

- 7:30 am – 8:30 am Networking Breakfast (Carson Hall B & C, Upper Lobby)
- 7:30 am Voting for Directors at Large closes (voting is online if required)
- 8:30 am Convention Day 3 – Opening Remarks & Life Membership Award  
Nominating Committee Report  
Nominations from the Floor and Candidate Speeches for Electoral Area <and CRD> Representative (if required)
- 8:40 am Insurance Corporation of BC Update
- 8:45 am BC Conservative Caucus – MLA for Comox-Courtenay, Brennan Day
- 8:55 am Federation of Canadian Municipalities Update, Councillor Will Cole-Hamilton
- 9:00 am Voting for Electoral Area <and CRD> Representative opens (voting is online if required)
- 9:05 am Island Coastal Economic Trust Update  
Plenary Session: *Strong Towns: Bottom-Up Revolution to Rebuild Canadian Prosperity*
- 10:05 am – 10:30 am Refreshment Break (Upper Lobby)
- 10:30 am Green Party Leader, Emily Lowen
- 10:40 am Student Delegate Address
- 10:45 am – 11:40 am Consideration of Resolutions (including Late & Off-The-Floor), Session 3
- 11:00 am Voting for Electoral Area <and CRD> Representative closes (voting is online if required)
- 11:40 am AVICC Advocacy Update / Resolutions Prioritization & Advocacy Survey
- 11:55 am Nominating Committee Report (as required)  
Installation of New AVICC Executive  
Remarks by President-Elect  
2027 Convention Announcement  
Grand Prize Draw – BC Ferries Prize Package – Must Be Present to Win
- 12:00 pm Adjourn & Safe Travels

### THANK YOU TO OUR HOSTS



Special thanks are extended to the City of Victoria for hosting AVICC's 77<sup>th</sup> AGM & Convention, and to the City of Colwood, the District of Saanich, the District of Metchosin, and the Township of Esquimalt for their in-kind and financial contributions. Our hosts helped with many aspects of the planning to make the 2026 Convention a success.

Thank you for making the Convention a great experience!

# ACCESSIBILITY AT AVICC

This year, the AVICC Executive is thrilled to offer a more accessible and inclusive convention. We are offering the following accessibility features:

- A designated quiet space with a low-stimulus environment & viewing access to the plenary sessions;
- Access to [GoodMaps](#) indoor navigation at the Victoria Conference Centre (VCC)
- [KultureCity®](#) trained event staff at VCC to support those with invisible disabilities or sensory needs
- Sensory backpacks with white noise machines, headphones, and other supportive tools
- Wireless microphones and spotters for Q & A at sessions for those with mobility challenges;
- **Auracast™**, the next generation of Bluetooth® audio broadcasting for assistive listening brought to us by [Advanced Listening](#), based on Vancouver Island. Thank you to Tim and his team for making this possible!

AVICC actively seeks out this input to guide accessibility improvements. Please write to [info@avicc.ca](mailto:info@avicc.ca) with questions or recommendations on accessibility at AVICC.

## TIM ARCHER – ADVANCED LISTENING

With more than 40 years of experience in professional audio, Tim Archer, based in North Saanich, has designed immersive sound environments for IMAX films, museums, science centres, and themed attractions. In 2012, he founded Advanced Listening to apply this expertise to improving communication access for people who are hard of hearing, designing and installing assistive listening systems across Canada.



Founded in 2012, Advanced Listening works nationwide, researching and implementing technologies that make public spaces more accessible for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing communities. The team regularly presents at audiology conferences and contributes their expertise to the Rick Hansen Foundation's technical advisory work on accessibility. Advanced Listening also works with clinics across the country, showcasing the wide variety of assistive listening solutions available to support people with hearing loss.

At this conference, Advanced Listening is excited to introduce **Auracast™**, the next generation of Bluetooth® audio broadcasting for assistive listening and will be providing an Auracast transmission of the presentations for attendees to experience during the conference.

Advanced Listening has helped create accessible listening environments for transportation and health authorities, municipalities, houses of worship, and educational institutions, using technologies such as induction hearing loops, RF and I/R broadcast systems, and adaptive SoundField solutions.

Reach us at [info@advancedlistening.ca](mailto:info@advancedlistening.ca), by phone at 778.426.4327 & at [www.advancedlistening.ca](http://www.advancedlistening.ca) or visit their kiosk at this year's event to connect!



# TRADE SHOW

## TRADE SHOW HOURS

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

## EXHIBITORS

- ◇ BC Assessment
- ◇ BC Ferries
- ◇ BC Hydro
- ◇ BC Nurses' Union
- ◇ BC Salmon Farmers
- ◇ BC Transit
- ◇ Children's Health Foundation of Vancouver Island
- ◇ Council of Forest Industries
- ◇ CREST Emergency Communications
- ◇ CUPE BC – Canadian Union of Public Employees BC
- ◇ CUPE 8911 – Emergency Communications Professionals of BC
- ◇ CUPE Vancouver Island District Council
- ◇ Disability Alliance BC
- ◇ FortisBC Energy
- ◇ Green Roots Play Equipment
- ◇ Insurance Corporation of BC
- ◇ Interchange Recycling
- ◇ Island Coastal Economic Trust
- ◇ Island Health
- ◇ Managed Forest Council
- ◇ Mosaic Forest Management
- ◇ ParkMobile
- ◇ Strategic Natural Resource Group
- ◇ Private Forest Landowners Association
- ◇ Trans Mountain – **TRADESHOW SPONSOR**
- ◇ Urban Systems
- ◇ Vancouver Island Community Health Networks
- ◇ Western Canada Marine Response Corporation
- ◇ Western Forest Products

## PROGRAM SPONSOR



**BC ASSESSMENT**

# SPONSORS

We wish to thank our sponsors for their contributions toward the 2026 AVICC Convention:

## PLATINUM SPONSORS

### Gala Reception Entertainment

BC Lottery Corporation

### 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

### Gala Reception Dinner

Young Anderson

### Sunday Closing Session

Insurance Corporation of BC

### Friday Plenary Session

E-Comm 911

### Friday Opening Session

Island Health

### Sunday Plenary Session

Island Coastal Economic Trust

## SILVER SPONSORS

**Gala Reception Appetizers:** Fortis BC

**Chiefs, Mayors & Chairs Forum:**

Lidstone & Company

**Gala Reception Cocktails:** Urban Systems

**Friday Morning Session:**

BC Council of Forest Industries (COFI)

**Trade Show:** Trans Mountain

## BRONZE & CONTRIBUTING SPONSORS

**Program:** BC Assessment

**Communications:** Mosaic Forest Management

**Registration Services:** Western Forest Products

**Friday Afternoon Refreshment Break:** CUPE 8911 – Emergency Professionals BC

**Saturday Morning Refreshment Break:** Interchange Recycling

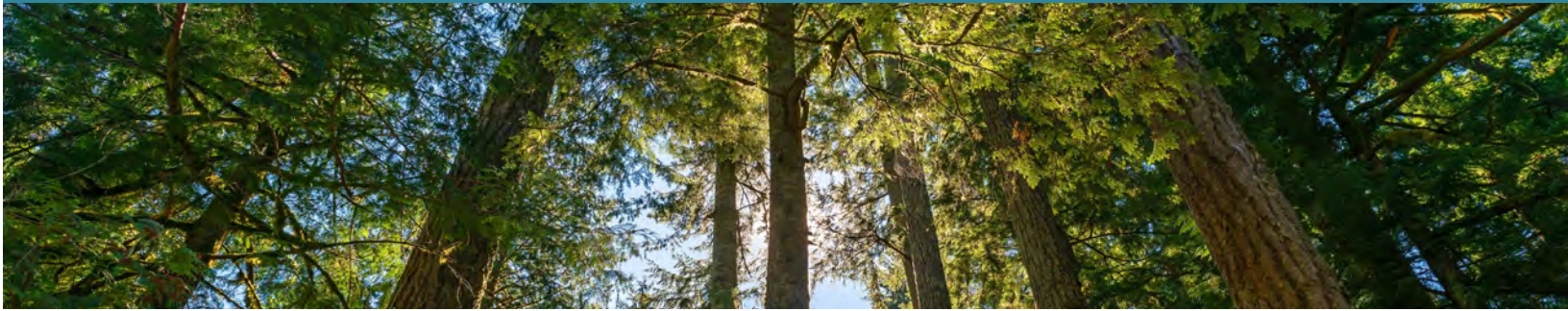
**Saturday Afternoon Refreshment Break:** BC Hydro

**Sunday Morning Refreshment Break:** CUPE VI District Council

**Grand Prize:** BC Ferry Services

**Transportation:** BC Transit

# 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 2026, and a donation will be made to The Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria, and to the Victoria Youth Empowerment Society in lieu of Speakers Gifts. Please visit their websites to learn more about how these organizations benefit our communities.



For more than fifty years, the Inter-Cultural Association's (ICA) purpose has been to support the full integration of newcomer immigrants and refugees into the social, economic and civic life of the Capital Region of British Columbia. Founded in the 1970s as a response to racism in our community, today, we continue that important work by offering wide ranging services that help newcomers access housing, healthcare and employment as well as English language instruction and mentorship. Alongside our direct services to newcomers, ICA helps Greater Victoria be a more welcoming place by providing anti-racism programming and community education. At ICA, we believe no one who joins our community should ever feel vulnerable or alone. When people have the support they need, they end up giving back far more to the community than they receive.

Visit <https://www.icavictoria.org/about-ica> to learn more or to make a donation.

Founded in 1992 through the merger of two Victoria youth organizations, the Victoria Youth Empowerment Society (YES) has grown from five staff and three programs into a leading youth-serving agency with 80 full- and part-time professionals and an annual budget of more than \$3 million. While rooted in supporting street-entrenched youth, YES now offers a continuum of prevention, intervention, treatment, and education services. Programs include youth and family counselling, outreach, crisis response (including after-hours support and emergency shelter), life-skills and independent-living supports, and advocacy related to mental health, addictions, housing, education, and employment. Responding to increasing mental health and economic pressures, YES continues to expand practical, holistic supports, including its Youth Food Pantry—providing groceries, cooking-skill building, employment workshops, and a safe, welcoming space to connect with supports.



Visit <https://www.yyes.ca/agency> to learn more or to make a donation

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER: SHACHI KURL

### Where Are We Going? And Where Are We Now?

*An informed look at today's most important issues*

**Friday, 2:40 pm**

As a keynote speaker, Shachi Kurl takes a “kitchen table” approach to discussions of economic, cultural, and political exigency. That means she’s an expert at breaking big, complicated ideas down into everyday language, and showing groups and individuals why they matter. 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 – no topic is too large, or too broad. And 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. And as a leading nonpartisan research organization, Angus Reid isn’t beholden to private or government interests; in fact, it isn’t beholden to profits, period. Which means Kurl can guide and frame the narrative around issues that pull us together, free of obligation to some third-party guiding her hand. It also means she can debunk harmful myths that could otherwise have serious consequences. Why? Because these issues matter; because they matter to ordinary people who are concerned about their future; and, sometimes, simply, because it’s good to know. So, pull up a chair to Shachi Kurl’s kitchen table talk and come away knowing so much more!

## BIOGRAPHY

As the head of the Angus Reid Institute, Shachi Kurl uses data to consider today’s most critical questions. The non-partisan research she oversees reveals startling truths about how our values, beliefs, and priorities shape both the future of our country, and the current reality of our lives. In her frank and compelling talks, Kurl shares how to get to the heart of our major cultural, economic, and political shifts—and find common ground during times of upheaval.

When The Wall Street Journal, The Globe and Mail or The National Post want to understand everything from the public perception of Justin Trudeau to the meat consumption of millennials, they turn to Shachi Kurl. As the Executive Director of the Angus Reid Institute, Kurl has a remarkable grasp on what we’re collectively thinking about society’s most pressing issues. One of North America’s premier nonpartisan, nonprofit research and public polling organizations, the Institute helps debunk harmful myths and expand public knowledge in a meaningful way. Kurl, having spent the first half of her career as a political reporter, brings nearly two decades of public policy expertise to her role, and has even been sought by policymakers to testify before the House of Commons. Today, she is regularly called upon by the media for her unique insights, including on CBC’s At Issue, Canada’s most watched political panel.

Kurl is a recipient of the Jack Webster Award for Best TV Reporting. Along with former Australian and UK Prime Ministers Julia Gillard and Margaret Thatcher, she is an Alumnus of the US State Department’s International Visitor Leadership Program. She holds a degree in Journalism and Political Science from Carleton University.

# FRIDAY PRE-CONVENTION WORKSHOP

## Navigating the Big Divides:

*An experience of self-reflection and exploration to more effectively navigate polarization*

**Friday, 9:30 am – 11:30 am**

Feeling the strain of division in your council, board, or in 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 us for an **interactive workshop** that offers a practical and reflective space for elected leaders who want to navigate divisiveness with greater intention and skill. We will apply the *Polarity Management Framework* to explore the challenge of holding steadfast convictions and staying open to other perspectives – essential skills for anyone in public service today. By the end of the workshop, you'll have a deeper understanding of this dynamic within yourself and identify new strategies to help cultivate relationships across divides while staying true to your values.

Through this workshop, you can expect to:

- ◇ Feel less alone by connecting with others facing similar leadership challenges
- ◇ Gain fresh insight into how you personally respond to conflict and difference
- ◇ Learn a practical framework for navigating polarities and complex tensions
- ◇ Identify actions you can take to lead with greater confidence, clarity, and empathy

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 table, in your constituency, or within your own leadership, this session will support you in strengthening your relational and leadership effectiveness.

### PRESENTERS:

**NikNaz Kahn moui** (she/her) – With over twenty years of experience in strategic and operational planning across a variety of organizations, including public, private, and non-profit sectors, NikNaz has worked internationally with Fortune Global 500 companies as well as grassroots groups operating on limited budgets. Over the past ten years, her focus has been supporting non-profit and public sector organizations, helping them navigate complex decisions and drive transformational change. She is a certified Non-Profit Lifecycles Capacity Consultant (CLCC), holds an MA in interdisciplinary studies, possesses a Project Management Professional (PMP) certificate, and has also earned a certificate in Dialogue and Civic Engagement. She is a first-generation queer immigrant from Iran and settler on the unceded lands of the skw̓xwú7mesh (Squamish), selílwitulh (Tseil-Waututh), and xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam) nations.



**Lynda Gerty** (she/her) – For more than ten years, Lynda has worked as a leadership coach and organizational consultant, supporting numerous executive directors and senior leaders through times of change. Her aim is to help them boost their impact and foster healthier, more effective teams. Her consulting draws on extensive experience in adult learning, group dynamics, and systems change. She carefully considers both strategic challenges and interpersonal relationships, guiding mission-driven leaders and organizations with inquiry and dialogue that opens doors to new possibilities and solutions. Lynda is a Certified Executive Coach (CEC) from Royal Roads University and holds the Professional Certified Coach (PCC) credential from the International Coach Federation. Additionally, she earned a Masters in Human Systems Intervention (HSI) from Concordia University and a Bachelor of Arts from Simon Fraser University. She is a fifth-generation settler of Irish, Scottish, and French descent, and member of the LGBTQIA+ community, residing on the unceded territories of the Ləkʷəŋən and WSÁNEĆ people.

# FRIDAY PLENARY SESSION

## **Fostering Collaborative Governance:**

*Modernizing Island Coastal Economic Trust to Build Systems for Prosperity*

**Friday, 4:30 pm**

Vancouver Island and the coastal region are entering a new era of regional economic development, where the Province of British Columbia, First Nations, and local governments are jointly co-governing the Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET). This collaborative approach aims to foster innovation, trust, and shared prosperity by aligning power, vision, and resources among partners. New provincial legislation, shaped by years of partnership and consensus-building, is formalizing this model. It reflects modern governance principles that respect Indigenous rights and local input, marking a significant policy shift toward building resilient economies.

Recent AVICC conventions highlighted progress, with both First Nations and local government leaders supporting legislative recommendations. This session, including the Province as a full partner, offers delegates a chance to explore how co-governance can drive lasting community-led prosperity. These efforts position the coast as a leader in co-governance, potentially informing similar models across BC and Canada.

## **MODERATOR & PRESENTER**

**Brodie Guy** is an executive leader focused on sustainable development, conservation, innovation, and ecological restoration in British Columbia. He is the **CEO of Island Coastal Economic Trust**, Chair of Comox Valley Project Watershed Society, Director with Community Energy Association, and advisor to the Watershed Security Fund. Previously, he led Coast Funds, partnering with First Nations and generating \$1.7 billion in economic output. Brodie holds a Chartered Director designation from McMaster University and a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Victoria.

## **PANELISTS**

**Tim Lesiuk, ADM, Ministry of Jobs and Economic Growth** leads efforts to promote inclusive economic growth in BC, supporting entrepreneurs, small businesses, regional economies, and provincial strategy. He previously oversaw international trade development, created CleanBC, and served as Senior Executive with the Climate Action Secretariat for BC's first Climate Action Plan in 2008. With experience in sustainable development and the energy sector, Tim has worked at BC Hydro and Westcoast Energy. He holds a B.Sc. in Biology from the University of Victoria and a Diploma in Environmental Science from Camosun College.

**Bob Chamberlin** is a Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation citizen and a former multi-term Chief Councillor. He served as Vice-President of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs for ten years, advocating on democratic, environmental, and social issues through presentations to Senate Committees and other authorities. Bob now lives in qathet (Powell River), chairs the First Nation Wild Salmon Alliance, and is a director at the Royal BC Museum.

**Ashley Wright** is a member of the K'ómoks First Nation from Comox Valley, educated at Vancouver Island University and UBC Sauder School of Business. She works with several BC Nations on treaty processes, led ratifications for K'ómoks and Kitsumkalum, and supports Te'mexw Treaty Association and Metlakatla towards ratification. Ashley also serves as Indigenous Advisor to ICET, offering strategic guidance.

**Mayor Michelle Staples, Chair** was elected Mayor in 2018 after seven years on Duncan City Council. She is Executive Director of Social Planning Cowichan, with two decades of community development experience. Elected to the Trust's board in 2018, Mayor Staples chairs the Duncan Community Sustainability Advisory Team. She owns a small business and facilitates diversity education for Cultural Connections Cowichan. Michelle holds a BA in Applied Communications, Counselling, Diversity Training, and is pursuing a Masters in Integrated Studies for Community Development and Administration.

# SATURDAY PLENARY SESSION

## Partnering on Vancouver Island and Coastal BC Healthcare Recruitment

Saturday, 7:30 am

As we work to expand our health care workforce, through focused US, national, and local recruitment campaigns, collaboration between health authorities and local governments has never been more important. This workshop will offer perspectives and opportunities for collaboration on all parts of the recruitment journey, from first interest to working and living in the community. The interactive session will ask participants to discuss how housing resources, transportation information, and community navigation can help shape a compelling and supportive experience for prospective recruits and their families. We will generate ideas regarding how we can all welcome healthcare workers to find their place at Island Health and Vancouver Coastal Health.

### PRESENTERS:

**Kent Flint** is an accomplished HR executive with over 20 years of experience leading workforce strategies and cultural transformation across healthcare, technology, and professional services. As **Executive Director of Human Resources & Organizational Development at Island Health**, Kent provides Human Resources Leadership for the health authority, driving initiatives that strengthen leadership, engagement, and inclusive practices across the entire workforce. Kent's work emphasizes collaboration across sectors to build systems that care – for people, purpose, and performance. His experience in creating resilient organizations positions him as a strong advocate for partnerships between health authorities, municipal governments, and public service partners to attract and retain healthcare workers in our communities.

**Kara Ronse, Director, Workforce Strategy, Island Health** brings over six years of experience in health human resources, grounded in a long-standing career in human-centered design across diverse sectors. With a Master of Arts in Conflict Analysis and Management from Royal Roads University and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, she blends analytical insight with a deep commitment to understanding people and systems. Her work is fueled by a drive to innovate and empower others through collaborative, coach-centered approaches. Kara is known for creating environments where diverse voices can contribute to meaningful change and where solutions are shaped by the lived experiences of the communities they serve.

**Damian Lange** is the **Executive Director, Clinical Service Delivery at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital**. Damian brings 20 years of mixed clinical and administrative leadership to his daily activities and is dedicated to improving patient care to patients locally and across the region. In addition to his leadership role, Damian sits on the Nanaimo & District Hospital Foundation (NDHF) Board. A further opportunity for Damian and the teams to advocate for improved healthcare services for the local and broader region.

**Pat Deakin**, is a seasoned Community Economic Development Practitioner with an abiding belief in the power of partnerships and regional collaboration. With extensive experience in economic development and public sector partnerships, Pat has served as the **Economic Development Manager for the City of Port Alberni** since 2007. His previous roles include Manager of Public Sector Partnerships with the OneStop Business Registry at the BC Ministry of Finance, Economic Development Manager for the Town of Oliver, and Band Manager and Economic Development Manager for the Uchucklesaht Tribe. Throughout his career, Pat has been dedicated to fostering sustainable growth and collaboration across communities and sectors

**Rudy Terpstra, Director of Education, SD69** has been a secondary teacher, vice-principal and principal before becoming Director of Instruction. He has been involved in Career Education throughout his career, and his current portfolio includes the district career education program lead. Currently, he is co-chair of the Vancouver Island Regional Collaborative. His district also has a Health & Human Services Explorations Program.

# SUNDAY PLENARY SESSION



## **Strong Towns: *A Bottom-Up Revolution to Rebuild Canadian Prosperity*** **Sunday, 9:05 am**

Why are so many cities and towns across North America going broke? Our roads are deteriorating. Our governments are in debt. No matter how much we increase them, our taxes aren't enough to fix it all. And no one seems to be able to agree on how we got here, much less how to change the course. 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 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, we explain, in plain language, how so many Canadian 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.

In this session, Norm Van Eeden Petersman will discuss:

- ◇ Why our cities are on the cusp of a long, slow decline, and how to approach the necessary triage in a rational way;
- ◇ Why inducing growth and development has been the conventional response to urban financial struggles – and why it just doesn't work;
- ◇ Why old and blighted areas are often more financially productive than shiny new ones;
- ◇ The power of "little bets" to strengthen communities and improve the lives of citizens; and
- ◇ How humble public engagement can create amazing insights. The surprising ways that strong neighborhoods make us better people.

### **PRESENTER:**

**Norm Van Eeden Petersman** is the Director of Membership at Strong Towns. He is a skilled communicator of the Strong Towns message and a community builder. He leads DelPOP, a land use reform and housing advocacy group in Delta, British Columbia, and is a leader of the [Strong Towns Toastmasters Club](#).

Norm has a Master of Divinity and a Bachelor's in Political Studies. He spent 10 years pastoring churches in Canada as a preacher, teacher, and leader. He worked in communications for the second-largest city in British Columbia and carried out infrastructure-related stakeholder outreach for Canada's Minister of Health and Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario in Ottawa, ON.



Norm has published articles on housing, transportation, faith, and culture and his writing appears regularly on the Strong Towns site. You can connect with him on Twitter at [@normvep](#) or [on LinkedIn](#).

# PLENARY UPDATE SESSIONS

## **UBCM Governance Review Update and Engagement**

**Saturday, 10:30 am**

Update and engagement on the UBCM governance review process, which responds to recent requests from the membership through resolutions and direct correspondence. The governance review focuses on representation of the range of UBCM members as reflected in the composition of the UBCM Executive board and the name of the organization.

Immediately following the Session, UBCM Executive Director Gary MacIsaac, and UBCM Staff and their consultant will be available in the Metchosin Room for further questions, conversations and engagement.

### **PRESENTERS**

**Gary MacIsaac**, Executive Director, Union of BC Municipalities

**Allan Neilson**, Principal, [Neilson Strategies](#)

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## **Federation of Canadian Municipalities Update**

**Sunday, 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 future of federally supported local government programs.

### **PRESENTER**

**Will Cole-Hamilton**, AVICC Director at Large; FCM BC Caucus Chair; Councillor, City of Courtenay; Chair, Comox Valley Regional District

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## **AVICC Advocacy Update, Resolutions & Advocacy Prioritization Survey**

**Sunday, 11:40 am**

The primary role of AVICC is to advocate on behalf of its members. Following a strategic planning session in 2021, the Executive presented the outcomes at the 2022 Convention, where the membership formally endorsed an AVICC Advocacy Policy. In March, the AVICC Executive updated its Strategic Plan, establishing direction for the Association's forthcoming terms, following our transition to becoming an independent organization with a designated full-time employee.

The AVICC Executive has determined that input from members will enhance the prioritization of issues in the development of the Advocacy Plan for the upcoming term. To facilitate this, an inaugural advocacy planning meeting, distinct from the Regular Executive Meeting, will be convened to provide an opportunity for the Executive to review what we heard from our members to help inform our advocacy plans for the term.

Before the convention adjourns, members will have the opportunity to participate in an online survey designed to assist in prioritizing resolutions and guiding advocacy efforts that will shape the Association's work. This survey will also be sent to members who are not in attendance at the convention, for additional opportunities for feedback.

### **PRESENTERS**

**Ben Geselbracht**, AVICC President; Councillor, City of Nanaimo; Director, Regional District of Nanaimo

# SATURDAY CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

## **Troubled Waters:** *Select topics in local government regulation of activities in and around waterways* **Saturday, 1:30 pm – Carson Hall C**

Vancouver Island and Coastal BC's communities and their local governments face unique regulatory challenges due to their proximity to the ocean along with the reliance of some of these communities on watersheds that may be impacted by forestry operations in their vicinity. The legal complexities of regulating activities on water or impacting water are further compounded by the division of powers between the Federal and Provincial Government, which grant these levels of government authority over distinct matters affecting waterways. This presentation will discuss select topics on how local governments can effectively and lawfully regulate activities in and around bodies of water. Topics discussed will include the removal of abandoned and grounded vessels from the ocean, the regulation of construction in the foreshore, the regulation of liveaboards, maintaining watersheds on privately managed forest lands and the use of land title instruments to develop flood mitigation plans to address sea level rise and other hazards.

### **PRESENTERS**

**David Giroday** is an **Associate Lawyer at Young, Anderson**, specialising in local government law. Since completing his Juris Doctor at the University of Windsor in 2018, he has worked with local governments and public authorities, focusing on economic development corporations. David assists with incorporation, real property transactions, capital alterations, FOI requests, and commercial agreements.

**Sophie Marshall** is an **Associate Lawyer with Young, Anderson**. She maintains a general municipal law practice, with a focus on real estate and development work. Prior to joining Young Anderson, Sophie worked in the real estate teams at a large Vancouver law firm and an international law firm in Sydney, Australia. She also worked as a Judicial Law Clerk at the Supreme Court of British Columbia. She obtained her Juris Doctor from the Peter A. Allard School of Law at UBC.

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## **Permissive Tax Exemptions Grants & More:** *Good practice in supporting community impact* **Saturday, 1:30 pm – Sidney Room**

Local governments use a variety of tools to support community impact, including permissive tax exemptions, grants-in-aid, grants-in-kind, service agreements, fee waivers, and more. Each tool varies in effectiveness, ease of administration, equity, fairness, scale of impact, cost to taxpayers, and more.

How are local governments reconsidering how they support community impact? How else might we imagine providing aid the groups that add to the health, vibrancy, and creativity of our communities? This interactive session will focus on the "hivemind" of local government attendees and activities designed to explore both what is, and what else is possible.

### **PRESENTER**

**Trina Isakson, Councillor** with the **City of Powell River** and **Director at Large, AVICC** grew up in Secwépemc territory (Salmon Arm, BC) moved to Powell River and łaʔamin (Tla'amin) territory in 2018. Her professional work is as a facilitator with community groups that need help doing strategic planning, implementing changes, or dealing with conflict. Trina has also taught university courses on community development and non-profit leadership and management, and she holds an MBA in community economic development. She has been able to volunteer these areas of interest on several qathet region non-profit organizations.

# SATURDAY CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

## **What Councils Need to Know – AI in Local Government:**

*Strategy, Governance, and Responsible Adoption*

**Saturday, 1:30 pm – Colwood Room**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology is advancing rapidly, and councils and boards increasingly need to understand what these tools can, and cannot, do in order to assess both opportunities and risks.

Artificial intelligence is already appearing in the tools local government staff use every day, often before formal policies or council direction are in place. For elected officials, this raises important questions: how can councils ask the right questions, ensure responsible adoption, and establish appropriate guardrails without needing to become AI experts?

Designed specifically for elected officials and board members, this session takes a governance-first approach and explores the role councils play in setting direction, establishing oversight, and ensuring that AI adoption adds value while remaining safe and aligned with community values.

Drawing on examples from municipalities across Canada that are beginning to explore AI, the session will examine what early decisions look like in practice and what councils can learn from communities that are a few steps ahead.

Delegates will work through a simple prioritization framework that councils and boards can use to evaluate which uses of AI may be worth exploring and which may carry risks that warrant caution. A brief, non-technical illustration will ground the discussion by showing how AI is being implemented in municipal processes and systems.

Delegates will leave with practical questions to bring back to their boards and councils and a clearer sense of how councils and boards can proactively build organizational capability for the future.

### **PRESENTERS:**

**Dj Levy** is the Founder and President of ALPHA IT, a Vancouver Island–based technology firm supporting local governments, First Nations organizations, and businesses across the region. Dj works with leadership teams on technology strategy and helps organizations move from reactive IT management toward more confident, strategic use of technology. As AI capabilities rapidly appear in workplace software, he works with clients to explore how these technologies can be introduced safely, responsibly, and in ways that deliver meaningful operational value.

**Geoff Linton** is a digital technology executive, entrepreneur, and advisor with more than 30 years of experience helping organizations adopt emerging technologies in practical and responsible ways. A professional engineer with an MBA, Geoff has founded and led several technology and marketing firms, including Inbox Marketer, a North American digital messaging agency. Today he advises organizations across Canada on AI adoption, helping leadership teams move beyond hype to identify realistic, high-value use cases. Geoff also serves on the Canadian Marketing Association’s AI Committee, where he collaborates with industry leaders to advance responsible AI adoption across Canadian organizations.

**Kim Arsenault** is the Director of Sales & Marketing at ALPHA IT. She works with leadership teams across Vancouver Island to help organizations make informed decisions about technology, cybersecurity, and emerging tools such as artificial intelligence. Kim focuses on translating complex technology topics into practical conversations for organizational leaders and will moderate the session discussion, guiding participants through governance considerations and shared experiences from communities across the region.

# SATURDAY CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

## **The Future of Forestry on Vancouver Island & in Coastal BC** **Saturday, 3:00 – 4:30 pm – Carson Hall C**

Join us as we look at the future of forestry on Vancouver Island and across Coastal BC through a collaborative conversation that brings together a range of lived and professional perspectives. The discussion will include voices connected to the resource sector, First Nations, representatives from the forestry and lumber work industry, and climate and environmental experts. Designed as an interactive workshop, the session will combine brief presentations with moderated discussion and audience Q&A, creating space to talk honestly about the economic, social, and environmental realities shaping forestry-dependent communities today.

A key part of the conversation will focus on collaboration around climate change mitigation and wildfire resilience, and how these priorities intersect with forestry practices, workforce impacts, and land stewardship. Panelists will be invited to reflect on shared challenges, areas of tension, and opportunities for working together across sectors and communities. The goal is not to reach simple answers, but to build understanding and highlight pathways for stronger collaboration as local governments, communities, industry, and Indigenous partners navigate the future of forestry in Coastal BC.

### **MODERATOR**

**Mayor Rob Douglas**, Municipality of North Cowichan

### **PRESENTERS**

**Klay Tindall** is the **General Manager of Forest Operations for Lil'wat Forestry Ventures (LFV)** and serves as a **First Nations Technical Forestry Advisor at the BC First Nations Forestry Council**. He earned a Bachelor of Forestry in Forest Resource Management and a Certificate in Advanced Leadership from UBC. At LFV, he oversees contract safety, environmental leadership, and leads the forestry planning team. He manages budgets and coordinates with Lil'wat Nation's Indigenous Affairs/Referrals to support Rights and Titles.

**Geoff Dawe's** tenure as National President of the **Public and Private Workers of Canada (PPWC)** is marked by a steadfast commitment to workers' rights and proactive engagement. Throughout his career at Crofton Mill, he contributed to positive business results through effective organization, prioritization, and follow-through of key organizational projects. Now Past-President of PPWC, Geoff understands first-hand the impacts that forestry policy has on community members throughout the region.

**Chris McGourlick** is a Registered Professional Forester and **Operations Manager with the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC)**, where he oversees diverse forestry projects across British Columbia. With extensive experience spanning from the Central Coast to the Interior, he focuses on collaborative wildfire risk reduction and innovative fibre utilization strategies. Chris works closely with local partners and project proponents to implement cost-effective solutions that protect communities and reduce GHG emissions.

**Dr. Younes Alila** is a **Professor of Forest Hydrology and Watershed Management** in the Department of Forest Resources Management at the **UBC Faculty of Forestry**. A leading expert in hydrology, flooding, and the impact of forestry practices on water resources, Dr. Alila's research has challenged traditional, century-old paradigms regarding the relationship between forest management, clear-cutting, and large-scale flooding, aiming to improve risk assessment for industry and government.

# SATURDAY CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

## How do We Solve a Problem Like Engagement?

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

How can local governments deepen trust, reduce polarization, and make better decisions through more meaningful public engagement? This interactive session examines practical methods for local governments to enhance public trust, reduce polarization, and make better decisions through meaningful engagement. Participants will consider why traditional tools like public hearings fall short and will join a facilitated deliberation on democratic values and challenges in BC municipalities.

A panel of municipal leaders and experts will highlight ways to pilot community assemblies and other deliberative models, addressing costs, staffing, and process options suitable for in-house delivery. The session will introduce the **Community Assembly Network**, an initiative launching before the 2026 BC municipal election that aims to make community assemblies standard practice for significant local decisions. Attendees will receive actionable resources and guidance to help implement assembly-style engagement in their communities.

### PRESENTERS & PANELISTS

**Sonia Furstenau** served ten years in public office, including four as Leader of the BC Green Party. Before politics, she worked as a teacher, researcher, and National Administrator for RESULTS Canada. She holds a BA and MA in History from the University of Victoria. Sonia helped lead a four-year community campaign in Shawnigan Lake to protect local drinking water, resulting in the province revoking a permit for a major contaminated landfill. Her decision to enter politics was driven by the systemic failures she witnessed in BC's decision-making and its lack of meaningful public engagement.

**Maeve Maguire** served for four years as an elected council member for the Municipality of North Cowichan. For six years, she served with Sonia Furstenau, first as constituency assistant then as chief of staff for the Green Caucus in the British Columbia Legislature. Maeve was instrumental in initiating the Citizens' Assembly on the Duncan–North Cowichan amalgamation study and served as a facilitator for the Victoria–Saanich Citizens' Assembly on amalgamation. Prior to politics, Maeve worked as a technical writer, columnist, and communications specialist. Maeve has extensive experience working with communities to shape decisions and is skilled in guiding discussions to ensure all participants feel informed, included, and supported.

**Dr. Aftab Erfan** (she/her) is Executive Director of SFU Centre for Dialogue and Associate Member at SFU School of Public Policy. She was Vancouver's first Chief Equity Officer and previously led Dialogue and Conflict Engagement at UBC. With a PhD in planning from UBC, an MSc from McGill, and a BSc from UBC, Dr. Erfan brings 15 years of global experience in designing and facilitating dialogues. Her honours include BC500 Most Influential Business Leaders, SSHRC's Storytellers Challenge, and the Best Published Paper Award Shortlist.

**Susan Kim** grew up on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit, Anishnabeg, Chippewa, Haudenosaunee, and Wendat peoples, and moved to Lekwungen Traditional Territory in 2013. She is now a City Councillor for Victoria, with leadership experience in government, healthcare, and non-profits. Advocating equity-based decision making, Susan supports diverse communities. Her academic background is in biology and political science, and she has served on boards including Sierra Club of BC, Greater Victoria Harbour Authority, Coalition to End Homelessness, and Public Library.

**Simon Pek** is an associate professor of business and society at the Gustavson School of Business, University of Victoria, and associate director of the school's Centre for Regenerative Futures. He is particularly interested in exploring how organizations can achieve their social and environmental objectives using democratic innovations and was involved in the implementation of two student mini-publics at the University of Victoria.

# SATURDAY CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

## **Cowichan Tribes Case: Implications for Local Government**

**Saturday, 3:00 – 4:30 pm – Colwood Room**

This decision of the BC Supreme Court has attracted significant public attention as it is the first case to address the interface between Aboriginal title and registered fee simple title, and other matters such as the validity of statutes affecting Aboriginal interests. The panel will discuss the impact of the case on municipal and regional district governance, taxation, and intergovernmental affairs.

The panel will present advice, recommendations and best practices arising from the case on several matters, including:

- ◇ Balanced and fair interpretation of the court decision
- ◇ Local government negotiations with First Nations (for example: MOUs, service agreements, partnerships)
- ◇ Land use decisions by boards and councils
- ◇ Implications for local government recognition and reconciliation efforts
- ◇ Impacts on fee simple title of local governments, including lands acquired by Crown grant or tax sales
- ◇ Identifying potentially relevant unceded lands in your municipality or region
- ◇ Canada and BC: appeals processes, and ongoing coexistence negotiations

### **PRESENTERS**

**John Allan Jack, *Sayaac̓ath***, is **Chief-Councillor for the Huu-ay-aht First Nations**. He holds a BA in Global Studies with Distinction (2004) and contributed to HFN's Constitution Committee during treaty self-government. John advocates for economic growth, ethical resource development, partnerships with government and business, and gender equity. He also chairs the Alberni-Clayoquot RD, serves as Vice-Chair of the ICET, is a Director for the Gathering Voices Society and a Governor for North Island College.

**Don Lidstone K.C.** is licensed in BC, Alberta, and Yukon, specializing in local government law, including governance, finance, taxation, land use, environmental, aboriginal law, and bylaw drafting. He regularly speaks at conferences and universities and has chaired several panels such as the Sustainable Region Initiative and Municipal Law Section of the CBA. Don has published numerous papers, consulted on municipal statutes like the Community Charter, and was appointed King's Counsel in 2008.

**Robert Janes** is a seasoned litigator with over twenty years of experience advising First Nations, Aboriginal people, and others on complex legal issues. He is committed to finding practical solutions and effectively representing his clients in court when needed. Robert's practice centers on serving First Nations, Aboriginal organizations, and individuals facing constitutional or public law matters, supported by broad litigation experience in courts across Canada, including appearances before the Supreme Court of Canada.

**Will Cole-Hamilton** is a lawyer and legal researcher with expertise in law, governance, and policy development. He serves his second term as Councillor for the City of Courtenay and has held leadership roles regionally, provincially, and nationally, including chairing the Comox Valley Regional District and BC Caucus at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Will has led initiatives such as Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) advocacy and chaired bodies like the Comox Strathcona Waste Management Board. He also works in family law research and supports economic development and infrastructure through various board positions.

*The AVICC acknowledges that we are grateful to live, work, and play on the traditional territories of the Coast Salish, Nuu-Chah-Nulth and Kwak-Waka'wakw Peoples*