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NCLGA

Representing over 240 elected officials in over 42 local and First Nation governments.

Established in 1955, the NCLGA is a non-profit, non-partisan association comprised of local government elected officials in North Central BC.



A Message from the President

Kyle MacDonald, NCLGA President

As I step into my new role as President, I want to sincerely thank our members for the confidence you have placed in me. It is an honour to serve you, and I look forward to working alongside our Executive, Board of Directors, and members over the coming year.

Our recent Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Prince George was an excellent example of what makes NCLGA such a strong organization. Thank you to our co-hosts: the City of Prince George, the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, and Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, who helped create a successful event that brought together local government leaders from across our vast and diverse region.

One of the themes that resonated throughout the conference was the importance of relationships. NCLGA represents communities that span a significant portion of British Columbia, from regional centres to rural, remote, and Indigenous communities. While our priorities may differ, we are strongest when we come together with a common purpose and a shared voice, and by strengthening relationships between member communities, First Nations, industry partners, and the many organizations that contribute to the success of our region.

Strong relationships with the Provincial Government and our local Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) are equally important. Whether discussing healthcare, housing, transportation, public safety, emergency management, or workforce development, local governments bring practical experience that can help shape better policy outcomes.

Our region is also on the doorstep of significant opportunities through major resource, energy,

transportation, and infrastructure projects. While these projects have the potential to create jobs and strengthen communities, their success depends on community readiness with housing, healthcare services, workforce capacity, and supporting infrastructure needed to accommodate growth. NCLGA has an important role to play in advocating for timely decisions, coordinated planning, and investments.

Over the coming year, NCLGA will continue to strengthen its reputation as a respected and influential voice for local government, building on the significant progress made in recent years. Our resolutions process remains one of the most important tools we have. We will continue to strengthen engagement with ministries, MLAs, and decision-makers to ensure the resolutions adopted by our membership are not only heard but actively considered as government develops policies and programs.

By working together, strengthening relationships, and speaking with a united voice, NCLGA can continue to grow its influence and deliver meaningful results for our members. I look forward to working with all of you as we continue building a stronger North and Central British Columbia.

Thank you for your continued engagement, your commitment to your communities, and your commitment to NCLGA.

Kyle MacDonald, NCLGA President

Kyle MacDonald has served on the NCLGA Board for the past two years. Kyle is a first-term Councillor with the City of Dawson Creek. Read more about Kyle here: [Board of Director Bios](#)

Highlights of the 2026 NCLGA AGM and Convention

The 2026 NCLGA Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Convention was co-hosted with the [City of Prince George](#), the [Lheidli T'enneh First Nation](#), and the [Regional District of Fraser-Fort George](#), and was held in Prince George, BC, on May 20-22, 2026.

The 2026 AGM brought together local government leaders, First Nations representatives, government partners, and stakeholders, under the convention theme *“Walking Together: Honouring Relationships, Leading Change”*.

A total of 249 registered participants included delegates, sponsors, speakers, staff, and elected officials from across the North Central region of BC.



Photo credit: Jesse Wright



Photo credit: Jesse Wright



Photo credit: Jesse Wright



Photo credit: Jesse Wright

Highlights of the 2026 NCLGA AGM and Convention (continued)



Photo credit: Nathan Silver



Photo credit: Jesse Wright



Photo credit: Sandra Moore

Key outcomes included:

- Adoption of 44 member resolutions addressing issues of regional and provincial significance
- Election of the 2026-2027 Board of Directors
- Continued collaboration among communities committed to advancing solutions for northern and central British Columbia.

Key highlights included:

- Tour of the Public Safety Operations Building and Prince George Emergency Support Services Reception Centre, Ancient Forest Interpretive Centre Experience, and Prince George Energy Leadership Tour
- Concurrent Sessions on Mental Health Supports for Youth, Agriculture, Tourism in Northern BC, Stream and River Corridor Restoration, Recreation and Sport in Northern BC, and the Indigenous Diversion Centre
- An optional event hosted by the Co-Hosts “Party in the Plaza”, which offered a variety of food trucks, local artisans, and entertainment
- A keynote speech by Dr. Daniel Sims, University of Northern British Columbia, on the topic of “Səpanè’: Good Relations in the Wake of the Cowichan Case”
- A range of plenary and panel sessions
- Presentations from Minister Brittny Anderson, and Interim Leader of the Opposition Trevor Halford
- Host Community Updates.



2026 Community Leadership and Lifetime Achievement Awards

The 2026 Community Leadership and Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented in recognition and celebration of individuals and communities who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and dedication to their communities in advancing local and regional priorities.

Community Leadership Awards for Social Responsibility – City of Fort St. John

- The City of Fort St. John was recognized for the community leadership demonstrated through the City's response to housing and emergency shelter challenges, guided by the Council's Response Committee on Housing and Emergency Shelter (CRCHES).
- The City was also recognized for its 2025 Northern Cyber Defence Conference, the initiative of which exemplifies the City's dedication to transparency, strengthening the local economy, and fostering a community support network.

Community Leadership Award for Economic Development – City of Fort St. John

- The City of Fort St. John was recognized for its outstanding commitment to creating effective and vibrant Public Art initiatives throughout the community.

Lifetime Achievement Awards

- **Councillor Mario Feldhoff, District of Kitimat** - Councillor Feldhoff was honoured for his long record of public service from his start in 1997 to still continuing in 2026. Throughout his tenure, Councillor Feldhoff has worked with Council colleagues, District staff, regional governments, and community organizations. He is known for being prepared, practical, and focused on the long-term needs of the community. His service reflects a sustained commitment to effective local government and to the residents of Kitimat.

- **Mayor Joan Atkinson, District of Mackenzie** - Mayor Atkinson was honoured for her two decades of elected public service in Mackenzie. She has represented Mackenzie with passion and hard work and is one of the strongest advocates for the community. Mayor Atkinson has played a meaningful role in shaping not only her own community, but the broader region. Mayor Atkinson's leadership has been grounded in a clear understanding of the realities facing northern and resource-based communities, and a commitment to ensuring those voices are heard.
- **Councillor Trevor Bolin, City of Fort St. John** - Councillor Bolin was honoured for nearly 20 years of distinguished service as a local elected official and his lasting impact on the City of Fort St. John. Through his tenure on City Council, Councillor Bolin has demonstrated exceptional leadership, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to the long-term wellbeing of his community. Councillor Bolin's contributions have had a lasting influence on Fort St. John's growth, resilience, and quality of life.
- **Councillor Frank Wray, Town of Smithers** - Councillor Wray was first elected in 2008 to Town Council and was appointed as Alternate Director to Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako in 2014 and has shown consistent dedication and professionalism. Councillor Wray was honoured for his leadership and thoughtful approach, which support strong decision-making and good governance.
- **Mayor Travous Quibell, District of Hudson's Hope** - Mayor Quibell was honoured for his unwavering dedication to the District of Hudson's Hope and his exceptional leadership, which has profoundly impacted the community over the past two decades. Through proactive communication, advocacy, and direct involvement in community initiatives, his lifelong commitment speaks volumes about his character and the deep connection he shares with the people of Hudson's Hope.



Photo credit: Sandra Moore

New Board of Directors for 2026-2027

The 2026-2027 NCLGA Board of Directors are:

- President: Kyle MacDonald, Councillor, City of Dawson Creek
- 1st Vice-President: Tony Zabinsky, Councillor, City of Fort St. John
- 2nd Vice-President: Jesse Wright, Councillor, District of Mackenzie
- Past President: Gladys Atrill, Mayor, Town of Smithers
- Director at Large: Julia Nelson, Councillor, District of Chetwynd
- Director at Large: Ron Polillo, Councillor, City of Prince George
- Director at Large: Melanie Woods, Councillor, Village of Gitlaxt'aamiks
- Appointed Regional Representative: Barry Cunningham, Director, North Coast Regional District
- Appointed Regional Representative: Eric de Vries, Director, Cariboo Regional District
- Appointed Regional Representative: Brenda Enax, Director, Northern Rockies Regional Municipality
- Appointed Regional Representative: Leonard Hiebert, Vice-Chair, Peace River Regional District
- Appointed Regional Representative: Jerrilyn Kirk, Director, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George
- Appointed Regional Representative: Julie Maitland, Director, Regional District of Kitimat Stikine
- Appointed Regional Representative: Judy Greenaway, Director, Regional District of Bulkley Nechako

NCLGA Advocacy and Activities

Mental Health and Addictions Accord

The Mental Health and Addictions Accord signatories met virtually on April 23, 2026, to share updates and discuss opportunities for joint advocacy strategies. The meeting also included panel discussions by Councillor Kristy Bjarnason, Village of Burns Lake, and Councillor Gerry Leibel, District of Kitimat, on the intersections between their work as elected officials and their work in their communities.

Two advocacy opportunities were furthered:

- Co-sponsorship for NCLGA Resolution R12: Following a call for co-sponsorship, the City of Dawson Creek's Resolution R12. "Improved Access to Publicly Funded Mental Health Services" was supported by a total of 19 co-sponsors, and endorsed by membership at the 2026 AGM.
- Joint Advocacy Letter: The City of Dawson Creek shared an advocacy letter for joint advocacy participation by Signatories. All members interested in endorsing the letter were asked to contact the City of Dawson Creek, so they can integrate the members into their advocacy letter.

The next virtual Accord Signatories meeting will be held on *July 29, 2026, from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.*

The Board will be discussing strategies to transition NCLGA out of the lead facilitation role into a support role moving into 2027-2028, as part of the legacy of the Mental Health and Addiction Symposiums held in 2024 and 2025.

To learn more on the Accord purpose and vision, visit nclga.ca/accord.

NCLGA Advocacy and Resolutions

The 2026 Resolutions adopted by membership at the 2026 AGM in Prince George now form the foundation of the NCLGA's advocacy efforts for the coming year. Resolutions adopted at the NCLGA AGM are uploaded to the NCLGA website, with any resolution decisions from the UBCM Convention, and BC and federal government responses to UBCM and/or NCLGA regarding the resolutions recorded and updated on an ongoing basis. Please visit [2026 Resolutions](#).

Advocacy Priorities for 2026-2027

Working with members, partner organizations, and senior governments, NCLGA will advance the priorities identified through the resolutions process and ongoing member engagement. Transportation infrastructure and connectivity continue to be recurring concerns across our region and will remain a significant advocacy priority. Reliable transportation networks are essential to economic development, public safety, healthcare access, trade, and community well-being.

The Board will also continue to advocate on a broad range of issues identified by members, including:

- Healthcare access and workforce challenges
- Housing availability and affordability
- Economic development and community prosperity
- Emergency preparedness and disaster resilience
- Public safety and community well-being.



Photo credit: Sam Raven

▶ [Search Resolutions by Topic, Year, or Sponsor:](#)
[Resolutions Search](#)

Mayors and Chairs and Indigenous Leaders Forum

Coming August 2026, date and time tbd

The NCLGA is working to establish an annual Mayors and Chairs and Indigenous Leaders Advocacy Forum to be held in advance of the UBCM Convention. The Forum will provide an opportunity for local government leaders to discuss emerging issues, identify shared priorities, and help shape the NCLGA's advocacy agenda and engagement with provincial and federal decision-makers.



NCLGA Board meeting held on July 4, 2026

Directors Corner

Past President Gladys Atrill, Mayor, Town of Smithers

Since our AGM and conference in Prince George I have happily slipped into the role of Past President. I spent time with current President Kyle MacDonald and First Vice-President Tony Zabinsky at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) annual conference in the City of Edmonton.

FCM has been a favourite event for me during my time on Council and the Edmonton conference was no exception. Highlights for me include hearing from Federal Government members at length versus the soundbites of newsreels. The Minister of Canada-US Trade, Dominic Leblanc, provided a no-nonsense review of where Canada sits in its ongoing negotiation with the United States. He did not pull punches, and at the same time offered hope that Canada will both attain an agreement with the US while broadening its trade horizons.

By far, my favourite presentation was from Zita Cobb, co-founder of Shorefast and the Fogo Island Inn in Newfoundland and Labrador. Hers is a story of returning to one's home, driven to make it a better place. The Fogo Island story is uplifting and speaks directly to local leaders, as we are also working to make our communities better. To learn more, please visit [Shorefast](#) and [Fogo Island Inn](#).

Director Barry Cunningham, Councillor, City of Prince Rupert

Prince Rupert's port economy has seen a flurry of activity over the past few years, with over \$3 billion in recent investments. From the expansion of existing terminals to new rail to container export facilities, to Indigenous led logistics projects, the community is on the move. Prince Rupert and Port Edward have also recently come to a 10-year settlement agreement with the Port Authority over Payments in Lieu of Taxes, providing a more stable revenue environment for years to come.

At the same time, our municipality is making major investments in upgrading failing infrastructure, with support from higher levels of Government. That includes ~\$200 million into our water and sewer distribution system. We are also upgrading community amenities. We have recently completed a new RCMP detachment, upgraded our historic rail station to house a brewery, and are planning for future renewal at our community waterfront. There is a lot on the horizon for Rupert. To learn more, please visit [princerupert.ca](#).

Member Webinars and Resources

Update on Webinars

The most recent webinar was “Advancing Community-led Energy Initiatives in Northern British Columbia” held on April 15, 2026, presented by Dr. Sinead Earley, Co-Primary Investigator, UNBC, and Aleah Jordan, Community Coordinator, ACET initiative, University of Victoria. The webinar provided updates on the [Northern Regional Energy Dialogues](#) research project, shared findings to date to explore pathways forward for climate action and energy transition policies in BC.

Please join us at our Next Webinar:

“Strategizing for Ministers Meetings”

August 27, 2026 from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Speakers: Shirley Bond, former Provincial Cabinet Minister, MLA and Leader of the Official Opposition, and Aileen Machell, Former Deputy Chief of Staff for Premier Eby.



Who should attend: NCLGA, AVICC, SILGA, LMLGA, AKBLG membership.

Co-hosted in partnership with the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC), Southern Interior Local Government Association (SILGA), Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA), and Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments (AKBLG).

This webinar will provide timely information to local elected government officials on how to best prepare and strategize in advance of Ministers Meetings at UBCM. Participants will learn principles and practical strategies to prioritize and align their ask with current government and Minister priorities. They will learn how to effectively focus and shape their presentations, to best communicate their ask and get to a “yes” from Ministers. Participants will have opportunity to ask questions during a Q&A portion of the webinar.

[Please Register here.](#)



Spirit of the North: Because Every Family Deserves Care Close to Home

No family should have to leave their community to receive life-saving healthcare. Yet every day across Northern BC, parents, grandparents, children, friends, and neighbours travel hundreds of kilometres for specialized care, often during the most difficult moments of their lives. The Spirit of the North Healthcare Foundation’s It’s About Time campaign is about changing that.

By raising \$55 million for advanced equipment, innovative technology, and specialized programs within the new Acute Care Tower, they are helping build a future where more Northerners receive the care they need, closer to home. From expanding cardiac services and improving mental health and surgical care to strengthening outreach and regional programs, this campaign will improve healthcare access for communities across Northern BC.

For more information, please visit [Spirit of the North](#).

Local Government Leadership Academy - Elected Officials Seminar Series

The LGLA Elected Officials Seminar Series (LGLA EOS) takes place every four years following the local government general election. The LGLA EOS for the NCLGA region will be held on *January 27-29, 2027*, at the Coast Prince George Hotel, in Prince George, BC.



The seminar series is designed to deepen elected officials and senior staff understanding of the local government system, and best practices for civic leadership. The 2026/2027 EOS agenda will include presentations, keynotes, mentorship panels, and networking opportunities that build upon local and regional orientation sessions for Councils and Boards.

For more information, please visit [LGLA EOS](#).

Board Meetings

NCLGA Board Meetings

2026/27 Board Meeting Dates may change following the fall election.

- *November 27-28, 2026 (virtual)*
- *January 8-9, 2027 (in person)*

Member Webinars

Joint Member Webinar

August 27, 2026, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Co-hosted with AVICC, SILGA, LMLGA, AKBLG

“Strategizing for Ministers Meetings”

Presenters: Shirley Bond, Aileen Machell

[Register here.](#)

Member Webinar

November 18, 2026, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

“Resources and Services to Promote Accessible Organizations: Disability Alliance BC”

Presenters: Roberta McDonald and Anna-Maria Wijesinghe, Disability Alliance BC

[Register here.](#)

Other Meetings and Events

UBCM Annual Convention

September 14-18, 2026

Vancouver, BC

More information at: [UBCM 2026 Convention.](#)

BC Natural Resources Forum

January 19-21, 2027

Prince George, BC

More information at: [BC Natural Resources Forum.](#)

Board Strategy Sessions

UBCM Strategy Session

September 11, 2026 (virtual) 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Natural Resources Forum Strategy Session

January 15, 2027 (virtual) 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

CONTACT US

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NCLGA Newsletter Contributions

We encourage our members to contribute content for the newsletter to bjohnson@nclga.ca. We welcome your submission ideas, including:

- Member Spotlight and Success Stories: highlighting achievements and activities of our member communities
- Upcoming Events, Resources, Webinar topics, and presenters.