



**NCLGA**

*"The Elected Voice of Central and Northern BC"*

**Four-Year Strategic Plan  
2014 - 2018**

**September 2014**

## **About the North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA)**

Established in 1955, the North Central Local Government Association is the advocacy body for all local government officials in North Central British Columbia. From 100 Mile House to the Yukon border, and from Haida Gwaii to Alberta, our association represents over 240 elected officials in over 40 local governments.

The NCLGA is the only democratically elected body representing North Central British Columbia. Our Board serves as the voice for an area that encompasses 69% of British Columbia's landmass, 7% of its population base, and almost 60% of the Aboriginal population.

As a non-partisan, non-profit association, we work specifically for the benefit of our members – communities that are all too often left by the wayside because of their size or location. We are one of five area associations in British Columbia, working closely with our partner associations as well as our governing body, the Union of British Columbian Municipalities.

On a day-to-day basis, we work to move resolutions forward, address emerging and shared issues in our member communities, and educate members and key stakeholders on the NCLGA's workings. Resolutions form the basis of our work, and are passed at our Annual General Meeting each year; emerging issues are gathered through our outreach programs and increased communication with member communities; and education takes the form of community engagement, newsletters, presentations, and more.

We give voice to our region's residents through forming close relationships with government (provincial and federal), media, industry, and other organizations. This, specifically, means being present at the table when all key decisions affecting our region are being made, rather than left to deal with any possible consequences.

## **“To be the Elected Voice of North & Central British Columbia”**

The NCLGA occupies a unique and valuable position. As the only democratically elected body representing North Central British Columbia, our Board serves as the voice for an area that encompasses 69% of British Columbia’s landmass, 7% of its population base, and almost 60% of the Aboriginal population.

For the last sixty years, our association has built momentum and support from our member communities, recently reaching 100% membership among qualified local governments. Over the next four years, the NCLGA strives to fulfill this given role as the “Elected Voice of North & Central British Columbia.”

We will give voice to our region’s residents through closer relationships with government (provincial and federal), media, industry, and other organizations. This, specifically, means being present at the table when all key decisions affecting our region are being made, rather than left to deal with any possible consequences.

As a non-partisan association, we work specifically for the benefit of our member communities – smaller communities that are all too often left by the wayside because of their size or location. As residents ourselves, we are proud to represent our region, and we are equally as invested in our area’s continued health and prosperity.

Through strengthened communication between member communities, the addition of newly-qualified, First-Nation local governments, and a bolstered network of like-minded, north-centric organizations, the NCLGA is situated to become a driving force for our region.

The NCLGA’s 2014-2018 Strategic Plan outlines our plans to fulfill its role, and steps to monitor and measure success.

# Goals

## **Become a Facilitator for Positive Change for Regional Issues**

This goal centers on the NCLGA's ability to interface with other levels of government. This can be an information-sharing role (such as advising a regional district or municipality) or an advocacy role (such as meeting with cabinet ministers, MPs and MLAs to speak about regional issues). While we seek to instigate positive change, we do not strive to be the organization that becomes responsible for a local government when disaster happens.

## **Seek Out New Members**

In an effort to form a board that is both representative and inclusive, new local governments within the NCLGA's borders should be pursued as members. As new First Nations become eligible, the NCLGA should seek them out. Membership eligibility requirements can be found in NCLGA policies. To truly be considered the 'Elected Voice of North Central British Columbia,' we must be as inclusive as our constitution and policies allow, and ensure that all voices and opinions within our region are heard.

## **Increase our Financial Capacity**

Without the funds, the NCLGA's ability to complete our mandate lessens considerably. If the NCLGA is financially viable, we will have the means necessary to work with provincial government, inspire change, and truly connect with all of our members on a more regular basis.

## **Form a Robust Network of Committed Organizations**

This goal is region-specific and focuses on partnerships between the NCLGA and organizations that have considerable strength throughout our region. At present, the NCLGA does not have the staffing capacity or mandate to complete research comparable to other northern organizations. Some organizations also do not have the capacity to complete the advocacy role that the NCLGA can. This is but one example of the many ways these partnerships can operate; by working in partnership, this will strengthen our region's capabilities as a whole, and will open up the information-sharing channels between organizations and the NCLGA.

## **Make Resolutions More Effective**

Through extensive internal research over the past two years, the membership overwhelmingly noted that the current resolution process needs considerable improvement. The NCLGA has taken this feedback seriously, and is designing a long-term plan to remedy this issue.

## **Increase Communication from the NCLGA and Between Member Communities**

Over the next four years, healthy, routine communication between the NCLGA and its member communities will be built. This means increased general information about the association, awareness of other communities' activities, and up-to-date knowledge regarding resolutions.

# Strategies

## Become a Facilitator for Positive Change for Regional Issues

### *a. Meetings with Federal and Provincial Governments*

These meetings can be utilized to decide on priorities and to find common issues between the three levels of government.

### *b. Share Successes, Best Practices and Stories from our Region*

- Face-to-face meetings with Councilors, Mayors, Directors, and other local government officials.

### *c. Lend Advocacy Support to Key Issues*

- Engage senior levels of government, industry and relevant organizations to influence the decision-making process.

## Seek out New Membership

### *a. Meet with Eligible First Nations Governments*

- Face-to-face meetings to explain benefits of membership and how the NCLGA functions (resolutions, etc).
- Provide resources to further explain what membership with the NCLGA entails.

### *b. Explore Avenues to Include Currently Ineligible First Nation Governments*

## Increase our Financial Capacity

### *a. Bolster the NCLGA Endowment Fund*

The NCLGA Endowment Fund's final goal is \$5 million. This final goal may come in 5 or 10 years, however, a continued and concerted effort must be directed to growing the fund. \$5 million will create enough interest revenue to sustain our organization in perpetuity.

### *b. Seek Out Other Assorted Sources for Funding*

## Form a Robust Network of Committed Organizations

### *a. Form North-Centric Partnerships*

Mutually beneficial partnerships cultivated with organizations that have a specific interest in BC's North Central area.

### *b. Cultivate Collaboration and Information Sharing within Partnerships*

Relationship building, mutual advocacy, and regular communication between partners needs to be emphasized.

## **Make Resolutions More Effective**

*a. Increased Discussion and Debate Between Member Communities*

Get members more engaged with other local governments' resolutions, and spur discussion about what their community can do with them.

*b. Better Communication between Resolution Sponsors and Staff*

Give feedback and advice regarding resolutions, such as specific reasons as to why resolutions were not recommended, or what could be done differently in future. Also, encourage the resolution's sponsor community to work with NCLGA regarding their resolution prior to submission. Finally, clearly outline the NCLGA's current area of focus so that resolutions can be mutually beneficial within both the broad scope of the organization and specific scope of the local government.

*c. Find Commonalities and Opportunities for Collaboration*

*d. Prioritize Resolutions*

Select a handful of resolutions that touch on regional, timely issues that affect all members, and then take substantial, impactful action on them.

*e. Clarity on Ownership of Action Regarding Resolutions*

The ownership of a given resolution is held by the sponsoring local government, the NCLGA, and the UBCM. In order to create action and affect positive change, there must clear communication and coordination between each body.

## **Increase Communication from the NCLGA and Between Member Communities**

*a. Presentations to Regional Districts/ Communities*

*c. Utilize Event Opportunities*

By participating in related local government events, more opportunities are created to further information as to the NCLGA's new strategic plan and objectives.

*d. Creation of a Comprehensive Communications Plan*

A Communications Plan will ensure structure within the organization. It will outline best practices, strategies for success, and goals for our communication efforts. A full communications audit is expected.

# Appendix

## Contact Information

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## Online Information

[www.nclga.ca](http://www.nclga.ca)  
[www.twitter.com/nclga](http://www.twitter.com/nclga)

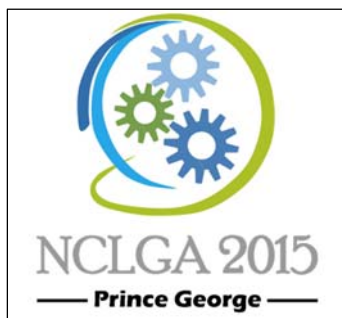
## Upcoming Dates



### **Northern Leaders Summit**

*Presented by Carrier Sekani Tribal Council & North Central Local Government Association*

Prince George, BC  
Coast Inn of the North  
January 19, 2015



### **NCLGA Annual Generation Meeting & Convention**

*Presented by City of Prince George & North Central Local Government Association*

Prince George, BC  
Canada Games Plaza (formerly the Civic Centre)  
May 6-8, 2015