

2025 AGM & CONFERENCE

PROGRAM

MAY 12-15, 2025



Resources



EVENT REGISTRATION DESK HOURS

8:00 AM to end of day, May 13-15, 2025



VOTING HOURS

May 13, 2025
12:30 PM – 3:30 PM



WIFI

Conventions 5G
Conventions 2.4G
*no passwords required



LOCAL TAXI

Skeena Taxi 250.624.2185



NORTH COAST HALL MEETING AND EVENT CENTRE

240 1st Ave W Prince Rupert BC V8J 1A8

Concurrent Sessions at Crest Hotel
Harbour Room / BC Room



DELEGATE HOTELS

Crest Hotel

222 1st Ave Prince Rupert BC V8J 1A8

Prestige Ocean View Hotel

118 6st Prince Rupert BC V8J 3L7

Highliner Hotel & Conference Centre

815 1st Ave W Prince Rupert BC V8J 1B3



STAFF CONTACTS AT AGM



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NCLGA AGM Floor Plan

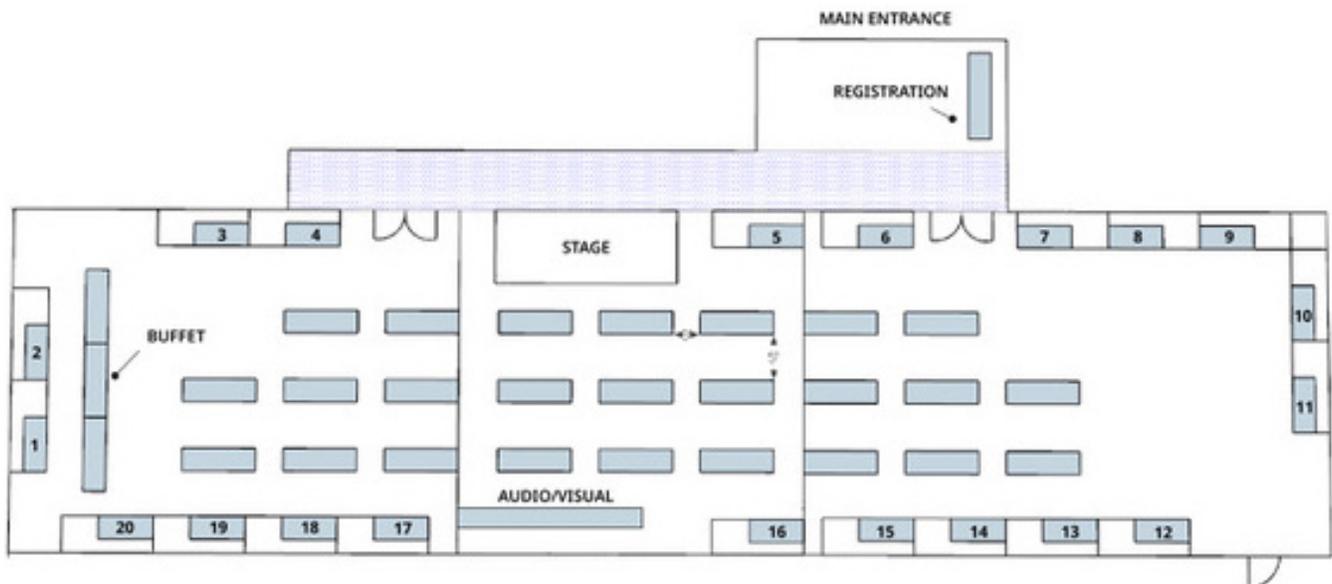


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ABOUT NCLGA

Established in 1955, the North Central Local Government Association is a non-profit, non-partisan association of elected officials representing local governments in north-central BC. Our jurisdiction covers 70% of BC's landmass.

We advocate for solutions to shared issues in member communities and also help to articulate member perspectives and priorities to a broader audience.

NCLGA operates according to the following four core values:

- Well-being – environmental, social, and economic
- Non-partisan – exploring the risks, benefits, and alternatives that lead to the best outcome or solution
- Regional focus – collaborating on shared commitments for achieving positive impacts
- Transparency – building trust and increasing access to information.

CONTACT

To connect with NCLGA staff and Board members, members are encouraged to contact us via the following channels:

Email: admin@nclga.ca

Facebook: www.facebook.com/northcentrallocalgovernmentassociation/

Twitter: @NCLGA

Website: www.nclga.com



NCLGA Welcome



Welcome members, guests, and partners,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the NCLGA team, it is my pleasure to welcome our members, guests, and partners to our 2025 AGM and Convention. This convention provides an important opportunity to come together, share knowledge, and strengthen the connections that support the growth and resilience of our communities. It is also a time to share your experiences and lend your voice to the conversations that will help shape our collective future.

Thank you for being here and for your ongoing dedication to our region. I look forward to the discussions ahead and all that we will accomplish together.

Sincerely,

JUDY GREENAWAY

President, NCLGA

Area Director, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Co-Host Welcomes



Welcome to the North Coast!

On behalf of the North Coast Regional District (NCRD), the City of Prince Rupert, and the District of Port Edward, we are thrilled to welcome you to the 2025 North Central Local Government Association AGM.

Prince Rupert, nestled on the stunning Pacific Northwest Coast, is a place where rugged natural beauty meets the warmth of a connected and resilient community. As you take in the breathtaking ocean views, experience the rich cultural heritage, and enjoy the hospitality of our region, we hope you'll see why we're so proud to call this place home.

From fresh coastal cuisine to world-class fishing, vibrant Indigenous culture, and some of the most spectacular scenery in B.C., there's no shortage of ways to experience the best of the North Coast. And of course, we're excited for the important discussions, collaborations, and ideas that will come from this year's convention.

So, settle in, enjoy the scenic surroundings, and let's make this AGM both productive and memorable. Welcome to the North Coast Regional District—we're so glad you're here!

BARRY PAGES
NCRD Chair



The District of Port Edward is honoured to host this year's Northern Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) Annual Conference. As a community that values innovation, collaboration, and strong local leadership, we are excited to welcome delegates from across the region to share insights, strengthen networks, and explore solutions for the future of municipal governance.

Over the coming days, we hope you'll be inspired by engaging discussions, meaningful connections, and the stunning natural beauty of our coastal community. Thank you for joining us—we look forward to a memorable and impactful conference together!

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
District of Port Edward



Could we possibly choose a more critical time to gather? The USA is redefining global trade and trading relationships upending the markets for our products. The Government of BC has responded, in part, by fast-tracking projects that are predominantly in our region. A brand-new federal government is grappling with how to adjust and talk of increased interprovincial trade has produced little action.

Our region continuously punches far above its weight economically, but the benefits aren't experienced evenly. Some of our communities are struggling with growth, while others deal with devastating mill closures.

I'm looking forward to meeting with each of you to discuss the challenges and opportunities and planning a course forward in these interesting times.

Welcome to your North Coast!

HERB POND
Mayor, City of Prince Rupert



NCLGA Board of Directors 2024/2025

NAME	ELECTED TITLE	NAME	ELECTED TITLE
 <p>Judy Greenaway REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO</p>	PRESIDENT	 <p>Barry Cunningham NORTH COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT</p>	APPOINTED REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE
 <p>Gladys Atrill TOWN OF SMITHERS</p>	1 ST VICE PRESIDENT	 <p>Leonard Hiebert PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT</p>	APPOINTED REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE
 <p>Tony Zabinsky FORT ST. JOHN</p>	2 ND VICE PRESIDENT	 <p>Lorraine Gerwing NORTHERN ROCKIES REGIONAL DISTRICT</p>	APPOINTED REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE
 <p>Sheila Boehm CITY OF WILLIAMS LAKE</p>	PAST PRESIDENT	 <p>Julie Maitland REGIONAL DISTRICT OF KITIMAT-STIKINE</p>	APPOINTED REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE
 <p>Jerrilyn Kirk FRASER FORT GEORGE REGIONAL DISTRICT</p>	DIRECTOR AT LARGE	 <p>Sarah Storey REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO</p>	APPOINTED REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE
 <p>Kyle MacDonald CITY OF DAWSON CREEK</p>	DIRECTOR AT LARGE	<h3>Staff</h3>	
 <p>Jesse Wright DISTRICT OF MACKENZIE</p>	DIRECTOR AT LARGE		
 <p>Dannielle Alan FRASER FORT GEORGE REGIONAL DISTRICT</p>	APPOINTED REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE	 <p>Sandra Moore BOARD SUPPORT</p>	STAFF
 <p>Betty Anderson CARIBOO REGIONAL DISTRICT</p>	APPOINTED REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE	 <p>Bettina Johnson COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT</p>	STAFF
		 <p>Terry Robert EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</p>	STAFF



Pre-Conference Tours

(Pre-registration required)

Tour Options

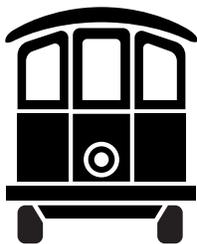


TOUR 1: PRINCE RUPERT PORT AUTHORITY - HARBOUR TOUR

An informational harbour tour of the Prince Rupert Harbour where you will see, from the sea, the port activities happening in and around Prince Rupert.

TOUR DETAILS:

- 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM - (subject to minor time adjustment due to tides)
- Cost: FREE
- Capacity: 90
- Accessible options available with wheelchair access dependant on tides - based on ramp access.
- details on timing will be provided to those delegates registered for this tour, closer to the date.



TOUR 2: PRINCE RUPERT TROLLEY TOUR

Discover the charm and history of Prince Rupert with our trolley tour. Our expert guides will take you on a journey through the city's iconic landmarks, vibrant neighborhoods, and hidden gems. With our vintage trolleys, you can sit back, relax, and enjoy the sights and sounds of Prince Rupert.

Tour Details:

- 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
- Cost: \$25
- Capacity: 168
- Location for start/end: at the Conference Centre
- Accessible options: If required, please contact host.
- details on timing will be provided to those delegates registered for this tour, closer to the date.



Agenda

Monday, May 12, 2025

TIME	EVENT
8:30 AM – 4:00 PM	Registration Opens for NCLGA AGM and Convention
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Tour Options <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prince Rupert Port Authority – Harbour Tour • Trolley Tour
6:30 PM – 9:00 PM	Evening Welcome Reception (North Pacific Cannery Museum – 1889 Skeena Dr) EMCEE: JUDY GREENAWAY, NCLGA PRESIDENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shuttle available (details at Registration)

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

TIME	EVENT
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Continental Breakfast, Delegate Networking, and Trade Show (Open All Day)
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM	Registration is open
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	1. Opening Ceremonies EMCEE: JUDY GREENAWAY, NCLGA PRESIDENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call Meeting to Order • Territorial Acknowledgement • O’Canada • NCLGA President’s Welcome • Welcome Video Message - Hon. Brittny Anderson, Minister of State, Local Government and Rural Communities • UBCM Welcome - Trish Mandewo, President, Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM)
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	2. Annual General Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of Agenda and Previous AGM Minutes • President’s Report • Financial Report • Board Nominations Report

TIME	EVENT
10:05 AM – 10:25 AM	Refreshment Break
10:25 AM – 11:10 AM	3. Executive and Director at Large Nominations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of Nomination and Voting Procedures • Call for Nominations for Executive Positions • Call for Nominations for Director at Large Positions
11:10 AM – 11:40 AM	4. Plenary Session: Taking Stock of the Trade War: Local Government Impacts <p>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.</p> <p>SPEAKERS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Trish Mandewo, President, Union of BC Municipalities • Gary MacIsaac, Executive Director, Union of BC Municipalities
11:40 AM – 12:10 PM	5. Resolutions Session (Part 1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of Resolution Process • Vote on Executive Resolutions • Adjourn Business Session until Wednesday, May 14, 2025
12:10 PM – 1:10 PM	Lunch, Networking, and Trade Show
12:30 PM	Polls Open
12:20 PM – 1:10 PM	Optional Auxiliary Session: CAO Networking at the Wheelhouse Pub (upstairs) WHEELHOUSE BREWING (280 BILL MURRAY DRIVE) <p>This optional auxiliary session provides an invaluable opportunity for Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) to connect, collaborate, and exchange insights in a relaxed and informal setting. Designed to facilitate meaningful networking and relationship-building among CAOs, this session offers a platform for sharing best practices, discussing common challenges, and exploring potential avenues for collaboration.</p>
12:20 PM – 1:10 PM	Optional Auxiliary Session: Mayors' Luncheon
1:10 PM – 2:10 PM	6. Plenary Session: Gaayhlxid/Gíihlagalgang "Rising Tide" Haida Title Lands Agreement <p>What does the recent (2024/25) Crown recognition of Haida Aboriginal title to Haida Gwaii mean for local governments and resident communities? The answer is new opportunities for collaboration on priority local matters and how this is being done on Haida Gwaii. As the reconciliation process moves forward, ensuring that local government interests are actively considered throughout negotiations will be essential to maintaining stability and fostering strong partnerships.</p> <p>SPEAKERS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaagwiis Jason Alsop, President of the Haida Nation • Heinz Dyck, Chief Negotiator (via Zoom) • Daniel Fish, Chief Administrative Officer, North Coast Regional District, (NCRD) • Carolyn Kamper, Assistant Deputy Minister (MIRR) • Barry Pages, Chair, NCRD
2:10 PM – 2:50 PM	7. Plenary Session: Host Community Updates <p>Gain firsthand insights into the latest developments, challenges, and initiatives from host communities during our Plenary Session dedicated to Host Community Updates. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear directly from these communities about their ongoing projects, recent initiatives, and the unique challenges they face. From infrastructure upgrades to economic development efforts, this session will provide a comprehensive overview of the current landscape in the host communities.</p> <p>SPEAKERS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor Knut Bjorndal, District of Port Edward • Chair Barry Pages, North Coast Regional District • Mayor Herb Pond, City of Prince Rupert



TIME

EVENT

2:50 PM – 3:50 PM

8. CONCURRENT PANEL SESSIONS

Concurrent Panel Session 8A: The Volunteer/Paid on Call Firefighting Sector – How to Succeed in a Changing Environment

Most local government fire departments utilize volunteer or paid on call firefighters whether or not they also have full-time firefighters. Several factors have had a cumulative effect on this sector, leaving some local governments struggling to recruit and retain enough firefighters.

This session will look at change drivers related to culture/society, volume, and types of calls for service, training requirements, and unionization trends, all of which are affecting local government fire protection services. Importantly, this session will include steps that local governments can begin to take now to mitigate the effects of change drivers, and minimize the impact on service levels and budgets.

SPEAKER:

- Tim Play, Former Chief Administrative Officer and former President of the Fire Chiefs Association of BC

Concurrent Panel Session 8B: NCLGA/Northern Chambers Collaboration on Resolutions

There has been discussion of late among the north-central BC Chambers about more open collaboration between area Chambers and municipal governments regarding policy development. It could be quite impactful if NCLGA resolutions going on to UBCM had the support of area Chambers of Commerce, and same again for area Chambers taking our resolutions to the BC Chamber AGM. Hopefully that would then encourage collaboration between UBCM and the BC Chamber, leading to a more impactful presentation of policy to the provincial government backed by municipal government and the broader business community.

SPEAKERS:

- Neil Godbout, Chief Executive Officer, Prince George Chamber of Commerce
- Jerrilyn Kirk, Area Director, Regional District of Fraser Fort George and Executive Director, Tumbler Ridge Chamber of Commerce

Concurrent Panel Session 8C: Mental Health and Wellbeing for Local Government Elected Officials

Join Brian Frenkel (District of Vanderhoof) and Terry Robert (NCLGA) for an interactive session exploring the mental health challenges faced by elected officials and practical strategies for managing stress, building resilience, and supporting one another in public service. The session will also highlight the NCLGA Mental Health and Addictions Symposium and Accord, and how local governments can play a role in advancing systemic change and fostering healthier communities.

SPEAKERS:

- Brian Frenkel, Councillor, District of Vanderhoof
- Terry Robert, Executive Director, NCLGA

Concurrent Panel Session 8D: Theme: Taking Action to Address BC's Health-Care Challenges

Communities across BC face serious health-care challenges, including temporary emergency room closures and long wait times for surgeries and other health-care needs. While governments at various levels have taken action to address the problems, much more must be done. In this session, health-care leaders will engage delegates in discussion about what these challenges look like in northern communities, what solutions are already underway and what new actions are necessary to meet the population's health-care needs.

SPEAKERS:

- Teri Forster, North West Regional Council Member, BC Nurses Union (BCNU)
- Danette Thomsen, North East Regional Council Member, BC Nurses Union (BCNU)

Concurrent Panel Session 8E: Harnessing AI for Enhanced Capacity in Local Government: A Case Study

Summary and Speakers to be provided at registration.

3:30 PM

Polls Close

3:50 PM – 4:00 PM

Refreshment Break



TIME

EVENT

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

9. CONCURRENT PANEL SESSIONS, CONTINUED

Concurrent Panel Session 9A: The Volunteer/Paid on Call Firefighting Sector – How to Succeed in a Changing Environment

Most local government fire departments utilize volunteer or paid on call firefighters whether or not they also have full-time firefighters. Several factors have had a cumulative effect on this sector, leaving some local governments struggling to recruit and retain enough firefighters.

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SPEAKER:

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SPEAKERS:

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SPEAKERS:

- Brian Frenkel, Councillor, District of Vanderhoof
- Terry Robert, Executive Director, NCLGA

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SPEAKERS:

- Teri Forster, North West Regional Council Member, BC Nurses Union (BCNU)
- Danette Thomsen, North East Regional Council Member, BC Nurses Union (BCNU)

Concurrent Panel Session 9E: Harnessing AI for Enhanced Capacity in Local Government: A Case Study

Summary and Speakers to be provided at registration.

5:00 PM

End of Day 1 of Conference

6:00 PM

Sip Happens

FOR INFORMATION ON SIP HAPPENS, PLEASE CONTACT ADMIN@NCLGA.CA

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

TIME	EVENT
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Breakfast, Delegate Networking, Trade Show (open all day)
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM	Registration is open
9:00 AM – 9:15 AM	10. Reflections of Day 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Business meeting reconvened• Announcement of 2025/2026 NCLGA Board of Directors• Recap of Day 1 events
9:15 AM – 10:15 AM	11. Plenary Session: Building Bridges: Climate Adaptation, Housing, and Reconciliation in Partnership with Indigenous Communities <p>This engaging session highlights the transformative work of the Nisga'a Nation in collaboration with the Community Energy Association (CEA) focusing on climate adaptation, sustainable housing, and reconciliation through partnerships. This session is designed to inspire, educate, and empower participants to integrate Indigenous leadership, industry capacity-building, and regional partnerships among local governments and other interested sectors and organizations into their climate and housing initiatives for long-lasting, equitable impact.</p> <p>SPEAKERS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gaëtane Carignan (she/her), Climate Leadership & Energy Retrofits Collaborator, Community Energy Association• Kaitlyn Robinson (she/her), Climate Coordinator, Nisga'a Lisims Government
10:15 AM – 10:45 AM	12. Plenary Session: Tale of a Tax Sale (Watson island) <p>Provincial legislation permits a local government to sell property as a recourse for non-payment of property taxes at a tax sale auction. If no-one bids, the local government becomes the default purchaser. This presentation tells the story of Prince Rupert's unwilling ownership of a failed major industrial property on Watson Island - the legal complications, the environmental, financial, and security risk assumed, the community ramifications, and the bold approach that changed Watson Island from an ugly duckling to a workhorse for the community.</p> <p>SPEAKER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corinne Bomben, Chief Financial Officer, City of Prince Rupert
10:45 AM – 11:00 AM	Refreshment Break
11:00 AM – 11:10 AM	13. Plenary Session: Updates from the Municipal Insurance Agency of BC (MIABC) <p>SPEAKER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gord Klassen, NCLGA Representative to MIABC
11:10 AM – 11:20 AM	14. Plenary Session: Updates from the Northern Development Initiatives Trust (NDIT) <p>SPEAKER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jordan Barrett, Manager, Partner Programs, Northern Development Initiatives Trust
11:20 AM – 11:25 AM	15. Plenary Session: Updates from the Northern Medical Programs Trust (NMPT) <p>Discover the inspiring work of the Northern Medical Programs Trust (NMPT). Dedicated to improving healthcare across northern British Columbia, the Trust empowers students, strengthens healthcare, and transforms lives in rural and remote communities. Learn more about how your support and engagement can help sustain this vital mission.</p> <p>SPEAKER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gord Klassen, President, Northern Medical Programs Trust
11:25 PM – 12:10 PM	16. Plenary Session: Regional Districts – Legislative Reform <p>Presentation and consultation with members regarding proposals for reforming legislation on regional district powers, procedures, governance, finance, taxation, and services - current problems and options for the future.</p> <p>SPEAKER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Donald Lidstone, K.C., Managing Partner
12:15 PM – 1:15 PM	Lunch, Networking, and Trade Show

TIME	EVENT
1:15 PM – 2:15 PM	<p>17. Resolutions Session (Part 2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vote on Regular Resolutions • Vote on Late Resolutions (time permitting) • Vote on Off the Floor Resolutions (time permitting)
2:15 PM – 3:00 PM	<p>18. Plenary Session: CN Moving the Economy Safely</p> <p>Safety is a core value at CN. Our ambition is to be the safest railroad in North America with an uncompromising commitment to the health and safety of our employees, the customers we serve, and the communities and environment in which we operate. Over the last decade, there have been numerous advancements in safety and technology within the freight railway industry. This in-depth session will help communities better understand the strategies, technology, and methods which CN employs to ensure safe and sustainable operations throughout our network - including CN's Fire and Suppression fleet, a custom-designed in-house fleet of three trains that can get firefighting resources to remote and inaccessible areas.</p> <p>SPEAKERS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tyler Banick, Manager Stakeholder Relations, British Columbia, Canadian National Railway • Stella Karnis, Sr. Director Environment, Canadian National Railway
3:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Refreshment Break and Networking Opportunity
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	<p>19. Plenary Session: Gitxaala Enterprises Corporation: Investing in Prince Rupert's Future</p> <p>Gitxaala Enterprises Corporation (GECO) is the economic arm of the Gitxaala Nation (pronounced Git-Gath-La, translated as 'People of the Saltwater'). The mission of GECO is to create multi-generational wealth and economic self-sufficiency for Gitxaala citizens through business development. GECO owns and operates the Crest Hotel, RONA Building Centre, Saltwater Bakery, and most recently acquired Chances Prince Rupert. Now with over 200 full-time employees across its portfolio, GECO is poised to play a pivotal role in building Prince Rupert's future as a destination for all.</p> <p>SPEAKERS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blair Mirau, Director of Business Development, Gitxaala Enterprises Corporation
4:30 PM	Adjourn Business Session until Thursday, May 15, 2025
6:00 PM	<p>20. Evening Dinner</p> <p>EMCEE: JUDY GREENAWAY, NCLGA PRESIDENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome • Recognition of past members, current and past Presidents • 2025/2026 Board of Directors
6:45 PM	21. KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Janet Austin
8:00 PM	22. Evening Musical Entertainment



Thursday, May 15, 2025

TIME	EVENT
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Continental Breakfast and Delegate Networking
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	23. Opening Remarks – Day 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Business meeting reconvened• New NCLGA President’s Address• Presentation from Host Community for 2026 NCLGA AGM and Convention• Community Leadership Awards• Lifetime Achievement Award
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	24. NCLGA Strategic Plan Update <p>Explore NCLGA accomplishments and priorities in this interactive session.</p> <p>SPEAKERS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gladys Atrill, NCLGA 1st Vice President• Terry Robert, NCLGA Executive Director
10:00 AM – 10:15 AM	Refreshment Break
10:15 AM – 11:00 AM	25. Plenary Session: Prince Rupert Port Authority Update
11:00 AM – 11:45 AM	26. Plenary Session: RoadSafeBC and ICBC: Intersection Safety Camera (ISC) Program <p>The Intersection Safety Camera (ISC) program in British Columbia is an automated traffic enforcement initiative aimed at reducing motor vehicle crashes at intersections, thereby decreasing injuries and fatalities. Established in 1999, it is a collaborative effort between the Province of BC, the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The program operates 140 digital cameras at high-risk intersections across BC, functioning 24/7. These locations were selected based on data analysis identifying intersections with frequent and severe collisions. Out of the 140 cameras, 105 monitor red light violations, while 35 are equipped to detect both red light and speeding violations.</p> <p>SPEAKERS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chad Stewart - Director of RoadSafety Systems, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General• Brad Truswell - Executive Director of the Business Integration and Enhanced Enforcement Programs, RoadSafetyBC
11:45 AM – 12:00 PM	27. Closing Ceremonies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Motion to conclude 2025 NCLGA AGM.



Speakers

Tuesday, May 13, 2025



Trish Mandewo

9:00AM - 9:30AM: SPEAKER, OPENING CEREMONIES

11:10AM - 11:40AM: PLENARY SESSION: TAKING STOCK OF THE TRADE WAR: LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACTS

Trish Mandewo was elected to the Coquitlam City Council in 2018 and is currently serving her second term. She has an extensive background in policy and governance, coupled with a solid track record of effective leadership. She ardently supports initiatives aimed at fostering sustainable development and improving the quality of life for British Columbians. Trish is unwavering in her commitment to encourage cooperation across all tiers of government, advocate for the diverse needs and interests of local communities, and pioneer innovative solutions to address the challenges faced by both urban and rural areas.

With her diverse background encompassing education in Microbiology, Embryology, and experience as an entrepreneur, Trish finds fulfillment in sharing her knowledge through mentoring, public speaking, writing, and serving as a business consultant through her company.

In her spare time, she relishes quality time with her husband, Alex, and their daughter, Alexandra. In addition, Trish indulges her passion for tennis and takes pleasure in exploring the local scenic trails.



Gary Maclsaac

11:10AM - 11:40AM: PLENARY SESSION: TAKING STOCK OF THE TRADE WAR: LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACTS

Gary is the Executive Director of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities – a position he has held since 2007.

Gary has spent his entire career in local government. He started his career as Clerk-Treasurer of a small town in Nova Scotia, spent five years in the City Clerks Department with the City of Vancouver in the mid-1990s, and spent 9 years as the CAO for a county government in Nova Scotia.

Gary has a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Dalhousie University.

In his capacity with UBCM Gary also serves on a variety of boards and committees. Among these appointments, he is a Trustee on the Municipal Pension Plan Board of Trustees, a UBCM representative on the Municipal Pension Plan Partners Working Group, Co-chair of the Green Communities Committee and Chair of the Gas Tax Management Committee.

Gary and his wife Marion live in Saanich. They have three children.



Gaagwiis Jason Alsop

1:10PM - 2:10PM: PLENARY SESSION: GAAYHLLXID/GÍIHLGALGANG “RISING TIDE” HAIDA TITLE LANDS AGREEMENT

Gaagwiis Jason Alsop is President of the Haida Nation. Elected Representative and President (2010-current).



Heinz Dyck

1:10PM - 2:10PM: PLENARY SESSION: GAAYHLLXID/GÍIHLGALGANG “RISING TIDE” HAIDA TITLE LANDS AGREEMENT

My career as a public servant began with the BC Government in 1990. All but a short time of my 35 years in government have been with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and its predecessor ministries. My focus has been on First Nation negotiations located on the west coast, including ones that have led to the Maa-nulth First Nations Treaty, 2018 shishalh Foundation Agreement, Rising Tide – Haida Title Land Agreement and the K'omoks Treaty. I have been the Chief Negotiator for the Coast Area since 2014. My wife, daughter, goldendoodle and I are at home in Central Saanich near Victoria, which is within the territory of the WSANEC peoples.



Daniel Fish

1:10PM - 2:10PM: PLENARY SESSION: GAAYHLLXID/GÍIHLGALGANG “RISING TIDE” HAIDA TITLE LANDS AGREEMENT

Daniel Fish is the Chief Administrative Officer for the North Coast Regional District where, under the direction of the Board, he leads strategic operations and supports governance across a diverse region. Daniel has worked with the NCRD since 2013.

Daniel strives to work grounded in place-based realities, and he plays a key role in supporting the NCRD's response to the evolving legal and governance landscape, including the recent recognition of Haida Title.



Carolyn Kamper

1:10PM - 2:10PM: PLENARY SESSION: GAAYHLLXID/GÍHLAGALGANG “RISING TIDE” HAIDA TITLE LANDS AGREEMENT

Carolyn Kamper is the Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) of the Negotiations and Regional Operations Division for the BC Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. She was appointed to her current role in July 2023 after serving as an ADM in the Ministry of Children and Family Development for approximately seven years. During her 20-plus year career with the BC Public Service, Carolyn has held various roles in climate action, energy, health, advanced education, child welfare, employment programming, as well as the Office of the Premier and provided leadership on stakeholder engagement and business transformation across the social, health and resource sectors. In addition to her professional experience in both the private and public sectors, Carolyn holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of Victoria and a Bachelor of Commerce from Royal Roads University. She is grateful to live and work in the traditional territories of the Lkwungen speaking peoples (Victoria).



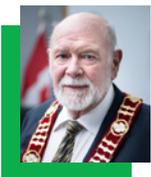
Barry Pages

1:10PM - 2:10PM: PLENARY SESSION: GAAYHLLXID/GÍHLAGALGANG “RISING TIDE” HAIDA TITLE LANDS AGREEMENT

Barry Pages is the Chair and Director representing the Village of Masset at the North Coast Regional District (NCRD). He has been serving as either a Councillor or the Mayor of Masset since he was first elected in 1993.

In addition to his role at the NCRD, Barry contributes to regional development as Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors for the Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) and Chair of the NDIT Northwest Regional Advisory Committee. Barry is also the Chair of the Northwest Regional Hospital District.

His leadership reflects a commitment to fostering growth and collaboration within the North Coast communities.



Knut Bjorndal

2:10PM - 2:50PM: PLENARY SESSION: HOST COMMUNITY UPDATES

Born in Bergen, Norway. At the age of three, my family moved to Canada. I grew up in Prince Rupert where I lived for 18 years. I attended University and completed a degree in Economics. I worked over the years in the fishing and in the forest industry. In 2006 I moved back to this region, Port Edward, where I met my wife Dianne Wampler; we have been married for 10 years and we love living in this area. Together we have four children and four grandchildren. Dianne and I enjoy boating and marine activities, hiking and walking.

I have served two previous terms on Council in Port Edward. I have been active in community organizations: the Prince Rupert and District Chamber of Commerce as well as the Rotary Club. As the Port Edward Mayor I am now on the following committees: (Northern Health, Northwest Regional Advisory Committee, Port Edward Harbour Authority).

I look forward to the next four years and what I can do to support and enhance our beautiful community.



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Herb Pond

2:10PM - 2:50PM: PLENARY SESSION: HOST COMMUNITY UPDATES

Mayor Herb Pond began his second foray into local government in 2022, after a 14-year sabbatical. He previously served as mayor through the tumultuous years of 2002 to 2008 and was first elected to Prince Rupert City Council in 1996. In the worst economic collapse on record and his team focused on driving down costs and attracting new employment, culminating in the opening of Fairview Container terminal in 2007. The Mayor credits partnerships as the key to the community's recovery - partnerships with labour, industry, First Nations, other communities, and senior governments. Inspired by the achievements of ensuing Councils, Mayor Pond re-entered political life to “help the community catch up to the successes of industry.”

Mayor Pond has actively volunteered since arriving in the community in 1988. He is currently involved on a number of boards involved in seniors' housing, student bursaries, community wellness and early childhood education. He has also served on provincial and national boards. Mayor Pond has broad industry experience in diverse sectors - forestry, transportation, tourism, energy - and has owned several small businesses.

He and his wife Sandy, an administrator with School District 52, raised four children in Prince Rupert and are currently exploring the joys of long-distance grandparenting.



Tim Pley

2:50PM - 3:50PM: CONCURRENT PANEL SESSION 8A: THE VOLUNTEER/PAID ON CALL FIREFIGHTING SECTOR – HOW TO SUCCEED IN A CHANGING ENVIROMENT

Tim Pley is a local government fire protection service delivery subject matter expert. Having worked as a municipal fire chief and then as a CAO, Tim has a broad understanding of the challenges and opportunities related to delivery of local government fire protection services.

While working as a fire chief, Tim served for three years as president of the Fire Chiefs' Association of BC ("FCABC"), where he led in developing and implementing the BC Structure Firefighter Minimum Training Standards ("The Playbook"). In his seven years working as a CAO, Tim advised many other CAOs on fire department matters.

Tim formed Tim Pley & Associates ("TPA") in 2021, when he retired from public service. TPA is a privately-held British Columbia company that offers independent consulting for local governments on a wide range of emergency management and fire service issues, as well as providing project management and administrative assistance. In that time, the TPA team has worked on more than 20 projects for local governments.

Tim is a regular speaker at the FCABC's annual conference, a confidential advisor to many Fire Chiefs and CAOs, and possesses a uniquely informed perspective on fire protection services.



Neil Godbout

2:50PM - 3:50PM: CONCURRENT PANEL SESSION 8B: NCLGA/NORTHERN CHAMBERS COLLABORATION ON RESOLUTIONS

Neil Godbout is the Executive Director of the Prince George Chamber of Commerce, a business association with 530 members offering support through benefits, HR guidance, advocacy, networking, a speaker series, an annual business development forum, and other specialized training opportunities. Before joining the Chamber last year, Neil's work as a journalist at the Prince George Citizen received provincial and national recognition, including a National Newspaper Award nomination (Canada's equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize) for editorial writing, and a Ma Murray Award for editorial writing from the B.C./Yukon Community Newspaper Association. He's a proud graduate of the University of Northern BC (M.A., Natural Resources and Environmental Studies) and currently serves on the UNBC Alumni Council.



Jerrilyn Kirk

2:50PM - 3:50PM: CONCURRENT PANEL SESSION 8B: NCLGA/NORTHERN CHAMBERS COLLABORATION ON RESOLUTIONS

Jerrilyn Kirk is a dedicated advocate for businesses, communities, and cultural understanding. As the Executive Director of the Tumbler Ridge Chamber of Commerce. In addition to her Chamber role, Jerrilyn serves as the Cultural Competency Coordinator for the Carrier and Sekani Nations, working to promote cultural agility and reconciliation.

Jerrilyn is also privileged to be involved in local government, representing Area G on the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George and serving on the boards of NCLGA, UBCM, and FCM. Through these roles, she passionately advocates for businesses and rural communities, ensuring voices are heard at all levels of government.

With a strong commitment to building connections and strengthening communities, Jerrilyn considers it a privilege to advocate for those she represents.



Brian Frenkel

2:50PM - 3:50PM: CONCURRENT PANEL SESSION 8C: MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTED OFFICIALS

Brian Frenkel is a well-known figure in Vanderhoof, British Columbia, recognized for his extensive contributions to local government and the community. Born and raised in northern BC, Frenkel has over four decades of experience in forestry and environmental consulting, as well as local politics. He has been involved in major initiatives across BC, reflecting his deep commitment to sustainable practices and rural development.

Frenkel has served as a councillor for Vanderhoof for 25 years, advocating for northern communities and rural issues. He held leadership roles in the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) and the North Central Local Government Association, contributing to important provincial policies.

Throughout his career, Frenkel has emphasized the importance of sustainable development, community involvement, and forward-thinking leadership. He continues to inspire others to engage in public service and advocate for the betterment of their communities. His ability to navigate complex challenges while fostering collaboration between diverse stakeholders reflects his commitment to creating a prosperous and sustainable future for rural and northern regions.



Terry Robert

2:50 - 3:50PM: MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTED OFFICIALS

Terry Robert is the Executive Director of the North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA), representing over 240 elected officials from more than 40 local and First Nation governments across North Central BC. He leads strategic advocacy, governance support, and regional collaboration on key issues such as housing, healthcare, and infrastructure. Terry also serves as Director of Interior Regional Programs with the Fraser Basin Council, aligning local and regional initiatives to strengthen community resilience. With over 20 years of experience, he is known for his work in public engagement, Indigenous partnerships, and multi-stakeholder facilitation. His focus is on advancing practical, community-driven solutions.



Teri Forster

2:50 - 3:50PM: CONCURRENT PANEL SESSION 8D: TAKING ACTION TO ADDRESS BC'S HEALTH-CARE CHALLENGES

As a nurse, community leader, and passionate advocate, Teri Forster (she/her/hers/elle) has been a tireless voice for women, people with disabilities and working families, representing and advocating for diverse groups of people. A long-standing elected union leader with the BC Nurses Union, Teri has fought to advance worker rights and ensure the highest standard of care for patients. She is also a first-term City Councillor in Prince Rupert and does extensive volunteer work with animal welfare groups and mentorship of at-risk youth.



Danette Thomsen

2:50 - 3:50PM: CONCURRENT PANEL SESSION 8D: TAKING ACTION TO ADDRESS BC'S HEALTH-CARE CHALLENGES

Over her 18 years of nursing, Danette Thomsen (she/her/hers) has witnessed the impact of inequitable health-care delivery on both nurses and patients in BC's north. She is a fierce advocate for safe staffing to improve both nurse satisfaction and patient outcomes. Danette believes northern communities can attract families and workers from all industries by ensuring everyone has access to the high-quality health care we all need and deserve. She is currently serving her third term elected to the BC Nurses' Union's Council.

Wednesday, May 14, 2025



Gaëtane Carignan

9:15AM - 10:15AM: PLENARY SESSION: BUILDING BRIDGES: CLIMATE ADAPTATION, HOUSING, AND RECONCILIATION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Gaëtane is dedicated to supporting First Nations communities by offering her skills and experience in energy retrofits and climate leadership initiatives. With over 15 years of expertise in stakeholder engagement, she has led capacity-building initiatives like "Building A Legacy North", fostering energy performance training and supporting implementation of Energy and Zero Carbon Step Codes. Her work in northwest BC has helped enhance energy knowledge and inform Nisga'a Nation's ambitious energy retrofitting projects, while emphasizing the co-benefits of healthier, more durable, and more climate resilient homes. Gaëtane is privileged to learn from, and work closely with, Kaitlyn Robinson and other Nisga'a colleagues within a supportive two-way mentorship arrangement.



Kaitlyn Robinson

9:15AM - 10:15AM: PLENARY SESSION: BUILDING BRIDGES: CLIMATE ADAPTATION, HOUSING, AND RECONCILIATION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Kaitlyn is from the Nisga'a community of Gitlaxt'aamiks and serves as the Climate Action Coordinator within the Capital, Housing and Facilities Operations directorate of the Nisga'a Lisims Government. Her administrative background, ongoing climate leadership training through Simon Fraser University, mentorship with Indigenous Clean Energy's "Bringing It Home Accelerator" program and working closely with Community Energy Association allows her to utilize diverse skillsets to oversee inter-related climate initiatives taking place in Nisga'a Nation. These initiatives include: a GHG inventory, low carbon transportation planning, large-scale energy retrofits programs, and climate leadership communications and engagement. Kaitlyn is a strong advocate for energy and climate action on Nisga'a lands and is committed to ongoing learning and growth in this space.



Corinne Bomben

10:15AM - 10:45AM: PLENARY SESSION: TALE OF A TAX SALE (WATSON ISLAND)

Corinne Bomben is the Chief Financial Officer at the City of Prince Rupert. Growing up in Prince Rupert, a small but mighty hub of international trade, inspired her to pursue education in international business. This education and perspective has lent itself well to her active support for objectives for the municipality to keep pace with industrial growth, as articulated in Council's strategic plan. As a designated Chartered Professional Accountant, Corinne believes whole-heartedly in an approach to local government finance where decision making prioritizes the residents of today and tomorrow. The innovative approach the City has taken to revitalizing Watson Island is a critical example of that perspective in action.



Gord Klassen

11:00AM - 11:10AM: PLENARY SESSION: UPDATES FROM THE MUNICIPAL INSURANCE AGENCY OF BC (MIABC)

11:20AM - 11:25AM: PLENARY SESSION: UPDATES FROM THE NORTHERN MEDICAL PROGRAMS TRUST (NMPT)

Gord Klassen is in his fourth term as City Councillor in Fort St. John and is currently in his 6th year as a Board member of the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM).

Gord has represented the NCLGA on the Board of the Municipal Insurance Association of BC (MIABC) since 2016, where he has served on the Governance, Insurance, Finance, and Member Services Committees.

During his years as a City Councillor, as well as his time on the NCLGA board, including a year as NCLGA president, he has seen the unique challenges and opportunities that we face, as local governments, in our part of the province. And he brings that NCLGA perspective to the MIABC. While he works hard with the MIABC Board and staff for the benefit of all members, he does so through the lens of someone who comes from the North Central region.

As a local government leader, Gord is pleased that, by providing stable liability and property insurance, outreach programs, and expert advice, the MIABC gives members the dependable support they need to maintain the vibrancy and vitality of their communities.



Jordan Barrett

11:00AM - 11:10AM: PLENARY SESSION: UPDATES FROM THE NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES TRUST (NDIT)

Jordan is a Manager, Partner Programs at Northern Development Initiative Trust and oversees several funding programs that support projects throughout the North ranging from transportation, agriculture, housing, childcare and more.

Northern Development is an independent, non-profit corporation; a catalyst that stimulates economic growth through investments in grassroots, community-led projects. Northern Development has numerous funding programs that can support local and First Nation governments, community organizations and small-to-medium businesses.

In 2016, Jordan moved from Vancouver Island to Prince George and completed her Bachelor of Arts majoring in Environmental Studies and Political Science at the University of Northern British Columbia in 2020. Following a one-year local government internship, she joined the Trust as a Partner Programs Coordinator. One of the most enjoyable aspects of her job is being able to travel through the North, meeting with local and First Nation governments, community organizations and individuals to learn about potential projects and see those projects come to fruition.



Donald Lidstone

11:25AM - 12:10AM: PLENARY SESSION: REGIONAL DISTRICTS - LEGISLATIVE REFORM

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.



Tyler Banick

2:15PM - 3:00PM: PLENARY SESSION: CN MOVING THE ECONOMY SAFELY

Tyler Banick joined CN in Edmonton in 2011 as a Conductor within the Transportation Department. In April 2020, Tyler was promoted to Manager, Public Affairs for Alberta, British Columbia, and the NWT and relocated to BC in 2023, to focus on building out stakeholder relations within the Province.



Stella Karnis

2:15PM - 3:00PM: PLENARY SESSION: CN MOVING THE ECONOMY SAFELY

Stella Karnis has more than 30 years of experience in the Environmental field, with 25 in the transportation industry. Stella Karnis was appointed Sr Director Environment in July 2022. She is responsible for driving CN's environmental strategy and has accountability for environmental matters for the company.

Stella Karnis is the current Chair of the Railroad Association of Canada (RAC) Environmental Committee and a member of the Association of American Railroads Environmental Committee. Stella Karnis is the co-founder and current Board member of the Sustainable Remediation Forum (SuRF) Canada a non-profit technical group promoting "sustainable remediation" in Canada. For nearly 10 years, she served as the Canadian representative on the International Sustainable Remediation Forum.

Stella Karnis holds an Honours Bachelor of Environmental Studies from the University of Waterloo and a Masters in Environment from the University of Sherbrooke.



Blair Mirau

3:30 - 4:30 PM: PLENARY SESSION: GITXAALA ENTERPRISES CORPORATION: INVESTING IN PRINCE RUPERT'S FUTURE

Blair joined Gitxaala Enterprises Corporation as Director of Business Development in September 2024 where he is responsible for overseeing the growth of Gitxaala's Prince Rupert-based businesses including the Crest Hotel, Chances Prince Rupert, RONA Building Centre, and Saltwater Bakery.

Born-and-raised in Prince Rupert, Blair Mirau has a distinguished career in public service, having served on Prince Rupert City Council from 2014 to 2022. He spent the last 12 years establishing an economic development corporation for the Gitmaxmak'ay Nisga'a, growing to employ 50 people across 5 locations and earning the 2021 BC Indigenous Community-Owned Business of the Year Award. His previous role as grant writer at City Hall resulted in over \$1 million towards the award-winning Cow Bay Marina project.

Blair was previously recognized as one of BC Business's Top 30 Under 30 and holds a Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from Royal Roads University, as well as a Bachelor's degree in International Development from the University of Winnipeg.



Janet Austin

6:45PM: KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The Honourable Janet Austin served seven years as the 30th Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, from 2018 to 2025. During her mandate, she championed Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, promoted the importance of respect for diversity, equity and inclusion in all aspects of Canadian society, and worked actively to uphold Canadian democracy and encourage participation in civil society.

Prior to her service as Lieutenant Governor, she spent 15 years as Chief Executive Officer of the YWCA Metro Vancouver, one of the province's largest and most diversified non-profits. There she oversaw operations delivering services to tens of thousands of people annually at more than 40 locations. Under her leadership, the reach and scope of services offered by the YWCA increased significantly and flourished under the social enterprise model she championed. Using solutions oriented and collaborative advocacy, she positioned the YWCA as a leading voice on gender equality and social justice.

Janet has also served many organizations in commitment to improving the lives of others, including: TransLink, the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade, the Canadian Paediatric Society, the Council for Early Child Development, the Women's Health Research Institute, MOSAIC, the Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation and many others.

Upon retiring from the role of Lieutenant Governor, she continues to support various community initiatives, with a particular emphasis on climate, upholding democracy, and encouraging constructive conversations among people with diverse views.

Thursday, May 15, 2025



Chad Stewart

11:00AM - 11:45AM: PLENARY SESSION: ROADS SAFE BC AND ICBC: INTERSECTION SAFETY CAMERA (ISC) PROGRAM

Chad Stewart is the Director of Road Safety Systems for the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. He is responsible for the intersection Safety Camera Program. Prior to serving this role, Chad served as the Executive Director of the British Columbia Electoral Boundaries Commission and was also the General Manager of Operations for CivicInfo BC.



Brad Truswell

11:00AM - 11:45AM: PLENARY SESSION: ROADS SAFE BC AND ICBC: INTERSECTION SAFETY CAMERA (ISC) PROGRAM

Brad Truswell has been with Road Safety BC since June 2021, when he joined as a Director with the Road Safety initiative. Since then, he has grown within the organization, taking on the role of Executive Director of the Business Integration and Enhanced Enforcement Programs.

He holds an education in professional communications and has previously held roles with the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction.



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