

**Association of
Vancouver Island and
Coastal Communities**



MINUTES OF THE 76th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CONVENTION

**Held in Nanaimo, BC
April 11-13, 2025**

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2024-25 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

Director Travis Hall
Central Coast Regional District

Councillor Will Cole-Hamilton
City of Courtenay

Councillor Tanille Johnston
City of Campbell River

PAST PRESIDENT

Director Penny Cote
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

MINUTES OF THE 76TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF AVICC NANAIMO, BC APRIL 11-13, 2025

PRE-CONVENTION PROGRAM

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

- Tour: Revitalization and Reconciliation
- Tour: Nanaimo Regional Landfill
- Workshop: Community Healthcare Solutions

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 11TH, 2025, 2:00 PM

The Convention opened with the AVICC Executive and honoured guests, Snuneymuxw Elder Geraldine Manson, Minister Sheila Malcolmson, Minister Brittny Anderson, and Mayor Leonard Krog. Elder Manson welcomed delegates to the traditional territories of the Snuneymuxw First Nations.

President Ben Geselbracht called the 76th Annual Meeting of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities to order at 2:06 pm on Friday, April 11, 2025. President Geselbracht thanked Elder Manson for joining us and welcoming us.

President Geselbracht then introduced the 2025/25 AVICC Executive Committee members. Delegates rose for the singing of the national anthem. President Geselbracht thanked the City of Nanaimo and Regional District of Nanaimo acting as the convention's host community. He introduced Mayor Leonard Krog of the City of Nanaimo, and Chair Vanessa Craig of the Regional District of Nanaimo who addressed the delegates and welcomed them to Nanaimo.

President Geselbracht noted the Indigenous Chiefs from the AVICC region in attendance, the MLAs who were registered for the Convention, UBCM President Trish Mandewo, 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 Honorable Sheila Malcolmson, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction and MLA for Nanaimo – Gabriola Island, who welcomed our delegates. She then introduced Minister of State for Local Government and Rural Communities, the Honourable Brittny Anderson who addressed the AVICC delegates.

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 6th, 2025 deadline as follows:

For President:	Councillor Ben Geselbracht, City of Nanaimo
For First Vice-President:	Director Vanessa Craig, Regional District of Nanaimo
For Second Vice-President:	Councillor Sarah Fowler, Village of Tahsis
For Director at Large:	Councillor Will-Cole Hamilton, City of Courtenay Director Travis Hall, Central Coast Regional District Director Ian Morrison, Cowichan Valley Regional District Councillor Alison MacKenzie, Town of View Royal
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, Barry Pages. President Geselbracht then introduced our keynote speakers, Keith Baldrey and Vaughn Palmer, who provided a brief 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 speakers.

President Geselbracht thanked Mr. Palmer and Mr. Baldrey for their presentation and advised that a donation had been made in their name to the Nanaimo Brain Injury Society.

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 4:10pm, 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:	Councillor Ben Geselbracht, City of Nanaimo
For First Vice-President:	Director Vanessa Craig, Regional District of Nanaimo
For Second Vice-President:	Councillor Sarah Fowler, Village of Tahsis

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 11:45am.

MINISTER OF HEALTH ADDRESS: Hon. JOSIE OSBORNE

The Minister of Health and MLA for Mid Island – Pacific Rim, the Hon. Josie Osborne, addressed our delegates on the healthcare initiatives coming out of the Province, as well as the steps being taken towards a more inclusive approach to delivering healthcare services, especially in rural and remote communities.

REGIONAL DISTRICT LEGISLATION: A ROADMAP

After a brief update from the Friday Plenary Session Sponsor, E-Comm 911, 1st Vice President Craig introduced Don Lidstone, K.C. to provide an update on the Legislative Reform Initiative. Since 2021, an initiative to modernize the Local Government Act has been advanced by an ad-hoc working group made up of elected officials and CAOs from Vancouver Island and the lower mainland. This working group has supported education and engagement sessions at AVICC and UBCM. More recently, the other Area Association Presidents, Board members and staff have joined the conversation. As part of the process to broaden local government participation provincially, AVICC jointly hosted a virtual engagement session on February 28th, 2025, attended by over 250 participants.

After presenting for about 15-minutes, at approximately 5:00 pm, the Vancouver Island Conference Centre fire alarm started ringing, and all delegates promptly left the facility to gather in the designated muster station.

It was determined that the remainder of the presentation would take place during lunch on Saturday and the delegates were cleared by the Nanaimo Fire Department to return into the building.

WELCOME RECEPTION

Starting at about 5:25 pm, the Welcome Reception sponsored by CUPE BC took place in the trade show area and pre-function space.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH, 2025

TOWARDS PROSPERITY FOR ALL: REDEFINING REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

At 7:30 am, Director at Large, Will Cole-Hamilton, introduced the session and Julie Sperber, CEO of the Vancouver Island Economic Alliance, who introduced the following panelists:

- Brodie Guy, CEO of the Islands Economic Trust
- Aaron Stone, CEO of South Island Prosperity Partnership (SIPP)
- Carol Anne Hilton CEO of the Indigenomics Institute, the Global Center of Indigenomics, and the Global Indigenous Technology House.

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

President Geselbracht thanked the presenters and announced that a donation to the Nanaimo Brain Injury Society 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 2025 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 75th Annual General Meeting of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities held in Victoria April 12-14, 2024 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, 2024 (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.

2025 BUDGET

On regular motion, duly moved and seconded, the 2025 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.

FIRST RESOLUTIONS SESSION

The first Resolutions session began at 8:55am with 1st 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 Past President Cote in the Chair with EA Representative McMahon, Director will Cole-Hamilton, and 2nd Vice President Sarah Fowler participating. Claire Moglove acted as Parliamentarian providing parliamentary procedural support.

PART 1 – SPECIAL & EXTRAORDINARY RESOLUTIONS

SR – Special Resolutions

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

ER – Extraordinary Resolutions

Extraordinary resolutions are resolutions sponsored by the AVICC Executive and are seeking membership approval to amend AVICC Bylaws.

There were no Special or Extraordinary Resolutions to consider for 2025.

PART 2 – REGIONAL RESOLUTIONS

The following are the resolutions received by the February 6, 2025 resolutions deadline, where the issue addressed is specific to the AVICC Region and/or the enactment clause directs only the AVICC area association (and not UBCM) to consider taking action. Endorsed AVICC Region-specific Resolutions will not

be forwarded to UBCM for consideration by the UBCM membership but will instead remain with AVICC where they may be actioned.

Part 2 - Section “A” – This section would contain **AVICC Region-specific** resolutions that support existing policy and are recommended Endorse or Endorse with Proposed Amendment.

There were no Regional Resolutions with a recommendation of Endorse

Part 2 - Section “B” – This section contains **AVICC Region-specific** resolutions that offer the recommendation of No Recommendation or Not Endorse.

LAND USE

Cowichan Valley RD

R1) Addressing Local Community Concerns with Private Managed Forest Lands

Whereas population growth within the Cowichan Valley Regional District, like much of Vancouver Island, is concentrated in the fertile lower portions of our watersheds and is reliant upon surface and groundwater originating in the undeveloped upper watersheds;

And whereas while the entire Cowichan Valley Regional District lies on unceded First Nations territory, the majority of the land in the upper watersheds on eastern Vancouver Island is privately managed forest lands over which local governments have little or no authority regarding forest management activities which impact the hydrologic cycles and the availability of water to meet community and ecological needs:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC request that the Province of BC and the Ministry of Forests complete the currently stalled Private Managed Forest Land Program Review and reform the *Private Managed Forest Lands Act* to ensure that forest management on private lands prioritizes the protection of ecological values while providing economic benefits to communities and allowing for local government input to resource harvesting activities within the watersheds that support their communities.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

TRANSPORTATION

R2) Island Rail Corridor

Alberni-Clayoquot RD

Whereas wildfires and other emergencies have, and may again, present an ongoing threat to communities on Vancouver Island, including the closure of Highway 4;

And whereas the Island Corridor includes a West to East section of rail that connects the City of Port Alberni to the City of Parksville and Eastern communities of Vancouver Island, providing an alternative transportation route for both the movement of people and goods in the event of a highway closure and offer a greater ability to attack wildfires in that part of the region;

And whereas a minimal investment to the West to East Rail connection would be required to facilitate the use of Hi-Rail busses, trucks, and firefighting equipment at low speeds on this section of the rail line:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC request that the province of British Columbia prioritize funding the minimum required upgrades to the West to East section of the Island Rail Corridor to allow for its use in the event of a wildfire or highway closure.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

R3) Power Supply Investment North Island

District of Port Hardy

Whereas reliable and sustainable power supply is critical to supporting economic diversification, enhancing infrastructure, and ensuring the growth of rural communities in the North Island (North of Campbell River);

And whereas increased power capacity will support economic investment in industries transitioning to sustainable practices, such as aquaculture, mining exploration, and other economic investment, while encouraging the development of green energy projects in the region:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC requests that the provincial government commit to upgrading the power supply infrastructure on the North Island, including those communities North of Campbell River, ensuring sustainable and reliable energy delivery that supports economic growth, green energy projects, and the region's transition to a diverse and resilient economy.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

PART 3 – RESOLUTIONS

The following are the resolutions received by the February 6, 2025 resolutions deadline. Should any of these resolutions be endorsed, they will be forwarded to UBCM for consideration at their AGM.

Part 3 - Section "A" – This section contains resolutions that support existing policy and are recommended Endorse or Endorse with Proposed Amendment. All resolutions in this section were endorsed as a block.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

R4) Mental Health and Addictions Resources for Youth

City of Parksville

Whereas increasing mental health and addiction issues amongst youth (18 - 28 years), combined with a lack of mental health and addictions resources and services, is a growing problem in local governments across British Columbia;

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM call on the provincial government to provide improved resourcing and facilities for youth mental health and addictions services throughout the province;

And be it further resolved that the province report out on deliverables and results of expenditures on mental health and addictions supports for youth with an analysis of the effectiveness of implemented programs.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R5) Volunteer Fire Department Funding Model

Sunshine Coast RD

Whereas volunteer fire departments in rural and remote areas are burdened with longer and more frequent call outs to attend downed powerlines, motor vehicle incidents and other emergency calls until BC Hydro or BC Ambulance arrives on scene;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province to review the funding model for volunteer fire departments to include reasonable and proportional funding from BC Hydro, BC Ambulance, and ICBC to reduce the burden on local tax payers.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

COMMUNITY SAFETY

R6) Fire Inspections and Investigations

Comox Valley RD

Whereas the *Fire Safety Act* came into effect on August 1, 2024 and now requires local governments to appoint fire investigators / inspectors across their jurisdictions but in particular for those areas that may not have fire protection or are challenging to access (due to remoteness);

And whereas local governments, particularly in rural and remote areas, face significant logistical and resource challenges and do not have staff or funding in place to do inspections/investigations:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government, as stated in the recently released *Fire Safety Act*, have the Local Fire Service Advisors perform fire inspections and investigations for regional districts and have it be continued in perpetuity.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

ENVIRONMENT

R7) Non-migratory Resident Canada Geese

District of Metchosin

Whereas the current population of non-migratory, resident Canada geese (*Branta canadensis moffitti*) are not native to this area and are increasing in numbers each year to an estimated 9,000 to 11,000 according to recent bird counts;

And whereas non-migratory, resident Canada geese are an ongoing destructive element to agriculture through the disruption of growing fields, the consumption of crops, and the risks posed by avian influenza and E. coli contamination, presenting risks to food security and the broader environment:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM work with provincial agencies such as the Ministry of Environment in concert with Canada Wildlife Services to undertake effective action to protect agriculture and the environment including establishing a goose cull program to deal with non-migratory resident Canada geese populations.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R8) Financial Incentives for Residential Rainwater Catchment Systems

District of Tofino

Whereas water security, drought, and climate change are critical issues affecting communities across the Province of British Columbia, with many communities facing challenges related to aging water infrastructure and increasing demand;

And whereas incentivizing the implementation of residential rainwater catchment systems can alleviate pressure on water supply challenges in drought affected communities:

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to offer rebates or financial incentives for residential rainwater catchment systems to help increase water supply and promote efficient water use practices.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R9) Conserving BC Landfill Capacity

Nanaimo RD

Whereas the available capacity of landfills in British Columbia is rapidly diminishing, posing a significant challenge to effective waste management and environmental sustainability;

And whereas landfill airspace is a critical component in recovery from disaster and emergency events:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province develop a long-term waste management strategy that supports a circular economy, prioritizing waste reduction, material reuse, and recycling, while maintaining resilience in the event of emergencies or disasters.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R10) Sustainable Funding for Landfill Gas Regulation Compliance

Comox Valley RD

Whereas the new provincial landfill gas regulations present disproportionate financial challenges for smaller local governments, exacerbating existing disparities in service delivery capacity;

And whereas compliance costs, including infrastructure upgrades, specialized training, ongoing monitoring, and maintenance, represent a significant financial strain for communities with limited revenue streams:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to develop a sustainable funding model that recognizes the diverse financial capacities of local governments and provides targeted financial assistance to ensure equitable implementation of the landfill gas regulations across British Columbia.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R11) Legislating the BC Coastal Marine Strategy

**City of Langford
District of Saanich**

Whereas in July 2024, following extensive consultation with First Nations and stakeholders, the Province of British Columbia released its first ever Coastal Marine Strategy, providing a 20-year vision of a “diverse, productive and resilient coastal marine environment that is valued in its own right and that supports the prosperity, health and well-being of coastal communities now and into the future”;

And whereas the Coastal Marine Strategy details nine important goals (diverse marine life; abundant wild Pacific Salmon; a clean coast; climate-ready communities; a sustainable coastal economy; vibrant coastal communities; trusting, respectful relationships; a robust tool kit; and integrated and balanced management), but does not have the force of law, and codifying the Strategy into law would support its success and longevity rather than leaving it dependent on the priorities of the government of the day:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM call on the Province of British Columbia to enshrine the BC Coastal Marine Strategy into law.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R12) Provincial Circular Economy Strategy

Nanaimo RD

Whereas the Province of British Columbia has recognized that the traditional linear economic model of “take, make, waste” leads to waste, environmental harm, the over-consumption of resources, and diminishing landfill capacity, and has committed to working toward a circular economy through its Clean BC Plan;

And whereas despite some initial efforts, including a strategy pre-engagement exercise, work through the Province’s extended producer responsibility programs, and the CleanBC Plastics Action Fund, a comprehensive strategy to address the systemic change necessary to transition BC’s economy to a circular model has not yet been adequately pursued and developed:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province take meaningful action to develop a comprehensive Circular Economy Strategy which includes public education and economic development considerations, such as expanding the province’s remanufacturing and re-processing capacity for recyclable materials.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R13) Sustainable Funding for Small Water Systems

Comox Valley RD

Whereas the small water systems in rural British Columbia, which are administered by local governments, provide essential services to rural residents and communities, yet they face unsustainable financial burdens due to the high costs of water treatment systems, ongoing maintenance, and replacing aging infrastructure, which can amount to millions of dollars;

And whereas it is not possible for rural residents and communities to finance these systems through local taxation alone, threatening the viability of these water systems and the communities they serve, while also posing a significant risk to local food security:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial and federal governments to establish long-term sustainable funding programs specifically for small water systems to address high cost and regulatory compliance requirements and to safeguard local food security, and for a collaborative approach to funding and support, including cost-sharing models, grant programs and capacity-building initiatives, to enable small rural water systems to remain viable and resilient amidst growing environmental and economic pressures.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

INDIGENOUS RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION

Cowichan Valley RD

R14) Funding Indigenous Governments' Engagement in Local Government Planning Activities

Whereas the Province of BC is implementing the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA) and is required to take a distinctions-based approach in all of its relations with Indigenous peoples to ensure that unique rights, interests, and circumstances of Indigenous peoples are acknowledged, affirmed and implemented;

And whereas local governments are committed to reconciliation and seek meaningful engagement with Indigenous governments in community and regional planning activities, such as climate mitigation and adaptation plans, emergency management plans, regional growth and servicing strategies, and official community plans, that may uphold the unique rights, interests, and circumstances of Indigenous peoples:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request the Province of BC provide dedicated funding streams to support Indigenous governments' participation in local government community and regional planning activities to support reconciliation and implementation of DRIPA.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

FINANCE

R15) Sustainable Growing Communities Fund

**City of Parksville
Nanaimo RD**

Whereas local governments in British Columbia face increasing demands for essential services and infrastructure due to significant population growth, with the province's population reaching an estimated 5,646,467 as of April 1, 2024, marking an annual growth rate of 3.3% - the highest since 1971;

And whereas the primary revenue source for local governments, property taxes, is regressive and places a disproportionate burden on lower-income households, while the costs of infrastructure projects continue to rise at a rate that outpaces consumer inflation, making it increasingly difficult for local governments to meet community needs:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to establish a sustainable, recurring "Growing Communities Fund" to generate \$1 billion annually through progressive taxation, distributed to local governments using the same formula as the 2022 fund, thereby providing equitable and sustainable financial support for local governments across the province.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

TAXATION

R16) BC Port Tax Cap

North Coast RD

Whereas a number of communities in BC host federal port facilities within their jurisdiction;

And whereas many of these communities struggle with raising taxation revenue to support infrastructure deficits and service provision;

And whereas the BC government has restricted municipal taxation on ports under the *Ports Property Tax Act*;

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM advocate to the BC government to remove or increase the port tax cap thereby ensuring that port industries pay a fair share of taxes in the local communities in which they operate.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

TRANSPORTATION

R17) Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy for Remote Communities

qathet RD

Whereas BC Hydro has prioritized the development of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure in urban areas and along high-volume traffic corridors;

And whereas rural areas face significant gaps in access to public EV charging infrastructure, which limits EV adoption and creates barriers to equitable access for residents and travelers in these regions:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request that BC Hydro develop a separate strategy to provide access to public EV charging stations in rural areas, ensuring that all regions have access to reliable and accessible EV charging infrastructure.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R18) Support and Resourcing for Active Transportation Projects

Cowichan Valley RD

Whereas the Province of BC has developed the British Columbia Active Transportation Design Guide as an initiative of CleanBC to provide consistent, appropriate planning and engineering guidance on the design of active transportation infrastructure, for jurisdictions of all sizes across BC, including urban and rural communities;

And whereas the Province of BC is committed to working collaboratively in partnership with local governments to plan for active transportation as part of the BC Active Transportation Strategy, Move.Commute.Connect, that works towards creating community-specific active transportation networks that are safe, accessible and convenient for a wide range of uses for all ages and abilities;

And whereas the Province of BC, under the Clean BC initiative, recognizes that the Provincial road system is a crucial connection for active transportation users – especially in more rural areas:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request that the Ministry of Transportation and Transit commit the necessary staff resources to work with local governments to support the planning, design, and expedient approval and development of active transportation infrastructure along rural Provincial roadways, consistent with the Active Transportation Design Guide, to improve the safety and mobility of active transportation users in rural areas in efforts to achieve the provincial target of doubling the proportion of trips taken using active transportation by 2030.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R19) BC Ferry Advisory Committees

North Coast RD

Whereas Ferry Advisory Committees provide route-specific input and advocacy and exist as part of BC Ferries' strategic goal to be customer and community centred;

And whereas BC Ferries has dissolved the Ferry Advisory Committees;

And whereas the BC Government's Coastal Ferry Services Contract, last amended on March 31, 2024, states that it is committed to "ongoing engagement in support of provincial reconciliation efforts";

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM advocate to the BC government to amend the Coastal Ferry Services Contract and include a provision for BC Ferries to develop an engagement framework that meaningfully considers input from local governments and Indigenous communities that rely on the BC Ferry System.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R20) Emergency Road Network Planning

Sunshine Coast RD

Whereas rural communities cannot meet the challenges of climate change without a climate change and emergency management strategy for critical transportation networks;

And whereas the Ministry of Transportation and Transit is not required to participate in local government planning processes;

And whereas planning for growth in our communities is not feasible in the absence of any road network planning by the Ministry of Transportation and Transit:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province instruct the Ministry of Transportation and Transit to collaborate with local governments on emergency access road plans for rural and unincorporated areas, upon request.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

LEGISLATIVE

Village of Daajing Giids

R21) Provincially Funded WorkSafe BC Coverage – Elected Officials

Whereas WorkSafe BC Occupational Health and Safety Regulation does not cover elected officials, as currently elected officials e.g., provincial municipal and regional district government, school or library boards, etc. are not considered workers or employers under the *Workers Compensation Act* and, therefore, the Act does not apply to them in this capacity;

And whereas in the course of serving their constituents, elected officials are increasingly being subjected to escalating incivility such as harassment, intimidation and altercations;

And whereas the Province, the Ministry of Labour, and WorkSafeBC take the safety of all workers in British Columbia seriously and recognize the importance of the health and safety of all British Columbians who are active in both the private and public sectors of the economy:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province and the Ministry of Labour amend the *Workers Compensation Act* to include, and provincially fund, WorkSafe BC coverage for, all elected officials doing this necessary work on behalf of British Columbians.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R22) Provincial Consultation on Legislative Changes

City of Parksville

Whereas the Province has enacted a significant volume of legislative and regulatory amendments affecting the authority of local governments, and these changes span across multiple, diverse topics and require specialized knowledge to implement locally;

And whereas many British Columbia local governments are small organizations with a lean staff and fixed capacity, and local governments have not received permanent core funding to increase capacity for ongoing demands of new legislation, and multiple changes province-wide limits the availability of qualified consultants to create temporary capacity:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM urge the Province to:

- conduct meaningful technical level consultation with local governments about the feasibility and practicality of implementation, prior to amending legislation that affects the capacity and authority of local governments;
- to consider reasonable timelines for local governments to adapt to legislative changes;
- to consider the timing of multiple significant changes to core legislation across multiple topics;
- to coordinate the release of regulations and policy with statute amendments to assist local government staff in meeting timelines; and
- provide sustained core funding to local governments to accompany permanent changes that create additional workload for local government staff.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

R23) Forestry Industry and Fibre Decline

City of Port Alberni

Whereas hundreds of jobs have been lost in the forest industry in BC in 2024, and hundreds more are at risk due to the increasing cost and difficulty of accessing fibre and multiple other reasons;

And whereas this forest industry crisis has the potential for declines in population as well as declines in industrial property tax revenues in dozens of communities throughout British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM call on the provincial government to accelerate efforts to make more fibre available to mills at risk and work with industry as well as other stakeholders to find ways to reduce the cost of fibre delivered to the mills.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

Part 3 - Section “B” – This section contains resolutions that offer the recommendation of No Recommendation and were considered for individual debate.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

R24) Mental Health Support for Elected Officials

Islands Trust

Whereas the stresses faced by local elected officials are increasing due to a degradation in the tone of civil discourse;

And whereas additional mental health supports for local elected officials would be beneficial beyond what is provided by Medical Services Plan and extended health plans:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to implement initiatives that offer mental health supports tailored to the needs of local elected leaders in British Columbia.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

The first resolutions session concluded and was adjourned to the second resolutions session.

ADDRESS BY UBCM PRESIDENT

President Cote introduced UBCM President Trish Mandewo who addressed the delegates on the policy initiatives and work being carried out by the UBCM. 2nd Vice President Fowler thanked President Mandewo for sharing her message, and sent the delegates to a refreshment break.

ISLAND COASTAL ECONOMIC TRUST UPDATE: TRANSFORMING COASTAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT — A PATH TO CO-GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT

After a refreshment break, Director at Large, Will Cole-Hamilton, welcomed Brodie Guy, CEO of ICET to provide an update on the co-governance initiative taking place at ICET. Mr. Guy introduced the other panelists:

- **Sayaaçath John Jack**, Chief Councillor, Huu-ay-aht First Nations; Chair, Alberni-Clayoquot RD;
- Vice Chair, Island Coastal Economic Trust
- **Michelle Staples**, Mayor, City of Duncan; Chair, Island Coastal Economic Trust
- **Ashley Wright**, K'ómoks First Nation, Strategic Indigenous Governance Advisor
- **Jessie Hemphill**, CEO of Sanala Planning

President Geselbracht thanked the presenters and announced a donation in lieu of speaker gift to Loaves & Fishes Food Bank.

SECOND RESOLUTIONS SESSION

The second Resolutions session began at 11:00 am with President Geselbracht in the Chair with 1st Vice President Craig, 2nd Vice President Fowler and Director Cole-Hamilton participating. The delegates resumed Part 3, Section B of the resolutions for individual consideration.

R25) Free Pelvic Floor Physiotherapy as part of Postpartum Care in British Columbia

Whereas people who are postpartum may experience pelvic floor dysfunction, including incontinence, pain, and prolapse, as a direct result of pregnancy and childbirth, which significantly impacts quality of life, mental health, long-term physical well-being and creates inequitable financial burdens;

And whereas the Canadian Physiotherapy Association recognizes pelvic floor physiotherapy as an evidence-based, non-invasive treatment option that improves postpartum recovery; however, the lack of both equitable access to pelvic floor physiotherapy and education about the benefits contributes to healthcare costs associated with untreated pelvic floor dysfunction, including corrective surgeries, chronic conditions and the expense of personal hygiene products:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM ask the provincial government to work with healthcare professionals, including physiotherapists, obstetricians, midwives and nurse practitioners to ensure postpartum care involves informing patients about and provides patients equitable access to pelvic floor assessments and physiotherapy services, regardless of income or insurance status;

And be it further resolved that the provincial government implement a program to provide free pelvic floor physiotherapy treatments as part of the standard postpartum care under the BC Medical Services Plan (MSP).

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R26) Childcare Licensing Requirements

Whereas staffing shortages have led to the unavailability of licensed daycare and after-school care spots;

And whereas childcare service provides the opportunity for youth employment and valuable skills development;

And whereas youth already provide care for school-age children as leaders in summer camps, working as lifeguards, and other areas of demonstrated responsibility;

And whereas childcare facilities are often located in or near high schools:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM and AVICC ask the provincial government to modify Section 29 of the Child Care Licensing Regulation to allow certified care staff to include those below the age of 19, particularly for after-school-care of school age children.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

HOUSING

R27) Tiny Homes and Recreational Vehicles

Whereas the use of Recreational Vehicles (RV's) and Tiny homes as an alternative form of affordable housing has become a matter of national importance in the midst of a housing affordability crisis; and despite previously submitted UBCM resolutions addressing tiny homes a satisfactory outcome with respect to this issue has not been achieved;

And whereas in March 2017, members from the modular construction council of the Canadian Home Builders' Association (CHBA) drafted and submitted fourteen code change requests (CCRs) to the National Building Code to address the reality that some components and design features within tiny homes do not comply with all municipal, provincial, and federal codes or industry standards;

And whereas the BC Housing Research Centre prepared a research paper titled “Tiny Homes – An Alternative to Conventional Housing” that offers solutions for construction standards specific to tiny homes on wheels so they may be used as permitted dwelling units for full-time living;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM encourage the Province to advocate for and provide incentives to industry groups to revisit industry standards such as CSA (Canadian Standards Association), and create a new category specific to moveable tiny homes certified for permanent occupancy that separates tiny homes from motorized vehicles, towable RVs and temporary small trailers; and to create a new category specific to RV's certified for permanent occupancy;

And be it further resolved that UBCM encourage the Province that as a matter of national importance to advocate for changes to the National Building Code to recognize and define tiny homes as an allowable dwelling unit and provide specific building requirements; and to follow up any such changes with updates to Part 9 of the BC Building Code.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R28) Mandatory Good Neighbour Agreement

District of Sechelt

Whereas local governments across British Columbia are experiencing challenges related to supportive housing and shelter facilities, including concerns about community safety, property maintenance, and local accountability;

And whereas some supportive housing and shelter operators do not consistently engage with local governments or community stakeholders to address concerns, leading to negative impacts on surrounding neighborhoods:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia and BC Housing to require that all supportive housing and shelter operators enter into a Good Neighbour Agreement (GNA) with the local governments in which these facilities operate, to ensure clear expectations regarding community impact mitigation, security measures, and ongoing engagement with local government and residents.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

COMMUNITY SAFETY

R29) Province-Wide Ban on Fireworks

District of Metchosin

Whereas the use of consumer fireworks poses risks to public safety, property, and the environment causing significant distress to people suffering with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, individuals with sensory sensitivities, domestic animals, livestock and wildlife;

And whereas many municipalities have already implemented local bans on fireworks, creating a patchwork of regulations across the Province:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to implement a comprehensive, province-wide ban on the sale and use of consumer fireworks, with exceptions for certified professionals conducting authorized displays.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

The Second Resolution Session was then adjourned at approximately 11:50 am.

THIRD REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

At 11:50am, Past President Cote announced the nominees for the three Director at Large Position to be:

- Councillor Will-Cole Hamilton, City of Courtenay
- Director Travis Hall, Central Coast Regional District
- Director Ian Morrison, Cowichan Valley Regional District
- Councillor Alison MacKenzie, Town of View Royal

Past President Cote called for nominations from the floor for Director at Large. One additional nomination was made:

- Councillor Trina Isakson, City of Powell River

The candidates present each made 2-minute candidate speeches. Past President Cote declared that the election for the three Director at Large positions would open at 3:00pm that afternoon, and close at 7:30am on Sunday April 13th.

She then invited representatives from BCLC to the stage, for a fun trivia game. Gordon Horth from CREST Emergency Communications acted as referee for the session, and proceeded to address the delegates before the Delegates Lunch.

REGIONAL DISTRICT LEGISLATION: A ROADMAP

Once delegates had a chance to grab their meals, Mr. Don Lidstone K.C. continued the presentation on Regional District Legislation. After his presentation, there was a round of Q & A from the delegates, and President Geselbracht announced that a donation would be made to Loaves & Fishes Food bank in lieu of a speakers gift. He then sent the delegates to the concurrent sessions.

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 Urban Matters: The Conversation We've Been Waiting For: Solutions Through Collective Learning
- #2 Local Governments & the TRC Calls to Action: A Legal Overview
- #3 Taking Stock of the Trade War: Local Government Impacts

- #4 21 Things[®] You Need to Know About Indigenous Self Government
- #5 Community Housing Solutions
- #3 Amplify Climate Solutions through Regional Collaboration

ANNUAL BANQUET

The Annual Banquet was held at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre, Mt. Benson Room.

Shortly before 7:30 pm, delegates and guests took their seats. President Geselbracht welcomed delegates and guests, and thanked the host community and the sponsors for the evening.

At about 8:50 am, President Geselbracht thanked everyone involved in the creation of the banquet, including the VICC culinary and service team and dinner entertainment before introducing the band.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13TH, 2025

The Convention reconvened at 8:30 am with President Geselbracht noting that evaluation forms had been placed on the tables asking for delegates' feedback on the Convention and that the completed evaluation forms would be used for the Grand Prize Award draw just prior to adjournment.

FOURTH NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

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

- Councillor Will-Cole Hamilton, City of Courtenay
- Councillor Alison MacKenzie, Town of View Royal
- Councillor Trina Isakson, City of Powell River

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 2025/26 term.

BC GREEN PARTY ADDRESS TO DELEGATES

MLA Rob Botterell, Saanich North and the Islands, of the BC Green Party addressed the delegates.

FCM UPDATE

EA Representative Donna McMahon invited 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 to provide an update on FCM.

MEETING RULES & RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE

At 9:00 am Past President Cote introduced Eli Mina for our next plenary session. Eli Mina is a Vancouver-based Board Effectiveness consultant and Registered Parliamentarian. Eli specializes in Board effectiveness, demystifying the rules of order, chairing tough meetings, preventing and dealing with disputes and boardroom problems, and minute taking standards. Eli has been in this business since 1984. His clients come from unions, local government, school boards, First Nation communities, credit unions, and the non-profit sector.

1st Vice President Craig thanked Mr. Mina, and announced that a donation in lieu of a gift would be made to the Nanaimo Brain Injury Society.

STUDENT DELEGATE ADDRESS

One of the three 2025 AVICC Student Delegates, Selina Ma, addressed the delegates, discussing the importance of involving the youth in local government politics.

2nd Vice President Fowler thanked Ms. Ma and invited delegates to enjoy the refreshment break in the lobby, and to return at 11:00am for the final resolutions session.

FINAL RESOLUTIONS AND LATE RESOLUTIONS SESSION

Resolutions resumed at 11:00 am with Past President Cote in the Chair with President Geselbracht, 1st Vice President Craig and 2nd Vice President Fowler Participating. The session continued from yesterday's session with the remaining resolutions for individual consideration.

At the beginning of the session, a motion to withdraw Resolution R41 was made by the sponsor and carried by the delegates.

R30) Fire Resilient Forest Practices

Nanaimo RD

Whereas wildfires and interface fires have caused hundreds of millions of dollars of damage to communities in British Columbia, and according to a June 2023 British Columbia Forest Practices Board report, this can be partially attributed to the way forests are managed;

And whereas research shows that monoculture coniferous tree farms are more susceptible to disease, drought, and wildfire while biodiverse forests retain moisture and are more resilient to drought, disease, and wildfire, and that many deciduous trees are fire-resistant:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Government of British Columbia to amend the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act*, the ***Forest and Range Practices Act***, and the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* to ensure that forests in a 3-km radius surrounding communities and community infrastructure, including community drinking water reservoirs, are fire-resistant, resilient, biodiverse forests, and to ban the practice of using herbicides to kill deciduous trees and undergrowth within these fire resistant biodiversity zones.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED as AMENDED

Town of Qualicum Beach

R31) Sharing Fentanyl Precursors Information with Law Enforcement

Whereas the opioid crisis claimed the lives of more than 2,500 citizens in British Columbia in 2023;

And whereas not all information regarding the distribution of fentanyl precursors is currently being shared by relevant provincial and federal agencies with law enforcement:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM lobby the Province to work with the relevant authorities to ensure pertinent information relating to the distribution of precursors for fentanyl is shared by relevant provincial and federal agencies with law enforcement in a timely manner.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R32) Major Planned Events Advocacy

Comox Valley RD

Whereas local governments, particularly in rural and remote areas, face significant logistical and resource challenges when major planned events occur within or near their jurisdiction, even when these events are outside of local government jurisdictional control and/or enforcement areas;

And whereas such events often require substantial public safety planning and emergency response efforts, yet local governments typically lack the authority to require or enforce event organizers to submit comprehensive emergency response plans, leaving local governments to bear the burden of increased public safety demands and resource strain as a result of these events without the ability to mitigate or control the associated costs:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to establish province-wide regulations to address gaps in *Local Government Act* bylaws and event permitting powers, ensuring local governments can recover costs for public safety and emergency services related to major planned events beyond their control, and that adequate support, coordination, and reimbursement be provided for resources used in the management and planning of these events.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R33) Provincial Disaster Debris Plan

Nanaimo RD

Whereas climate change has significantly increased the likelihood of a community experiencing an emergency or disaster event resulting in a sudden increase of debris that requires safe and effective disposal;

And whereas debris from emergency or disaster events will be composed of a variety of divertible materials that if not planned for appropriately, will be sent to landfills, taking up already limited landfill airspace:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province establish a province-wide disaster debris management plan that provides logistical, financial, and operational support for local governments in developing their own disaster and debris management plans and implementing those plans as needed.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

ENVIRONMENT

R34) Hybrid Wolfdogs

Nanaimo RD

Whereas exotic animals and their hybrids are not domesticated and suffer physically and psychologically when bred, kept, displayed and sold in captivity, and may pose public health and safety risks to other animals and people;

And whereas the keeping of most wild animals as pets in B.C. is illegal under the *Wildlife Act*, and hybrid animals, including the breeding of *Canis familiaris* (domestic dog) and *Canis lupus* (wolf) hybrid wolfdogs are not protected by this legislation or the provincial Controlled Alien Species Regulation:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to immediately amend either the Controlled Alien Species Regulation or the *Wildlife Act* to prohibit the breeding and keeping of all mixed *Canis familiaris* (domestic dog) and *Canis lupus* (wolf) hybrid wolfdogs, including F1-3 generations.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R35) Provincial Support for Addressing Feral Rabbits

District of Saanich

Whereas numerous local governments are struggling with the abandonment and rapid proliferation of feral European rabbits in parks and public spaces, and these invasive animals have a negative impact on ecosystems, native wildlife, urban infrastructure and greenspaces, and public health and safety;

And whereas the current approach to addressing this issue is uncoordinated and poorly funded, placing all of the responsibility on the shoulders of local governments and small underfunded not-for-profits, leading to an inconsistent and ineffective response:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to develop a coordinated province-wide strategy to address the root causes of feral rabbit abandonment across British Columbia.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R36) Provincial Waste Hauler Licensing

Nanaimo RD

Whereas unreported waste flowing into and/or out of a Regional District undermines that region's ability to understand waste generation and waste material flows, causing incorrect assessments of waste reduction efforts as part of Solid Waste Management Plans;

And whereas regional districts lack the authority to require reporting of waste sent to landfills in or out of their region:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province establish a province-wide waste hauler licensing system, which includes a mandatory waste reporting system and an economic framework to encourage the management of waste within the region where it was generated.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R37) Solid Waste Management Approvals

Nanaimo RD

Whereas regional districts experience lengthy delays in receiving approvals of Solid Waste Management Plans, and those same plans require subsequent program approvals;

And whereas once the plans are approved, regional districts must demonstrate the effectiveness of their solid waste management plans within 10 years, but additional provincial approval requirements often shorten this period, limiting time to assess the plan's impact before renewal:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that once the Minister of Environment and Parks approves a Solid Waste Management Plan, no further approvals be required for a regional district to pursue policy actions outlined in the Solid Waste Management Plan.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

FINANCE

R38) Infrastructure and Capital Projects Requiring Elector Approval

City of Nanaimo

Whereas the current infrastructure and capital project funding model in Canada is outdated and unsustainable, as outlined in the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' report Making Canada's Growth a Success: The case for a Municipal Growth Framework, leaving local governments with limited options to pay for growth-related infrastructure which is critical for local governments to meet their housing needs;

And whereas British Columbia is the only province in Canada requiring elector approval to allow local governments to borrow money for necessary infrastructure-related projects:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM call on the provincial government to amend the *Community Charter* to expand the criteria for the type of infrastructure and capital projects that utilize borrowing without the requirement of electoral approval, to better assist local governments in securing adequate funding for projects that are necessary for the delivery of municipal services.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R39) Improvement Districts Policy Revision

qathet RD

Whereas the Province of British Columbia abdicated their obligation to Improvement Districts through their ill-planned and failing Improvement District Governance: Policy Statement 2006 policy filled with idyllic and unrealistic objectives driven by discriminatory and segregated protocols;

And whereas the acceptance of defeat by Improvement Districts has failed as pride and independence has won over which has led to most, if not all, Improvement Districts being in desperation and beyond the point of no return when they seek conversion, making assets and capital improvement conversions cost prohibitive:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia modernize their policy regarding the ongoing viability of Improvement Districts, ramp up their staffing complement to handle the required Improvement District oversight, look to more practical and cost-efficient methods for conversions, incentivize and reward financially stable and going concern Improvement Districts by enabling them to access borrowing from the

Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia and restore the ability for financially stable and going concern Improvement Districts to apply for sustainable sewer and water infrastructure grant opportunities.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

LAND USE

R40) Private Managed Forest Lands

Nanaimo RD

Whereas the Private Managed Forest Land (PMFL) Program is crucial for sustainable forest management in British Columbia;

And whereas local governments, First Nations, and PMFL landowners have provided comprehensive recommendations in 2019 to enhance the PMFL Program, including better protection of environmental, community, and Indigenous values, and the need for improved regulatory frameworks, enforcement, communication, and transparency:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Ministry of Forests implement the recommendations provided by local governments and First Nations during the 2019 Private Managed Forest Land Program review.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

TRANSPORTATION

R41) Transit Fees for Seniors

District of Oak Bay

Whereas transportation costs can serve as significant barrier to mobility for many British Columbian seniors, and this barrier can contribute to social isolation and adversely affect mental and physical well-being;

And whereas removing barriers to seniors using transit encourages a shift towards more sustainable transportation, helping lower emissions and reducing congestion, while simultaneously increasing affordability, access to essential services, social inclusion, health, and well-being:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to make all public transit free for seniors (aged 65 years or older).

ON MOTION, was WITHDRAWN

R42) Traffic Controls at Inactive Railroad Crossings

Town of Qualicum Beach

Whereas there are many railways that are inactive (where the average daily railway movement is zero), except for railway maintenance traffic, across British Columbia, and there are no active trains on the Southern Railway of BC railway North of Nanaimo;

And whereas the federal *Canada Transportation Act*, the *Railway Safety Act*, and the Grade Crossings Regulation require vehicular traffic to stop at railway crossings, except in limited circumstances, even when the railway is inactive:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM lobby Transport Canada for the amendment of the legislation, including the Grade Crossings Regulation to permit the reconfiguration of railway crossing traffic controls to have railway maintenance traffic come to a stop on the rail at roadway intersections of inactive railway crossings and to remove stop signs for vehicular traffic at these locations.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

LEGISLATIVE

R43) Payment In Lieu of Works and Services for Land Development

City of Nanaimo

Whereas Section 506 and Section 506.03 of the *Local Government Act* enable a local government to regulate and require the provision of works and services in respect to the development of land;

And whereas there is no mechanism currently in the *Local Government Act* to allow for local governments to accept payment of money in lieu of the provision of works and services, unlike in other circumstances in the *Local Government Act*:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM advocate for the provincial government to amend the *Local Government Act* to allow for the payment of money in lieu of works and services in respect to the development of land being established through subdivisions and building permits, enabling local governments to pool funding for more impactful projects which could benefit a broader area and better assist in achieving community goals for safety, connectivity or transportation management.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

R44) Forestry Industry and Sustainable Fibre

City of Port Alberni

Whereas hundreds of jobs have been lost in the forest industry in BC in 2024 and hundreds more are at risk due to the increasing cost of accessing fibre and multiple other reasons;

And whereas the forest industry crisis has the potential for population declines as well as declines in industrial property tax revenues many communities throughout British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM call on the provincial government to partner financially in localized efforts to ascertain the fibre type and volume available on a sustainable basis, to secure investment in appropriate technologies to maximize the value of that fibre, and to retrain forest industry workers to utilize that approach.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

SELECTED ISSUES

R45) BC Human Rights Tribunal

District of Sooke

Whereas the BC Human Rights Tribunal plays a critical role in upholding and addressing human rights by delivering the “just and timely resolution of discrimination complaints under the British Columbia Human Rights Code” (Tribunal Annual Report, 2023/24, pg. 3);

And whereas a large backlog of complaints and a growing volume of new submissions has led to extensive adjudication delays that exacerbate the harm experienced by complainants, leaving British Columbians without timely support or closure;

And whereas additional provincial funding committed in 2023 has improved timelines but is nonetheless proving insufficient in effectively processing existing and new case files:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and the UBCM ask that the Province of British Columbia act immediately on Recommendation #12a of the BC Office of the Human Rights Commissioner’s From Hate to Hope report, namely that “The Attorney General should take steps to enable the BC Human Rights Tribunal to be more responsive to hate, including by: a. Ensuring adequate funding to the Tribunal to effectively process complaints.”

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

LATE RESOLUTIONS

Late Resolutions are the resolutions received after the February 6, 2025 resolutions deadline, and before the April 9, 2025 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 11, 2025.

Due to time constraints, the Report on Late Resolutions, as distributed to members and delegates on April 11, 2025, was not considered. Sponsors of Late Resolutions are encouraged to submit their resolutions to UBCM by the June 15, 2025 deadline.

OFF-THE-FLOOR RESOLUTIONS

Off-the-Floor Resolutions are the resolutions submitted after the April 9, 2025 deadline for Late Resolutions, per the procedures outlined in the *Convention Rules*.

Due to time constraints, the Off-the-Floor Resolutions were not considered. Sponsors of Off-the-Floor Resolutions are encouraged to submit their resolutions to UBCM by the June 15, 2025 deadline.

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 2025/2026 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

PRESIDENT ELECT'S REMARKS

President Geselbracht thanked the assembly for acclaiming him as President, saying she was very honoured and looked forward to working with the Executive Committee. He thanked outgoing Executive members Director Travis Hall and Councillor Tanille Johnston, and thanked Past President Cote for her leadership and guidance.

He welcomed City of Nanaimo Mayor Krog and Regional District of Nanaimo Chair Vanessa Craig to the stage to thank them, and their Council and Board for their support in hosting this year's convention.

2026 HOST COMMUNITY

President Geselbracht announced the 2026 Convention would be held in Victoria April 23-26, 2026 at the Victoria Conference Centre, with the City of Victoria as our hosts. City of Victoria Mayor Marianne Alto was invited to announce 2026 Convention in Victoria who is looking forward to welcoming our delegates to their community.

CONVENTION CLOSING

President Geselbracht then closed the 76th Annual General Meeting at 11:58 am on Sunday April 13th, 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Theresa Dennison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "T" and a long, sweeping underline.

Theresa Dennison
AVICC Secretary-Treasurer and Executive Director

2026-26 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



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

2024-2025

Welcome to the 2025 AVICC AGM & Convention in Nanaimo, where we are gathering on the traditional territories of the Snuneymuxw First Nation.

Big thanks to the City of Nanaimo and the Regional District of Nanaimo for hosting us and making this event a success. As AVICC President, I want to thank our hosts for their warm welcome.

Your AVICC Executive invites you to join us in celebrating 76 years of unified advocacy for local governments in our region. We deeply appreciate our members and all the time and energy you put into benefiting our communities.

I encourage everyone, to use this convention to meet and network with your colleagues. Our strength as a region comes from our sharing of experience, understanding one another's challenges and acting together on common goals.

It has been a privilege to serve you as AVICC president this past year and I want to thank the 2024-25 Executive, a skilled, passionate, and hard-working group of individuals:

- 1st Vice President: Vanessa Craig, Regional District of Nanaimo
- 2nd Vice President: Sarah Fowler, Village of Tahsis
- Director at Large: Travis Hall, Central Coast Regional District
- Director at Large: Will Cole-Hamilton, City of Courtenay
- Director at Large: Tanille Johnston, City of Campbell River (currently on leave)
- 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 steady and insightful member of the Executive since 2016. She's served her community of Sproat Lake since 2005, and I'm truly grateful for her contributions to AVICC, local government, and her community.

We recognize the importance of our relationships with First Nations in our work as local government officials. AVICC members are committed to building inclusion and supporting the implementation of the TRC Calls to Action. In June 2024, at our first Executive Meeting, we recognized that all First Nations in our region could apply to be AVICC members, regardless of their treaty status. We're excited to welcome Toquaht Nation as a new member. We've also invited all First Nations Chiefs to join us at this year's convention. We look forward to building relationships. There are several educational sessions planned that support our members' reconciliation efforts, including a presentation about the Indigenous-led engagements on a co-

governance vision for the Island Coastal Economic Trust, and a session with Bob Joseph as he prepares to publish his next book, *21 Things® You Need to Know About Indigenous Self Government*.

We also welcome Bowen Island Municipality as a new AVICC member. Although they're part of the Metro Vancouver Regional District, they're the only incorporated municipality in the Islands Trust and share many commonalities with our Vancouver Island and coastal community members. We look forward to welcoming them to this year's convention!

In June 2022, it was decided that UBCM would no longer provide staffing or operational support for AVICC effective August 1, 2023. Theresa Dennison joined the AVICC team as our full-time staff person in October 2022 and facilitated the transition away from UBCM in the summer of 2023. 2024 marked our first full fiscal year with a full-time employee, and we're grateful for her hard work and dedication. With her support, we have strengthened the organization and advanced several advocacy initiatives throughout the year.

Through the 2024 AVICC advocacy survey, membership identified that Watershed Security was one of the top regional priorities. Members of the AVICC executive teamed up with several municipalities and regional districts to meet with the Minister of Water Land and Resource Stewardship on this issue. In the discussion, the importance of watershed security and land conservation in our region was highlighted along with the unique conservation challenges faced because of large privately managed forest lands from the historical E&N Land grant. This year we have seen in our communities some provincial funding for land purchases that been made available through the BC Parks foundation and Ministry of Land and Resource Stewardship. This is positive. To follow up on watershed security at this year's convention the Community Energy Association has organized a session on this topic. This session includes info from the Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities Climate Leadership Steering Committee (VICC-CL) and the BC Municipal Climate Leadership Council (BCMCLC).

In November, we hosted AVICC's first virtual education and discussion session, facilitated by Tracey Lorenson as a follow-up to her plenary session from last year's convention. The session, *"Finishing Strong: Confidence and Courage in Turbulent Waters,"* focused on strategies for effective governance and leadership in challenging times. Over 50 members registered, and the video recording was shared with all members afterward. We hope to host another virtual session next term and encourage members to let us know what to prioritize.

This term, AVICC supported the initiative to reform/modernize the *Local Government Act*. An ad-hoc working group of elected officials and CAOs from Vancouver Island and the lower mainland have been advancing this initiative through engagement sessions at AVICC and UBCM. To increase the depth of understanding of the need for legislative reform and broaden local government participation provincially, the AVICC Executive co-hosted a Joint Area Association Virtual Engagement Session (JAAVES) with contributions from all five area associations. The event was facilitated by Don Lidstone, K.C., on February 28, 2025, and over 250 people attended. Mr. Lidstone has written a document, "[Regional District Legislation Roadmap](#)," as an informational resource and framework to gather feedback from all five area associations on the challenges local governments face with the LGA. The *Roadmap* document has been turned into a [survey](#) that is now available. Mr. Lidstone will share what we heard at the JAAVES and from the survey at this year's convention. The information gathered will be used to inform recommendations for UBCM and Municipal Affairs to take further action.

The Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) are strong partners of AVICC, advocating with senior levels of government on your behalf. We look forward to hearing from UBCM President Trish Mandewo at this year's convention with an update from UBCM. As AVICC President, I have the

privilege of representing you on the UBCM Executive. The 2024/2025 UBCM elected Executive does not include any additional AVICC members. The AVICC Executive has identified inequitable representation at the UBCM table and has sent a letter requesting a governance review. For the 2025/26 UBCM Elections, we encourage AVICC members to take a more strategic approach – last year, nine AVICC members ran for positions on the UBCM Executive, none were successful in large part to vote splitting.

AVICC also has a voice at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities table with AVICC members Director Daniel Arbour and Councillor Will Cole-Hamilton, who are FCM Board Members. We thank them for advocating on behalf of our region at the federal level. Councillor Cole-Hamilton will provide an update on FCM at this year's convention.

To ensure as many members as possible benefit from the educational sessions at the Convention, we will be video-recording six sessions so all members can access them afterward. For the 2025/26 AVICC Election, we will repeat elections being held electronically. There will be a return to in-person Candidate speeches this year where an election for a position is being held. Candidate speeches will also be available online. Candidates nominated by the deadline or from the floor will have the opportunity to work with AVICC staff to have their speech posted online while on-site at the convention. The Executive Election will be available to all members, not just AVICC delegates at the convention.

We are living and governing in uncertain times. We had a provincial election last fall and are in the midst of a federal election. The federal election is happening within the context of an increasingly unpredictable relationship with our closest ally and trading partner, the United States. Large changes in U.S. economic and security policy have the potential to have significant consequences on our local communities. We wish all the best to AVICC members running in the upcoming federal election. More than ever, it's important for us to unite and focus on solutions that support sustainable economic prosperity and cultural safety despite what's happening to the south of us. We will present several sessions on economic development at this year's convention, and UBCM will host a session on actions we can take to combat tariff wars in our communities and throughout the province. The food and beverage for this convention will be sourced locally wherever possible through the Vancouver Island Economic Alliance's Island Good program, and other items will be sourced from BC or Canadian businesses.

Many AVICC and other local government members were successful in obtaining seats at the provincial legislature, and we are grateful for their commitment to serving their communities in this new capacity. In addition, many long-time MLAs resigned or were unsuccessful in their provincial campaigns. The Minister of State for Local Government and Rural Communities, Hon. Brittny Anderson, the Minister of Health, Hon. Josie Osborne, and the Interim leader of the BC Greens, MLA Jeremy Valeriote, have confirmed they will attend and address AVICC delegates at our convention. The leader of the opposition and the BC Conservatives, John Rustad, has also been invited to speak. Our Keynotes Vaughn Palmer and Keith Baldrey will share their perspectives on the current "BC Political Pulse" to help us make sense of it all.

In your package, you will find the annual audited financial statements, the 2025 budget and member dues, a report from the Nominating Committee for the 2025/26 Term, and the resolutions for consideration at this year's convention.

Your Executive has reviewed AVICC's revenues and expenses with an eye to maintain best value and maintaining affordability. AVICC remains a low-cost, high-value area association, with member dues and convention registrations among the lowest compared to other area associations. Convention and operational costs have increased recently, reflective of the inflation experienced nation-wide. We've used past years' surplus to cover some of these costs. This year,

the AVICC Executive decided not to increase convention registration costs. For 2025, we also decided to increase dues by 3% to keep up with inflation, but with no increase for communities with smaller populations, acknowledging that our members' expenses have also risen significantly. Since convention costs are lower in Nanaimo than in Victoria, we've budgeted for a surplus in 2025 to plan ahead for potential expense increases in 2026.

We're looking forward to a productive, educational, and thought-provoking convention, including the resolutions debate, political speakers, keynote, elections, and, most importantly, networking with colleagues.

It's been a great honour to serve you and AVICC as President for 2024-25, my first term as President. I trust you'll benefit greatly from the convention lineup this weekend. I'm most looking forward to chatting with you in the meeting rooms and hallways of the conference center.

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, 2024



KPMG LLP

St. Andrew's Square II
800-730 View Street
Victoria, BC V8W 3Y7
Canada
Telephone (250) 480 3500
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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, 2024
- 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, 2024 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'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. Below the signature is a horizontal line that starts under the 'K' and ends under the 'P'.

Chartered Professional Accountants

Victoria, Canada

March 25, 2025

ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2024, with comparative information for 2023


	2024	2023
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents (note 2)	\$ 317,546	\$ 383,540
Prepaid expenses	15,592	6,245
Accounts receivable	-	700
	<u>333,138</u>	<u>390,485</u>
Investments (note 3)	50,000	-
	<u>\$ 383,138</u>	<u>\$ 390,485</u>

Liabilities and Net Assets


Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 4)	\$ 23,530	\$ 23,993
Deferred revenue	4,500	-
Deferred contributions (note 5)	30,468	37,567
	<u>58,498</u>	<u>61,560</u>
Net assets:		
Unrestricted	324,640	328,925
	<u>\$ 383,138</u>	<u>\$ 390,485</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, 2024, with comparative information for 2023

	2024	2023
Revenue:		
Association dues	\$ 121,036	\$ 111,663
Annual meeting - registration	150,045	117,721
Annual meeting - sponsorships	92,500	70,500
Annual meeting - exhibits	18,000	7,200
Interest	18,823	22,076
Other (note 5)	7,799	7,097
	<u>408,203</u>	<u>336,257</u>
Expenses:		
Annual meeting	223,863	138,422
Union of BC Municipalities contract fees	-	66,186
Salaries and benefits	122,188	53,094
Executive meetings	21,828	20,376
Postage, office and miscellaneous	9,664	13,737
Professional fees	12,505	11,200
Consulting fees	15,434	11,059
Communication and staff travel	3,992	4,112
Insurance	3,014	748
	<u>412,488</u>	<u>318,934</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(4,285)	17,323
Net assets, beginning of year	328,925	311,602
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 324,640</u>	<u>\$ 328,925</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended December 31, 2024, with comparative information for 2023

	2024	2023
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operations:		
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$ (4,285)	\$ 17,323
Changes in non-cash operating working capital:		
Increase in prepaid expenses	(9,347)	(417)
Decrease in accounts receivable	700	510
Decrease in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(463)	(45,710)
Decrease in deferred revenue	4,500	(12,374)
Decrease in deferred contributions	(7,099)	(7,098)
	(15,994)	(47,766)
Financing:		
Investment in guaranteed investment certificate	(50,000)	-
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(65,994)	(47,766)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	383,540	431,306
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 317,546	\$ 383,540

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended December 31, 2024

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, 2024

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, there were no acquisitions of capital assets (2023 - 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, 2024

2. Cash and cash equivalents:

	2024	2023
Cash	\$ 66,162	\$ 158,904
MFA Money Market Fund	76,048	224,636
MFA Government Focused Ultra-short Bond Fund	75,336	-
MFA high interest savings account	100,000	-
	<u>\$ 317,546</u>	<u>\$ 383,540</u>

3. Investments:

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

4. Accounts payable and accrued liabilities:

Included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities are government remittances payable of \$4,596 (2023 - \$4,181) related to payroll taxes.

5. Deferred contributions:

Deferred contributions include \$30,468 (2023 - \$37,567) of provincial grants restricted for the facilitation of the activities of the Treaty Advisory Committee. During the year, \$7,099 (2023 - \$7,097) 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, 2024

6. Municipal pension plan:

The Association and its employee 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, 2023, the plan has about 256,000 active members and approximately 129,000 retired members. Active members include approximately 45,000 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, 2021, indicated a \$3,761 million funding surplus for basic pension benefits on a going concern basis.

The Association paid \$9,323 (2023 - \$3,735) for employer contributions while employees contributed \$8,622 (2023 - \$3,454) to the plan in fiscal 2024.

The next valuation will be as at December 31, 2024.

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, 2024

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 2023.

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, 2024, nine directors received remuneration totaling \$18,750, with amounts ranging from \$675 to \$5,725 per director (2023 - nine directors received remuneration totaling \$17,925, with amounts ranging from \$525 to \$6,900 per director). For the period ended December 31, 2024, one employee received remuneration of \$100,358 (2023 - no employees received remuneration greater than \$75,000).

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

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



PROGRAM Friday, April 11th, 2025

PRE-CONVENTION PROGRAM

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

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

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

PROGRAM

Saturday, April 12th, 2025

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

7:15 am	Breakfast Service Starts (Departure Bay Room & Mt. Benson Ballroom)
7:30 am – 8:30 am	Working Breakfast: <i>Towards Prosperity for All: Redefining Regional and Community Economic Development</i> (Mt. Benson Ballroom C/D)
8:30 am	Convention Day 2 – Opening Remarks (Mt. Benson Ballroom C/D) Annual General Meeting and President's Address <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Convention Rules and Procedures○ Minutes of 2024 Annual General Meeting○ Annual Report○ 2024 Audited Financial Statements
8:40 am	Municipal Insurance Association Update
8:45 am	Consideration of Resolutions, Session 1
9:35 am	UBCM President Address: Trish Mandewo
9:55 am – 10:25 am	Refreshment Break (Newcastle Island Lobby & Mt. Benson Ballroom A/B)
10:25 am	ICET Update: <i>Transforming Coastal Economic Development — A Path to Co-Governance and Sustainable Investment</i>
10:30 am	Voting for Table Officers closes (voting is on-line if required)
10:55 am	Consideration of Resolutions, Session 2
11:45 am	Nominating Committee Report Nominations from the Floor for Directors at Large and Candidate Speeches
11:55 am	BCLC – Fun & Games!
12:05 pm	CREST Emergency Communications Address
12:10 pm – 1:25 pm	Delegates Lunch (Departure Bay Room & Mt. Benson Ballroom)
1:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Private Conversations with Eli Mina – by appointment (Millstone River Room)

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

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

BANQUET

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

PROGRAM

Sunday, April 13th, 2025

7:30 am – 8:30 am	Networking Breakfast (Mt. Benson Ballroom & Newcastle Island Lobby)
7:30 am	Voting for Directors at Large closes (voting is online)
8:30 am	Convention Day 3 – Opening Remarks (Mt. Benson Ballroom) Nominating Committee Report Nominations from the Floor for Electoral Area Representative and Candidate Speeches
8:40 am	Provincial Address: BC Green Party, MLA Rob Botterell
8:50 am	FCM Update: FCM Board Member, Councillor Will Cole-Hamilton
9:00 am	Voting for Electoral Area Representative opens (voting is online if required)
9:00 am	Plenary Session: Eli Mina: <i>Meeting Rules and Responsible Governance</i>
10:30 am	Student Delegate Address
10:35 am – 11:00 am	Refreshment Break (Newcastle Island Lobby)
11:00 am	Consideration of Resolutions and Late Resolutions, Third Session
11:00 am	Voting for Electoral Area Representative closes (voting is online if required)
11:50 am	Nominating Committee Report (as required) Installation of New AVICC Executive Remarks by President-Elect 2026 Convention Announcement – Mayor Marianne Alto, City of Victoria Grand Prize Draw- BC Ferries Prize Package– Must Be Present to Win
12:00 pm	Adjourn & Safe Travels

THANK YOU TO OUR HOSTS

Special thanks are extended to the City of Nanaimo and the Regional District of Nanaimo for hosting AVICC's 76th AGM & Convention. Our hosts helped with many aspects of the planning to make the 2025 Convention a success.

Thank you for making the Convention a great experience!



TRADE SHOW



TRADE SHOW HOURS

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

EXHIBITORS

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

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SPEAKER GIFT DONATION



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

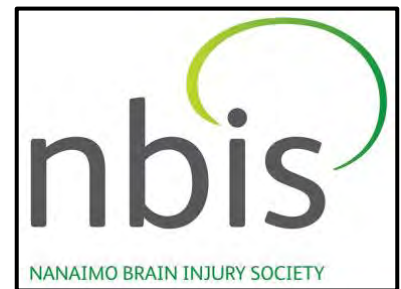
This practice is being continued for 2025, and a donation will be made to The Loaves and Fishes Food Bank, and to the Nanaimo Brain Injury Society in lieu of Speakers Gifts. Please visit their websites to learn more about how these organizations benefit our communities.



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

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

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



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

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: KEITH BALDREY & VAUGHN PALMER

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

You'll hear the most current insights from two of BC's leading political commentators who will debate, entertain, and discuss the key issues impacting the BC region within the current political landscape – locally, provincially, and nationally. Veteran journalists Vaughn Palmer and Keith Baldrey are the "go to" guys when it comes to understanding the British Columbia political landscape, past and present. Vaughn and Keith take their popular CKNW radio segment Cutting Edge of the Ledge to the platform, appearing live on the AVICC stage to comment, debate, take questions and entertain our delegates as they explore the "BC Political Pulse".



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

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



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

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

FRIDAY PRE-CONVENTION WORKSHOP

Community Healthcare Solutions

Friday, 9:00 am – Shaw Auditorium

B.C. residents are facing serious healthcare challenges, and local governments are struggling to ensure that their residents have access to the services they need to thrive and survive. In this session, delegates will have an opportunity to hear from health-care leaders on actions already underway and to have a conversation about the healthcare challenges their communities are facing and what is needed to address them. As our pre-convention workshop at the Convention, we will be offering a different kind of session on healthcare. The focus will be on providing information about some of the problems impacting communities in our region.

Regulated and unregulated substances are having devastating effects on thousands of people's lives in our communities. The 2024 Island Health Chief Medical Health Officer report offers policy timelines and health data on alcohol, tobacco, cannabis and unregulated substances that can contribute to the collective understanding and support conversations and changes in communities that lead to better health.

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

Communities across B.C. are facing serious health-care challenges, including temporary emergency room closures and long wait times for surgeries and other health-care needs. In response, the Province has taken action with staffing and financial initiatives, however, much more remains to be done. This conversation will engage AVICC members in discussion about the healthcare issues in their communities and what we can do to be part of the solution.

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

MODERATORS:

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

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

PRESENTERS:

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

Myrienne Peloquin-Richard, Manager, Healthy Public Policy and Strategic Planning, Island Health

Andrea Derban, Clinical Nurse Specialist - Harm Reduction, CAI

Cindy Lise, Regional Facilitator Cowichan Communities Health Network

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

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

Carly Koeppen, Lobby Coordinator, BC Nurses Union

Donna Hais, President, Chair, Fair Care Alliance

Dr. David Forrest, President, Nanaimo Medical Staff Association

FRIDAY PLENARY SESSION



Regional District Legislation: A Roadmap

Friday, 4:30 pm

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

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

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

PANELISTS

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

SATURDAY PLENARY SESSION

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

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

PRESENTERS:

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

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

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

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

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

SUNDAY PLENARY SESSION

Meeting Rules and Responsible Governance

Sunday, 9:00 am

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

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

PRESENTER:

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

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

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

IN ELI'S OWN WORDS:

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

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

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

PLENARY UPDATE SESSIONS

UBCM President Address

Saturday, 9:35 am

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

PRESENTER

Trish Mandewo, UBCM President; Councillor, City of Coquitlam

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

Saturday, 10:25 am

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

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

PRESENTERS

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

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

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

Jessie Hemphill, CEO of Sanala Planning

MODERATOR

Brodie Guy, CEO, Islands Economic Trust

Federation of Canadian Municipalities Update

Sunday, 8:50 am

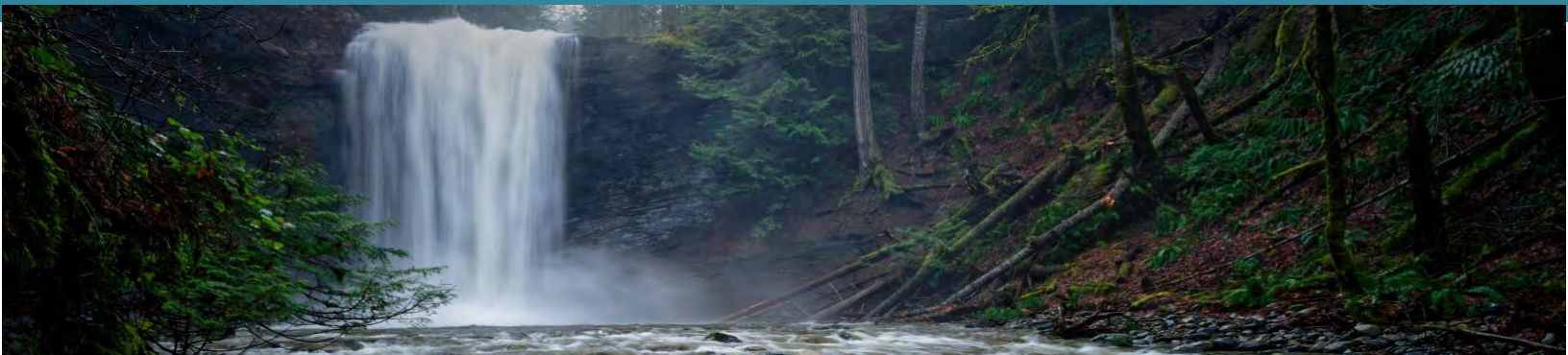
The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) is the national voice of local governments in Ottawa. This update will touch on new FCM programs secured in the past year and include a brief update on the actions being taken at FCM.

PRESENTER

Will Cole-Hamilton,

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

SATURDAY CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS



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

Saturday, 1:30 pm – Dodd Narrows Room

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

PRESENTERS

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

Nick Falzon, Associate, Young Anderson Barristers & Solicitors

Taking Stock of the Trade War: Local Government Impacts

Saturday, 1:30 pm – Shaw Auditorium

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

PRESENTERS

Trish Mandewo, UBCM President; Councillor, City of Coquitlam

Gary MacIsaac, Executive Director, Union of BC Municipalities

Liz Cookson, Senior Finance Policy Analyst, Union of BC Municipalities

SATURDAY CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

PRESENTERS

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

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

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

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

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

PRESENTER

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

SATURDAY CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

Community Housing Solutions

Saturday, 3:00 – 4:30 pm – Nanaimo River Room

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

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

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

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

MODERATOR

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

PRESENTERS

David Giroday, Associate, Young Anderson Barristers & Solicitors

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

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

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

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

Lexie Boekenkruger, Manager of Building Inspection Services, RD Nanaimo

SATURDAY CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

Amplify Climate Solutions through Regional Collaboration

Saturday, 3:00 – 4:30 pm – Shaw Auditorium

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

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

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

PANELISTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

MODERATOR

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

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