



Walking Together

Honouring Relationships,
Leading Change

2026 AGM &
Conference Program
May 20-22, 2026

Resources



LOCATION

Prince George Conference and Civic Centre
808 Canada Games Way,
Prince George, BC V2L 5T6



EVENT REGISTRATION DESK HOURS

Wednesday, May 20, 2026 – 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 21, 2026 – 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Friday, May 22, 2026 – 7:30 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.



ELECTION VOTING HOURS

Thursday, May 21, 2026 – 12:45 – 3:30 p.m.



WIFI

Network: PGCC Events
Password: PGCC2@26



DELEGATE HOTELS

Ramada Hotel

444 George St., Prince George, BC, V2L 1R6

Courtyard by Marriott

900 Brunswick St, Prince George, BC V2L 0E3



LOCAL TAXI

Prince George Taxi (250) 564-4444

Emerald Taxi (250) 563-3333

Centre City Cabs (250) 564-4444



EVENT PARKING

Scan the code for parking details



**NCLGA
STAFF
EMAILS**



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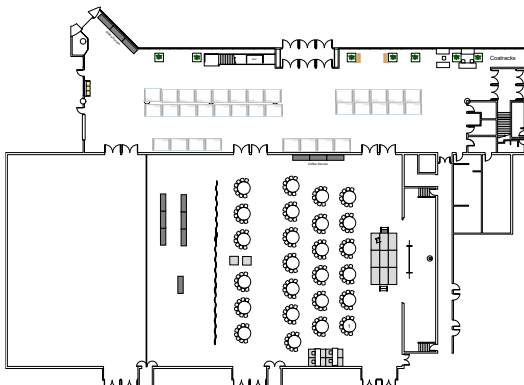
Bettina Johnson
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NCLGA AGM Floor Plan

Lower Level



Upper Level

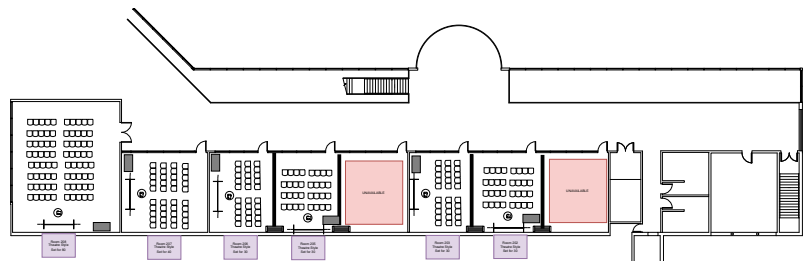


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ABOUT NCLGA

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

The NCLGA 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

LinkedIn:
www.linkedin.com/company/north-central-local-government-association-nclga/

Twitter: @NCLGA

Website: www.nclga.com



NCLGA Welcome



What a pleasure is it to welcome you all to the 2026 NCLGA AGM and Convention. On behalf of the NCLGA Board of Directors and the conference Planning Committee, I invite you to participate fully in the business sessions and social hours. This event is a time to learn together through sharing stories, challenges, and solutions.

Since we last gathered in Prince Rupert, much has changed in the world, increasing uncertainty for all of us and our residents. With that backdrop, the conference Planning Committee has worked hard to create a meaningful program for you. Our conference theme: “Walking Together: Honouring Relationships, Leading Change,” speaks to me about the strength of leadership that we all need now. Walking alongside one another creates trust and makes us stronger. Honouring old and new relationships builds community. Leading change is simply what we must do.

It has been my pleasure to serve as NCLGA President for the last year and I look forward to connecting with you over the next few days.

Again, welcome to AGM 2026, on the territory of the Lheidli T'enneh, in our beautiful host City of Prince George, in the midst of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George.

Wishing you a great convention,

Gladys Atrill

President, NCLGA

Co-Hosts Welcomes



On behalf of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, our elders, youth, and Council members, I am honoured to welcome delegates, leaders, partners, and guests to the NCLGA AGM and Annual Conference here on our traditional, unceded, and ancestral lands.

This year's theme, “Walking Together: Honouring Relationships, Leading Change,” reflects the importance of partnership, respect, and shared purpose in building strong and resilient communities across Northern British Columbia. As local governments, Indigenous Nations, organizations, and community leaders gather, we are reminded that meaningful progress is achieved when we listen to one another, learn from one another, and move forward together in a spirit of collaboration.

We recognize the work being done throughout our region with the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George and the City of Prince George is a benchmark for strengthening community, advancing reconciliation, and creating opportunities for future generations. We are inspired daily by this work.

These next few days together present the opportunity to continue learning from one another, while exploring our shared commitments to a productive and prosperous future.

Dolleen Logan

Chief, Lheidli T'enneh First Nation



The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George is pleased to welcome you to the 2026 North Central Local Government Association Annual General Meeting and Convention as a co-host with the City of Prince George and the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation. The regional boundaries include seven electoral areas, the communities of Mackenzie, McBride, Valemount, and Prince George and the traditional territories of several Indigenous Nations.

This year's theme is “Walking Together: Honouring Relationships, Leading Change,” and as co-hosts we are proud to embody these principles. Bringing together elected officials from across north central BC extends this theme and presents a unique opportunity to collaborate on the issues that we share. When we honour each other and walk together, we will go farther in leading the change we want to see.

There are some great tours and events throughout the Annual General Meeting and Convention that showcase the collaboration and innovation in the region and provide opportunities to catch up with friends and colleagues. We trust that you will experience and enjoy as much as you can over these few days.

Lara Beckett

Chair, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George



On behalf of the City of Prince George, it is a pleasure to welcome all the delegates to the 2026 North Central Local Government (NCLGA) Convention and AGM. We are delighted to cohost this event with the Lheidli T'enneh Nation and the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George to emphasize this year's theme: “Walking Together: Honouring Relationships, Leading Change.”

Your presence reflects the commitment NCLGA members bring to addressing complex regional challenges and advancing practical, locally driven solutions for the north.

We hope the time spent together is productive and engaging and further bonds the spirit of collaboration across the north central local governments to form a stronger voice in British Columbia.

Simon Yu

Mayor, City of Prince George



NCLGA Board of Directors 2025-2026



Gladys Atrill
Mayor,
Town of Smithers
President



Melanie Woods
Councillor, Nisga'a
Village of Gitlaxt'aamiks
Director at Large



Judy Greenaway
Director, Regional District
of Fraser-Fort George
*Appointed Regional Representative
Bulkley-Nechako Regional District*



Tony Zabinsky
Councillor,
City of Fort St. John
1st Vice President



Jesse Wright
Councillor,
District of Mackenzie
Director at Large



Leonard Hiebert
Vice Chair, Regional
District of Peace River
*Appointed Regional Representative
Peace River Regional District*



Kyle MacDonald
Councillor,
City of Dawson Creek
2nd Vice President



Barry Cunningham
Councillor,
City of Prince Rupert
*Appointed Regional Representative
North Coast Regional District*



Jerrilyn Kirk
Director, Regional District
of Fraser-Fort George
*Appointed Regional Representative
Fraser-Fort George Regional District*



Judy Greenaway
Director, Regional District
of Fraser-Fort George
Past President



Eric de Vries
Director, Cariboo
Regional District
*Appointed Regional Representative
Cariboo Regional District*



Julie Maitland
Mayor,
Village of Hazelton
*Appointed Regional Representative
Kitimat-Stikine Regional District*



Julia Nelson
Councillor,
District of Chetwynd
Director at Large



Brenda Enax
Councillor, Northern Rockies
Regional Municipality
*Appointed Regional Representative
Northern Rockies Regional District*



Agenda

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

TIME	EVENT
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM	Registration Opens for NCLGA AGM and Convention Trade Show set up
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Northern Health Forum, hosted by Northern Health
12:30 PM – 4:30 PM	Tours Public Safety Operations Building/Emergency Support Services and Public Safety Infrastructure A tour of the Public Safety Operations Building (PSOB) currently housing the Emergency Operations Center, the Fraser-Fort George Regional Fire Dispatch Service and Communications Infrastructure Room, and future location of the Fraser-Fort George 9-1-1 Call-Answer Service. Public Safety staff will discuss the nuances of operations and services provided in each area. Participants can then expect to experience a staged evacuation registration process at the Prince George ESS Reception Centre. The tour will showcase the Reception Centre and the Incident Command Centre where staff will explain what municipalities are responsible for during an emergency under the Provincial Emergency and Disaster Management Act. Prince George staff will also highlight how they support surrounding communities in times of emergency. Ancient Forest Interpretive Centre Delegates will visit the newly completed Ancient Forest Interpretive Centre and experience a guided walk along the iconic Ancient Forest boardwalk. The tour includes a walkthrough of the approximately 4,500 sq. ft. Interpretive Centre, highlighting its programming spaces, design intent, and cultural and educational features. Participants will then explore the universally accessible boardwalk trail, walking through an old-growth cedar forest. The experience offers a unique opportunity to learn about Indigenous-led tourism, conservation, and infrastructure development in a nationally significant ecosystem. Prince George Energy Leadership Tour This tour will highlight public and private facilities in Prince George that are unique Canadian energy leadership initiatives. From government infrastructure incorporating advanced energy-efficiency systems to private industrial operations showcasing renewable energy technologies, the tour illustrates how Prince George is positioning itself as a national leader in practical, community-driven climate action. These facilities showcase Prince George's efforts in reducing emissions, improving resilience, and building a model for energy stewardship that other communities can learn from.
6:00 PM	1. NCLGA Evening Gala <i>Emcee: Gladys Atrill, NCLGA President</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome (NCLGA and Co-Hosts)• Recognition of members who have passed away, current Board, and past Presidents• Dinner starts at 6:20 p.m.
7:00 PM	2. Keynote Address <i>Speaker: Dr. Daniel Sims, UNBC</i>



Thursday, May 21, 2026

TIME	EVENT
7:30 AM – 8:30 AM	Breakfast
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM	Registration Open
8:30 AM – 9:15 AM	3. Opening Ceremonies <i>Emcee: Gladys Atrill, NCLGA President</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Traditional Opening – Drum Group• O’Canada• NCLGA President’s Welcome• Welcome video from Minister Boyle• Moment of Silence (in recognition of communities facing significant challenges)• Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Welcome – UBCM President, Cori Ramsay
9:15 AM – 9:30 AM	4. Annual General Meeting <i>Moderated by: Gladys Atrill, NCLGA President</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Call Meeting to Order• Approval of Agenda and Previous AGM Minutes• President’s Report
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	5. Financial Report <i>Moderated by: Tony Zabinsky, NCLGA 1st Vice President, and Terry Robert, NCLGA Executive Director</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review and Approval of Budget• Approval of 2025-2026 Budget vs Actuals• Approval of Notice to Reader• Approval of 2026-2027 Membership Fees
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	6. Finance Engagement Session <i>Moderated by: Tony Zabinsky, NCLGA 1st Vice President, and Terry Robert, NCLGA Executive Director</i> <p>Summary: This session will provide a brief overview of NCLGA’s current financial planning work, including key priorities and future direction.</p> <p>The primary focus will be on the ongoing review of the NCLGA membership fee model, including the rationale for exploring potential changes, key principles under consideration, and preliminary concepts. Delegates will have an opportunity to provide feedback to help inform future recommendations.</p>
10:30 AM – 10:35 AM	7. Board Nominations Report <i>Moderated by: Judy Greenaway, NCLGA Past President</i>

Thursday, May 21, 2026 (continued)

TIME	EVENT
10:35 AM – 10:45 AM	Refreshment Break
10:45 AM – 11:15 AM	<p>8. Executive and Director at Large Nominations <i>Moderated by: Judy Greenaway, NCLGA Past President</i></p> <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
11:15 AM – 12:45 PM	<p>9. Resolutions Session (Part 1) <i>Moderated by: Jesse Wright, Co-Chair of the Resolutions Committee</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of Resolution Process • Operational, Executive, and Regular Resolutions
12:45 PM – 1:45 PM	Lunch
12:45 PM	POLLS OPEN
12:45 PM – 1:45 PM	Optional Auxiliary Session: CAO Networking Lunch
1:45 PM – 2:45 PM	<p>10. UBCM Board Governance Review <i>Mayor Simon Yu (TBC)</i></p> <p>Summary: Update and engagement on the UBCM governance review process, which responds to recent requests from the membership through resolutions and direct correspondence. The governance review focuses on representation of the range of UBCM members as reflected in the composition of the UBCM Executive board and the name of the organization.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gary MacIsaac, Executive Director, UBCM • Allan Neilson, Principal, Neilson Strategies <p>Adjourn Business Session until Friday, May 22, 2026</p>
2:50 PM – 3:50 PM	<p>11. CONCURRENT SESSIONS</p> <p style="text-align: right;"></p>
2:50 PM – 3:50 PM	<p>Concurrent Session 11A: Theme: Mental Health <i>Subject: Mental Health Supports for Youth</i> <i>Introduced by: Kyle MacDonald, NCLGA 2nd Vice President</i></p> <p>Summary: Early childhood mental health intervention is an upstream, preventative approach that is often underfunded and underrepresented in campaign platforms in Northern British Columbia. Research on unhoused populations, opioid and addictions crisis, and community wide catastrophes point to a common denominator of lack of mental health support and interventions for child and youth mental health. Studies indicate early intervention leads to better long- and short-term prognosis for those with adverse childhood experiences. Those left without intervention often fall within the cracks of society and are left in cycles of incarceration, addictions, hospitalizations and crisis. Involving early childhood mental health interventions in political conversations is vital to the overall health of our population and is meeting the problems of our society at the source.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jenny Plouffe, Therapist/Clinical Supervisor, Intersect Youth and Family Services • Rebecca Pozer, Clinical Supervisor, Intersect Youth and Family Services
2:50 PM – 3:50 PM	<p>Concurrent Session 11B: Theme: Agriculture <i>Subject: Agriculture</i> <i>Introduced by: Leonard Hiebert, NCLGA Board Director</i></p> <p>Summary: Discussion on Foreign and Non-Resident Agriculture Land ownership, and the recent impacts of budget cuts on the ALC and ALC no longer being the primary focus of impacts to agricultural land from large energy projects.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dannielle Alan, Director, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George • Mark Parker, Chair, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

TIME	EVENT
2:50 PM – 3:50 PM	<p>Concurrent Session 11C: Theme: Tourism <i>Subject: Tourism in Northern BC</i></p> <p>Summary: This session will explore Tourism in north central BC and the economic benefits tourism brings to northern communities. <i>Speaker: Clint Fraser, CEO, Northern BC Tourism</i></p>
2:50 PM – 3:50 PM	<p>Concurrent Session 11D: Theme: Corridor Restoration <i>Title: Stream and River Corridor Restoration</i> <i>Introduced by: RDFFG or LTFN (TBC)</i></p> <p>Summary: The presentation explores river corridors and how removal of vegetation and stream alterations over the past 100 years have lead to several modern day problems for people, fish and wildlife. Extensive soil bioengineering demonstrations lead by Lheidli T'enneh over the past decade has reversed many of these negative consequences and serves as a template for planners and government where erosion associated with river processes is in conflict with current landuse. <i>Speaker: Chelton Van Geloven, Lheidli T'enneh First Nation</i></p>
2:50 PM – 3:50 PM	<p>Concurrent Session 11E: Theme: Recreation and Sport in Northern BC <i>Title: Recreation and Sport in Northern BC</i> <i>Introduced by: Jesse Wright, NCLGA Board Director</i></p> <p>Summary: Engage Sport North has been supporting sport, recreation, and physical activity across Northern BC for over 30 years. Established by the Province, it exists to help northern communities strengthen local delivery systems and connect them to the broader provincial sport and physical activity strategy.</p> <p>This session will highlight successful partnership models that municipalities could replicate or adapt and how municipalities can partner with Engage Sport North to increase program quality, reduce costs, and build sustainable, community-based recreation opportunities. These partnerships are already making a measurable difference—enhancing physical literacy at an early age, supporting preventative health, and creating pathways for youth to excel in sport and /or stay active and engaged in the North. <i>Speaker: Sarah Saunders, Executive Director, Engage Sports North</i></p>
3:30 PM	POLLS CLOSE
3:50 PM – 4:05 PM	Refreshment Break
4:05 PM – 5:05 PM	12. CONCURRENT SESSIONS, CONTINUED
4:05 PM – 5:05 PM	<p>Concurrent Session 12A: Theme: Theme: Mental Health <i>Subject: Mental Health Supports for Youth</i> <i>Introduced by: Kyle MacDonald, NCLGA 2nd Vice President</i></p> <p>Summary: Early childhood mental health intervention is an upstream, preventative approach that is often underfunded and underrepresented in campaign platforms in Northern British Columbia. Research on unhoused populations, opioid and addictions crisis, and community wide catastrophes point to a common denominator of lack of mental health support and interventions for child and youth mental health. Studies indicate early intervention leads to better long- and short-term prognosis for those with adverse childhood experiences. Those left without intervention often fall within the cracks of society and are left in cycles of incarceration, addictions, hospitalizations and crisis. Involving early childhood mental health interventions in political conversations is vital to the overall health of our population and is meeting the problems of our society at the source. <i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jenny Plouffe, Therapist/Clinical Supervisor, Intersect Youth and Family Services • Rebecca Pozer, Clinical Supervisor, Intersect Youth and Family Services

Thursday, May 21, 2026 (continued)

TIME	EVENT
4:05 PM – 5:05 PM	<p>Concurrent Session 12B: Theme: Agriculture</p> <p><i>Subject: Agriculture</i></p> <p><i>Introduced by: Leonard Hiebert, NCLGA Board Director</i></p> <p>Summary: Discussion on Foreign and Non-Resident Agriculture Land ownership, and the recent impacts of budget cuts on the ALC and ALC no longer being the primary focus of impacts to agricultural land from large energy projects.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Danielle Alan, Director, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George</i>• <i>Mark Parker, Chair, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako</i>
4:05 PM – 5:05 PM	<p>Concurrent Session 12C: Theme: Tourism</p> <p><i>Subject: Tourism in Northern BC</i></p> <p>Summary: This session will explore Tourism in north central BC and the economic benefits tourism brings to northern communities.</p> <p><i>Speaker: Clint Fraser, CEO, Northern BC Tourism</i></p>
4:05 PM – 5:05 PM	<p>Concurrent Session 12D: Theme: Corridor Restoration</p> <p><i>Title: Stream and River Corridor Restoration</i></p> <p><i>RDFFG or LTFN (TBC)</i></p> <p>Summary: The presentation explores river corridors and how removal of vegetation and stream alterations over the past 100 years have lead to several modern day problems for people, fish and wildlife. Extensive soil bioengineering demonstrations lead by Lheidli T'enneh over the past decade has reversed many of these negative consequences and serves as a template for planners and government where erosion associated with river processes is in conflict with current landuse.</p> <p><i>Speaker: Chelton Van Geloven, Lheidli T'enneh First Nation</i></p>
4:05 PM – 5:05 PM	<p>Concurrent Session 12E: Theme: Recreation and Sport in Northern BC</p> <p><i>Title: Recreation and Sport in Northern BC</i></p> <p><i>Introduced by: Jesse Wright, NCLGA Board Director</i></p> <p>Summary: Engage Sport North has been supporting sport, recreation, and physical activity across Northern BC for over 30 years. Established by the Province, it exists to help northern communities strengthen local delivery systems and connect them to the broader provincial sport and physical activity strategy.</p> <p>This session will highlight successful partnership models that municipalities could replicate or adapt and how municipalities can partner with Engage Sport North to increase program quality, reduce costs, and build sustainable, community-based recreation opportunities. These partnerships are already making a measurable difference—enhancing physical literacy at an early age, supporting preventative health, and creating pathways for youth to excel in sport and /or stay active and engaged in the North.</p> <p><i>Speaker: Sarah Saunders, Executive Director, Engage Sports North</i></p>
4:05 PM – 5:05 PM	<p>Concurrent Session 12F: Theme: Social Services</p> <p><i>Subject: Indigenous Diversion Center</i></p> <p>Summary: The BC First Nations Justice Council (BCFNJC) officially opened the Indigenous Diversion Centre (IDC) on Lheidli T'enneh territory (in Prince George, BC) on October 14, 2025. The IDC is a first of its kind in Canada, hosting an innovative pilot program that will divert Indigenous people from criminal justice system involvement and instead offer pathways to accountability, healing and support. With financial support from Public Safety Canada's Northern and Indigenous Crime Prevention Fund, the IDC offers First Nations, Métis and Inuit adults residing in Prince George diversion through two streams: pre-charge and post-release. These programs follow both clinical and Indigenous ceremonial modalities that focus on the root causes of offending by providing a caring, cultural environment where true healing can occur. Diversion is a key to reducing the overincarceration of Indigenous people as it provides a community-based alternative to the traditional justice system, helping Indigenous people in conflict with the law avoid the cycle of arrest, prosecution and incarceration. Strategy 1 of the BC First Nations Justice Strategy, developed in collaboration between the 204 First Nations of BC and the Province, aims to embed the presumption of diversion at every point of interaction an Indigenous person has with the justice system.</p> <p><i>Speaker: Miranda Seymour, Diversion Legal & Policy Advisor, BC First Nations Justice Council</i></p>
5:30 PM	<p>Party in the Plaza – optional event</p>

Friday, May 22, 2026

TIME	EVENT
7:30 AM – 8:30 AM	Breakfast
7:30 AM – 3:45 PM	Registration Open
8:30 AM – 9:15 AM	13. Reflections of Day 2 <i>Emcee: Gladys Atrill, NCLGA President</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Business meeting reconvened• Announcement of 2026/2027 NCLGA Board of Directors• Community Leadership Award• Lifetime Achievement Award• Appreciation for Mental Health and Addictions Accord Signatories
9:15 AM – 9:45 AM	14. Ministers Panel <i>Introduced by: Gladys Atrill, NCLGA President</i> <i>Speaker: The Honourable Brittany Anderson, Minister of State for Local Governments and Rural Communities</i>
9:45 AM – 10:00 AM	15. Official Opposition <i>Introduced by: Tony Zabinsky, NCLGA 1st Vice President</i> <i>Speaker: Trevor Halford, Interim Leader of the Opposition, MLA for Surrey-White Rock</i>
10:00 AM – 10:15 AM	16. Strategic Plan Update <i>Moderated by: Terry Robert, Executive Director, and Kyle MacDonald, NCLGA 2nd Vice President</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2023-2026 Strategic Plan Update• Approval of the 2027-2030 Strategic Plan
10:15 AM – 10:30 AM	Refreshment Break
10:30 AM – 10:40 AM	17. NDIT <i>Title: Updates from NDIT</i> <i>Speaker: Anna Duff, Director of Communications</i>
10:40 AM – 10:50 AM	18. Northern Medical Programs Trust <i>Title: Updates from NMPT</i> <i>Speaker: Gord Klassen, President, Northern Medical Programs Trust</i>
10:50 AM – 11:00 AM	19. MIABC <i>Title: Updates from MIABC</i> <i>Speaker: Gord Klassen, NCLGA Representative on the MIABC Board</i>
11:00 AM – 12:45 PM	20. Resolutions Session (Part 2) Continued <i>Moderated by: Jesse Wright, Co-Chair of the Resolutions Committee</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vote on Operational, Executive, and Regular Resolutions• Vote on Late Resolutions (time permitting)• Vote on Off the Floor Resolutions (time permitting) <i>*(if all resolutions are completed, motion to amend agenda to next consider items 18 and 19 following lunch)</i>
12:45 PM – 1:30 PM	Lunch



Friday, May 22, 2026 (continued)

TIME	EVENT
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	21. Resolutions Session (Part 3) Continued (if needed) <i>Moderated by: Jesse Wright, Co-Chair of the Resolutions Committee</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vote on Executive and Regular Resolutions• Vote on Late Resolutions (time permitting)• Vote on Off the Floor Resolutions (time permitting)
2:30 PM – 3:30 PM <i>(or 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM if no further resolutions)</i>	22. Co-Host Updates <i>Introduced by: Gladys Atrill, NCLGA President</i> <p>Summary: Gain firsthand insights into the latest developments, challenges, and initiatives from host communities. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear directly from these communities about their ongoing projects, recent initiatives, and the unique challenges they face.</p>
3:30 PM – 3:45 PM <i>(or 2:30 PM – 2:45 PM if no further resolutions)</i>	23 Closing Remarks <i>Emcee: Gladys Atrill, NCLGA President</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction of 2027 AGM Host• Motion to conclude 2026 NCLGA AGM

Speakers

Speakers are listed in the order they are presenting.



Dr. Daniel Sims, *UNBC*

2. Keynote Address (Wednesday, May 20, 7:00 PM)

Dr. Daniel Sims is a member of the Tsay Keh Dene First Nation, an associate professor of First Nations Studies at the University of Northern British Columbia, and an adjunct professor in the School of Education at the University of Northern British Columbia. His current research examines economic developments and concept of wilderness in the Finlay-Parsnip watershed, with a particular focus on homesteading, land speculation, and reserve creation. He is also working on two books on the impacts of the W.A.C. Bennett Dam on Kwadacha, McLeod Lake, and Tsay Keh Dene.



Gary MacIsaac, *Executive Director, UBCM*

10. UBCM Board Governance Review (Thursday, May 21, 1:45 – 2:45 PM)

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 nine years as the CAO for a county government in Nova Scotia.

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, and Chair of the Gas Tax Management Committee.



Allan Neilson, *Principal, Neilson Strategies*

10. UBCM Board Governance Review (Thursday, May 21, 1:45 – 2:45 PM)

Allan is an advisor with 25 years' experience in British Columbia's local government system, both as a consultant and a senior manager.

Allan is a recognized authority on local government service design and delivery, as well as local governance and administration. He is a strong facilitator, regularly engaged by clients to guide strategic planning processes, to assist decision-makers in developing collaborative, inter-jurisdictional services, and to guide public processes.



Rebecca Pozer, *Clinical Supervisor, Intersect Youth and Family Services*

11. Concurrent Session 11A: Mental Health Supports for Youth (Thursday, May 21, 2:50 – 3:50 PM)

12. Concurrent Session 12A: Mental Health Supports for Youth (Thursday, May 21, 4:05 – 5:05 PM)

Rebecca Pozer (she/her) is a settler of Scottish and Easter European descent and grew up on the traditional territories of the Sekani and Sauteaux peoples, otherwise known as Chetwynd, BC. Rebecca currently resides on the unceded land of Lheidli T'enneh people, otherwise known as Prince George, BC. Rebecca has a Bachelor's degree in honours Psychology, and Master's degree in Psychology from the University of Northern British Columbia. She has been working as a Therapist at Intersect since 2018, a Supervisor of the Sexual Abuse Intervention Program since 2024, and a Clinical Supervisor as of this year. Rebecca has worked in Forensic Psychology, and child and youth mental health over the last 13 years in different capacities. With a foundation of practice in attachment theory, Rebecca primarily utilizes emotion focused therapies and trauma informed work. Rebecca has led the development and application of the Sexual Abuse Intervention Program, various therapeutic groups, and family and individual therapy over the last seven years.



Jenny Plouffe, *Therapist/Clinical Supervisor, Intersect Youth and Family Services*

11. Concurrent Session 11A: Mental Health Supports for Youth (Thursday, May 21, 2:50 – 3:50 PM)

12. Concurrent Session 12A: Mental Health Supports for Youth (Thursday, May 21, 4:05 – 5:05 PM)

Jenny Plouffe (she/her) is a settler of British and French descent, and has lived her whole life on the traditional, unceded land of Lheidli T'enneh people, otherwise known as Prince George, BC.

Jenny has a Bachelor of Social Work with the University of Northern BC, a Master of Clinical Social Work with the University of Calgary and is a registered member of the BC College of Social Work. She has worked with children, youth and families for over 30 years in various capacities from early childhood education, family preservation, child protection, child and youth mental health, child, youth, adult, couples and family therapy and as a supervisor and manager of various mental health and family service programs. Jenny has been part of the Intersect Youth and Family Services Society as a Therapist and Clinical Supervisor for nearly 10 years and her portfolio includes; the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health team, Family Teen Mediations Program, as well as the Child and Youth Mental Health Team.



Leonard Hiebert, *Vice Chair, Regional District of Peace River*

11. Concurrent Session 11B: Agriculture (Thursday, May 21, 2:50 – 3:50 PM)

12. Concurrent Session 12B: Agriculture (Thursday, May 21, 4:05 – 5:05 PM)

Leonard Hiebert was elected as the Electoral Area 'D' Director in a by-election in 2014, and re-elected by acclimation in the 2018 and 2022 General Local Elections. In November 2022 and 2024, Leonard Hiebert was elected as Chair of the Regional Board.

Leonard has a vast range of experience, focusing on management, agriculture, and paramedic in the oil and gas industry. He has managed various hog farms in Canada and now focuses his spare time developing his own farm. Leonard has lived in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Alberta as well as in Dawson Creek before settling in Tomslake, BC in 2008. Leonard and his wife Adina started a company in 2019, Good Sheppard Safety & Consulting.

Leonard's natural ability to take on a leadership role is what made him want to run for Director. As the Director for Electoral Area D, Leonard puts himself out into the community with the intention of rebuilding the relationship between the rural residents and the Peace River Regional District, sharing key points of communication and where possible, advocating on behalf of the resident.

Leonard and his wife, Adina, were married in July 1986. They have five children and eighteen grandchildren and one great-grand child. Leonard loves to camp and enjoys playing and coaching volleyball and baseball, and working on the farm with his livestock. He is always interested in learning new concepts for farming.



Dannielle Alan, *Director, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George*

11. Concurrent Session 11B: Agriculture (Thursday, May 21, 2:50 – 3:50 PM)

12. Concurrent Session 12B: Agriculture (Thursday, May 21, 4:05 – 5:05 PM)

Dannielle has been the Regional District Director for the Robson/Canoe Valley, Area H since 2014. She is also Chair of the Agricultural and the Environment and Parks standing committees, and an active member of various groups, organisations, and think tanks.

Dannielle is autodidact, loquacious and opinionated, and passionately interested in and working to enhance the quality of life for residents of the Robson/Canoe Valley for over two decades.



Mark Parker, *Chair, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako*

11. Concurrent Session 11B: Agriculture (Thursday, May 21, 2:50 – 3:50 PM)

12. Concurrent Session 12B: Agriculture (Thursday, May 21, 4:05 – 5:05 PM)

Mark Parker has served as Director of Electoral Area D (Fraser Lake Rural) with the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) since 2015 and is currently Chair of the Regional District Board. In addition, he is a member of the Northern Development Initiative (NDI) Board and is Chair of the NDI Prince George Regional Advisory Committee (PG RAC).

As lifelong resident of Fraser Lake and longtime Agriculture producer, Mark recognizes the significance of Agriculture in the region and was a leader in the Regional District forming an Agriculture Committee and advocating for an Agriculture Coordinator Position Pilot Project with Northern Development Initiative Trust. To date the Regional District continues to support Regional Agriculture Coordinators in both the east and west of the region.



Clint Fraser, *CEO, Northern BC Tourism*

11. Concurrent Session 11C: Tourism in Northern BC (Thursday, May 21, 2:50 – 3:50 PM)

12. Concurrent Session 12C: Tourism in Northern BC (Thursday, May 21, 4:05 – 5:05 PM)

Clint Fraser is CEO of the Northern BC Tourism Association and has over 20 years of experience in destination management and marketing. A longtime resident of northern BC, Clint has been devoted to building the tourism industry in northern BC and has successfully contributed by leading and developing major tourism marketing and development programs at the provincial, regional, and community level. He works with communities across Northern BC to enhance tourism in a way that supports local economies, strengthens regional collaboration, and reflects the unique challenges and opportunities in the North.

Clint holds a Bachelor of Commerce (Marketing) from the University of Northern British Columbia and is recognized as an active leader in the tourism industry, currently serving as Chair of the BC Regional Tourism Secretariat, as a director with The Tourism Industry Association of BC, and as a member of the Destination BC Provincial Tourism Marketing Committee.



Chelton Van Geloven, *Lheidli T'enneh Nation*

11. Concurrent Session 11D: Stream & River Corridor Restoration (Thursday, May 21, 2:50 – 3:50 PM)

12. Concurrent Session 12D: Stream & River Corridor Restoration (Thursday, May 21, 4:05 – 5:05 PM)

Chelton has been a forester in Northern BC for 20 years with a focus on Hydrology and Riparian Restoration. He has learned about fish, fish habitat and geomorphology on the job with countless hours of mentorship from esteemed colleagues. Chelton is currently employed with the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation with a dual role combining forest and land stewardship with fish and wildlife habitat restoration. He is currently working on a masters degree at UNBC using remote sensing approaches to evaluate and monitor fish habitat restoration.



Sarah Saunders, *Executive Director, Engage Sports North*

11. Concurrent Session 11E: Recreation and Sport in Northern BC (Thursday, May 21, 2:50 – 3:50 PM)

12. Concurrent Session 12E: Recreation and Sport in Northern BC (Thursday, May 21, 4:05 – 5:05 PM)

Sarah Saunders is the Executive Director of Engage Sport North, bringing over 20 years of experience advancing sport and recreation across Northern British Columbia. She specializes in developing practical, partnership-driven models that help municipalities deliver high-quality, sustainable programs—despite challenges related to staffing, capacity, and cost.

Sarah has worked closely with local governments, school districts, and provincial and national partners to implement accessible, proven programming that supports community wellness, youth engagement, and workforce retention. Her work helps communities maximize existing infrastructure, strengthen local sport organizations, and deliver community recreation services that create meaningful impact for residents.

Her experience spans the full sport continuum—from building physical literacy in children to improving access to athlete development opportunities in rural and remote communities. She brings a strong understanding of how sport and recreation contribute to broader municipal priorities, including health, economic development, and community vitality.

An engaging and solutions-focused presenter, Sarah offers practical, scalable approaches that can be applied in your community. She is passionate about working collaboratively to reduce barriers, increase participation, and strengthen community services across the North.



Miranda Seymour, *Diversion Legal & Policy Advisor, BC First Nations Justice Council*

12. Concurrent Session 12F: Indigenous Diversion Center (Thursday, May 21, 4:05 – 5:05 PM)

Miranda Seymour is a member of the Lheidli T'enneh Nation. Miranda was called to the Bar in BC in 2015 and presently works with the BC First Nations Justice Council. Recently, Miranda was a member of Mayor Yu's Standing Committee on Public Safety and is grateful for the opportunity to work out of the Indigenous Diversion Centre in Prince George – working to contribute to better public safety outcomes for the Indigenous people who call Prince George home and the City of Prince George overall. Miranda was born and partly raised in Prince George and obtained her undergraduate degree from UNBC.



Brittney Anderson, *Minister of State for Local Governments and Rural Communities*

14. Plenary Ministers Panel (Thursday, May 21, 9:15 – 9:45 AM)

Brittney Anderson was first elected as the MLA for Nelson-Creston (now called Kootenay Central) in 2020.

Brittney was appointed the Minister of State for Local Governments and Rural Communities in November 2024. She previously served as the Premier's Special Advisor on Youth, as Parliamentary Secretary for Tourism, and was a member of the Treasury Board.

She grew up in the Kootenays and lived around the world before settling back home. She started her studies at Selkirk College, has a bachelor's degree in international relations from UBC Okanagan and a Master of Science in Environmental Science and Policy from the Central European University in Budapest. She was elected to Nelson City Council in 2018 and served on the board of Regional District of Central Kootenay.

Professionally, Brittney has worked for regional government in environmental services, focused on resource recovery and water systems. Prior to being elected to City Council, she co-founded The Cannabis Conservancy which provides environmental certification in the emerging industry. She led project management for the development of Sun and Earth Certified. The regenerative certification builds upon the principles of organic agriculture, focusing on soil health, onsite nutrient fertility, empowering workers, and fostering community engagement.

She loves spending time with her family and friends in the mountains.



Trevor Halford, *Interim Leader of the Conservative Caucus of BC*

15. Official Opposition (Thursday, May 21, 9:45 – 10:00 AM)

Trevor Halford is the Interim Leader of the Conservative Caucus of British Columbia. and represents the riding of Surrey–White Rock as a Member of the Legislative Assembly since 2020.

As Leader of the Official Opposition, Trevor is holding government to account on the issues that matter most to British Columbians: economic growth, affordability, public safety, health care capacity, and democratic accountability. His leadership is focused on restoring confidence in the fundamentals of government: responsible fiscal management, reliable public services, and an economy that works for families, businesses, and communities.

Since being elected, Trevor Halford has held Critic portfolios spanning Transportation and Infrastructure, Affordability, Mental Health and Addictions, ICBC, TransLink, BC Transit, and Sport. In the Legislature, he is known for a disciplined, outcomes-focused approach and for challenging centralized decision-making, regulatory uncertainty, and policies that increase costs without delivering results.

Prior to elected office, Trevor built a career across senior political staff roles and executive-level government affairs in both government and the private sector. He previously served as Director of Government Affairs for British Columbia at TransCanada Pipelines (TC Energy), where he worked on major infrastructure, energy, and regulatory files. This experience provided him with a practical, systems-level understanding of how public policy, permitting, and regulatory decisions affect investment, job creation, and long-term economic competitiveness.

Trevor Halford brings to leadership experience across government, industry, and legislative oversight, along with a results-driven approach to public service. He believes leadership is measured not by ideology, but by what works, what doesn't, and whether government delivers meaningful results for the people it serves.



Anna Duff, *Director of Communications, Planning and Engagement*

17. NDIT (Thursday, May 21, 10:00 – 10:40 AM)

Anna is passionate about supporting people and place, committing professional and personal energy into making meaningful contributions to her community and northern B.C. Earlier in her career, Anna was a part of the Northern Development team for five years in various communications roles. She left to pursue leadership opportunities in the tourism industry and community economic development, focusing on business development and strengthening the business environment, before returning to Northern Development in 2025. She is Vice-President of the BC Library Trustees Association and is serving her seventh year on the Prince George Public Library Board, including three as Chair of the board.



Gord Klassen, *President, Northern Medical Programs Trust / MIABC Board Representative*

18. Northern Medical Programs Trust (Thursday, May 21, 10:40 – 10:50 AM)

19. MIABC (Thursday, May 21, 10:50 – 11:00 AM)

Gord Klassen is in his fourth term as City Councillor in Fort St. John and is currently in his 7th 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.

As President of the Northern Medical Programs Trust, Gord will be also be providing an update on the work of the NMPT, highlighting its purpose of supporting medical education in northern BC and its goals of improving rural physician recruitment, strengthening regional training capacity, and ensuring long-term access to healthcare across the North.

Co-Hosts



Lara Beckett, *Chair, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George*

Lara Beckett is the Director of Electoral Area C (Nechako River-Chilako) for the Regional District of Fraser Fort-George. Lara was first elected to represent Electoral Area C in 2009 and currently serves as the Chair of the Board of Directors, a position she has held since 2022. Lara has a degree in Biology and Environmental Studies from the University of Victoria and a background in alternative forestry practice and policy.



Dolleen Logan, *Chief, Lheidli T'enneh First Nation*

Chief Dolleen Logan was first elected Chief of the Lheidli T'enneh Nation on April 8, 2021, again in 2023 for her second term, and was re-elected once again on April 9, 2025, for her third term. She is only the second female Chief in Lheidli T'enneh's history.

Prior to her election as Chief, she served as Councillor for three terms and has worked with her Nation for more than 14 years in various capacities.

Chief Logan brings a team-oriented approach to Council governance, working to expand opportunities for future generations through strong protections and partnerships that focus on the lands, water, and aid that have sustained the Nation for time immemorial.

In her spare time, Chief Logan enjoys time with her family camping, cooking, and reading.



Simon Yu, *Mayor, City of Prince George*

Mayor Simon Yu has been a dedicated member of the Prince George community for nearly 50 years, contributing through professional leadership, civic engagement, and public service. Elected in 2022 as the city's first Chinese Canadian Mayor, he brings extensive experience in engineering, business, and community development. A professional engineer, he built and operated a successful consulting firm serving Northern British Columbia and shared his expertise as an instructor at the College of New Caledonia, helping to mentor future professionals.

Mayor Yu has also played a significant role in strengthening regional institutions, serving as a Director for the University of Northern British Columbia, the Prince George Airport Authority, and the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, and contributing to initiatives like the Woodwards Project focused on downtown revitalization. As Mayor, he works closely with Council, First Nations, and community and regional partners to advance public safety, address social challenges, and support economic growth. He has represented Prince George internationally as a livable, investment-ready northern hub and was recognized for his lifelong service with the Senator Victor Oh Legacy Award in 2025.

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