Agenda

2019 NCLGA AGM & Convention
Message from the Mayor

On behalf of the City of Williams Lake, I would like to extend a warm Cariboo welcome to delegates and guests attending the North Central Local Government Association’s 64th Annual General Meeting and Convention. This is a particularly momentous year, as the City of Williams Lake is celebrating its 90th birthday. We are pleased to be co-hosting with the Cariboo Regional District, and I know you will enjoy all that our friendly community has to offer, from our vibrant downtown core to our beautiful murals and breathtaking natural landscape.

Williams Lake is known as the “hub” of the Cariboo and is a vital part of the Highway 97 Cariboo Connector - the gateway to Northern BC. We are also the junction for Highway 20 to all points west, leading to the West Coast and Bella Coola. Williams Lake is a bustling city that serves as the business centre for much of the Cariboo-Chilcotin region. With a thriving business community, a full facility hospital, a Thompson Rivers University campus, and a rich arts and culture community, Williams Lake is a great place to live, work, and play. Named Explore Magazine’s “Best Adventure Town in BC,” our city boasts a world class recreation complex, the largest mountain bike park in the Interior, and unbeatable outdoor recreational opportunities. On Tuesday evening, we look forward to welcoming delegates at the Tourism Discovery Centre, which is also home to the Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin and Cowboy Hall of Fame.

We hope you enjoy your time in our community, and hope to once again share our hospitality with you during the world-famous Williams Lake Stampede on July long weekend. See you again soon!

Message from the Chair

Welcome to Williams Lake & the Cariboo Chilcotin! On behalf of the Cariboo Regional District, I am pleased to welcome you to the 2019 NCLGA Convention & AGM.

Williams Lake is the “hub” of the Cariboo, the launch point for much of the Cariboo Chilcotin region and the gateway to Northern B.C. We are thrilled to show off the natural beauty of our area this week along with our hospitality and local charm. It has been our pleasure to coordinate this week for you. We hope the convention is memorable and insightful and, while you are here, we hope you to take some time to experience some of the adventure and opportunities our region has to offer.

As you explore, you may see the indicators of the recent wildfires and challenges we have been through. Like many of our northern communities, the last couple years have been challenging; but, we are tremendously proud how our communities came together and worked through it with perseverance, patience and resilience. With that in mind, we extend our gratitude to you. Through visiting our region and supporting our local businesses and tourism operators, you are contributing to this resilience, the strength of all our northern communities.

Further, to the many volunteers and staff members who have made this event possible, thank you for making this event a success. It is with this kind of support that we can continue Building Communities Together. Enjoy the conference and your stay in BC’s Heartland!
# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tradeshow Information</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of Board of Directors &amp; Staff</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detailed Agenda</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday May 6th</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday May 7th</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday May 8th</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday May 9th</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday May 10th</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaker Biographies</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tradeshow Information

1. Ministry of Transportation
2. National Energy Board
3. Community Energy Association
4. Three Corners Health Services Society
5. BCLC
6. Alberta Northwest Species at Risk
7. Community Futures
8. Invasive Species Council
9. Interior Health / Northern Health
10. BC Transit
11. ICBC
12. Canada Post
13. Ricoh
14. Ricoh
15. Fortis
16. Enbridge
17. McElhanney
18. COFI & WoodWORKS!
19. City of Williams Lake/CRD
20. Port of Price Rupert
21. Coastal Gas Link
22. BC Hydro
23. MNP
24. BC Assessment
25. CAPP
26. CN Rail
27. BCTS
28. Prince George Fire Dispatch
29. Ministry of Jobs
30. Urban Systems
Board of Directors

Gord Klassen, Councillor  
City of Fort St. John  
President

Lara Beckett, Director  
Regional District of Fraser-Fort George  
1st Vice President

Sarrah Storey, Mayor of Fraser Lake  
Village of Fraser Lake  
2nd Vice President

Shaely Wilbur, Councillor  
City of Dawson Creek  
Past President

Dannielle Alan, Area Director  
Regional District of Fraser-Fort George  
Appointed Regional Representative

Lee Brain, Mayor of Prince Rupert  
North Coast Regional District  
Appointed Regional Representative

Shane Brienen, Mayor of Houston  
District of Houston, Bulkley-Nechako  
Regional District  
Appointed Regional Representative

Lynne Christiansen, Councillor  
City of Terrace  
Director At Large

James Cordeiro, Councillor  
City of Terrace, Kitimat-Stikine  
Regional District  
Appointed Regional Representative

Steve Forseth, Area Director  
Cariboo Regional District  
Director At Large

Lorraine Gerwing, Councillor  
Fort Nelson, Northern Rockies  
Regional Municipality  
Appointed Regional Representative

Judy Greenaway, Councillor  
Town of Fort St. James  
Director at Large

John Massier, Area Director  
Cariboo Regional District  
Appointed Regional Representative

Brad Sperling, Chair  
Peace River Regional District  
Appointed Regional Representative

Staff

Terry Robert  
Executive Director

Kim Menounos  
Manager

Gail Lucier  
Administration

Hannah Wasstrom  
Coordinator

AGM Steering Committee

Chair Margo Wagner  
Cariboo Regional District

Jason Ryll, Councillor  
Williams Lake

Lindsey Borek  
Platinum Events Planning

Kim Dressier  
City of Williams Lake

Beth Holden  
City of Williams Lake

Gail Lucier  
North Central Local Government Association

Milo Macdonald  
City of Williams Lake

John MacLean  
Cariboo Regional District

John Massier  
Director, Cariboo Regional District

Kim Menounos  
North Central Local Government Association

Lore Schick  
Cariboo Regional District

Hannah Wasstrom  
North Central Local Government Association
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<th>TIME</th>
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| 9:00AM – 4:00PM | **Healthy Communities Forum, 2019**  
The Healthy Communities teams at Northern Health Authority and Interior Health Authority are pleased to invite you to attend the [2019 Northern Healthy Communities Forum](#) in Williams Lake, BC.  
This event is held annually in conjunction with the NCLGA Annual General Meeting, and the theme for this year is **Resilient & Healthy Communities**. We are bringing together provincial healthy communities experts, local government, health authority leaders and staff, and local community partners to discuss and address emerging health topics of importance to our communities.  
Join us for this free, one-day opportunity to network, build and share knowledge, and highlight the successes in improving the health of our northern population.  
Registration is via EventBrite.  
See [www.nclga.ca](http://www.nclga.ca) for the link and other details | Gibraltar Room, Cariboo Memorial Recreation Complex |
# TUESDAY MAY 7

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<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:30AM – 6:30PM</td>
<td><strong>Registration Desk is Open</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00AM – 11:00AM</td>
<td><strong>TOUR A – Pioneer Log Homes (Timber Kings)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Take a tour of the Pioneer Log Homes building site and meet the Timber Kings! See the builders in action and learn about why Pioneer Log Homes’ custom log homes are an international sensation. Adding to the fun will be a carving demonstration.</td>
<td>Depart from: Cariboo Memorial Recreation Complex</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30AM – 4:30PM</td>
<td><strong>TOUR B – Gibraltar Mines</strong>&lt;br&gt;Learn about the history of mining in the Cariboo's interior, and see a working pit mine in action, including the waste disposal function. Lunch Included.</td>
<td>Depart from: Cariboo Memorial Recreation Complex</td>
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<td>8:30AM – 4:30PM</td>
<td><strong>TOUR C – Alex Fraser Research Forest</strong>&lt;br&gt;Situated on close to 10,000 hectares of crown forest near Williams Lake in the Cariboo region, the Alex Fraser Research Forest is one of two UBC Research Forests managed to create opportunities for research, education and demonstration of sustainable forest management. See the Research Forest in action and learn about the fire rehabilitation work that is being undertaken. The tour will also include a visit to Gavin Lake Forest Education Centre, whose main objectives are to bring youth out to the forests to both learn and recreate and to be a resource for our surrounding communities of Williams Lake, Quesnel and 100 Mile House. Lunch will be provided at Gavin Lake Camp.</td>
<td>Depart from: Cariboo Memorial Recreation Complex</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00AM – 4:00PM</td>
<td><strong>Tradeshow Setup</strong></td>
<td>Cariboo Memorial Recreation Complex</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00PM – 5:00PM</td>
<td><strong>Northern Medical Trust AGM</strong></td>
<td>Gibraltar Room, Cariboo Memorial Recreation Complex</td>
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<td>6:00PM – 9:00PM</td>
<td><strong>Welcoming Reception – The Voice of North Central BC</strong>&lt;br&gt;Emcee: Councillor Gord Klassen, NCLGA President&lt;br&gt;Entertainment by the Cariboo-Chilcotin Youth Fiddlers</td>
<td>Tourism Discovery Centre, 1660 Broadway Ave. S.</td>
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## WEDNESDAY MAY 8

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<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:30AM – 6:30PM</td>
<td>Registration Desk is Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30AM – 8:30AM</td>
<td>Networking Breakfast</td>
<td>Reception Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30AM – 9:00AM</td>
<td>Annual General Meeting Session 1 – Opening Ceremonies</td>
<td>Main Stage</td>
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**Sponsor:**

Emcee: Councillor Gord Klassen, NCLGA President

- Welcome to Secwepemc Territory – Chief Willie Sellars
- Welcoming Statements – Mayor Walt Cobb and Chair Margo Wagner
- UBCM President’s Update
- NCLGA President’s Report

Photo: Scott Horley
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<th>TIME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00AM – 10:30AM</td>
<td><strong>Plenary Session 1 – Emerging Trends &amp; Opportunities for North Central BC</strong></td>
<td>Main Stage</td>
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<td>Sponsor:</td>
<td><strong>“Naturally Resourceful”</strong> is an apt description for the north! Communities here are resilient and unwavering in their efforts to secure a sustainable future. This session will provide participants with an in-depth perspective on topics within the three dimensions of sustainability – environment, social, and economic.**</td>
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<td>Moderator:</td>
<td>Fraser Lake Mayor Sarrah Storey&lt;br&gt; • Jill Atkey, CEO, BC Non-Profit Housing Association&lt;br&gt; • Craig Brown, ICLEI international council for environmental initiatives, climate change and community&lt;br&gt; • Michael Armstrong, VP Forestry, Council of Forest Industries</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30AM – 10:45AM</td>
<td><strong>Networking Refreshment Break</strong></td>
<td>Reception Area</td>
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<td>Sponsor:</td>
<td>Update from Federation of Canadian Municipalities</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45AM – 12:00PM</td>
<td><strong>Plenary Session 2 – The Business of Tourism in Northern British Columbia</strong></td>
<td>Main Stage</td>
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<td>Sponsors:</td>
<td><strong>The tourism industry in British Columbia is an economic force. It is the third largest industry in BC and continues to outpace the province’s overall economic growth rate. The tourism sector throughout the Northern BC and Cariboo Chilcotin Coast regions of British Columbia continues to develop. Evidence of growth flourishes throughout the regions and the associated opportunities to build the sector are more present than ever. Regional tourism activities are critical in the sustained growth and development of the tourism industry across BC.</strong></td>
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<td>Join Amy Thacker (CCCTA) and Clint Fraser (NBCTA) to learn more about how tourism marketing and destination development activities are supporting local tourism development and shaping the future of regional tourism growth. Learn more about; The value of tourism, Destination Development activities, Destination Marketing activities, the importance of partnerships, and Industry Development programming.</td>
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<td>Moderator: Dawson Creek Councillor Shaely Wilbur</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00PM – 1:00PM</td>
<td><strong>Keynote Lunch – UNBC: Destination 2040</strong></td>
<td>Reception Area</td>
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<td>Sponsor:</td>
<td>Gord Klassen, NCLGA President opening remarks&lt;br&gt; Dr. Daniel Weeks, President, University of Northern British Columbia</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00PM – 2:00PM</td>
<td><strong>Rail Transportation Panel</strong></td>
<td>Main Stage</td>
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<td>Sponsor:</td>
<td>Join Transport Canada, CN, and the Prince Rupert Port Authority for a discussion of rail transportation in northern BC, with a focus on the regulatory framework that guides rail operations, and how that’s being applied to rail safety in our communities. This session will be an opportunity to learn more about this complex issue within a northern BC context, discover access to resources applicable to local governments, and ask the questions that you may be hearing in your communities.</td>
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<td>Moderator: Prince Rupert Mayor Lee Brain&lt;br&gt; • Joslyn Young &amp; Matt Leigh, CN&lt;br&gt; • Ken Veldman, Prince Rupert Port Authority&lt;br&gt; • Jasmir Basi, Transport Canada</td>
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1:00PM – 2:00PM
Resolution Writing 101
Gibraltar Room

Working toward solutions, expressing concerns, and taking a united position are the ‘why’ for local governments, and resolutions are the ‘how’ in municipal policy-making. Join NCLGA Director Lara Beckett in a session designed to clearly demonstrate how to write a clear and effective resolution. Next year, you might even win the Gold Star Resolution award!

2:00PM – 3:00PM
Update on Northern Health’s Response to the Opioid Crisis
Main Stage

Emcee: Regional District of Fraser Fort George Director Lara Beckett
• Dr. Sandra Allison, NHA
• Dr. Gerrard Prigmore

2:00PM – 3:00PM
Building Universal Child Care for BC Together
Gibraltar Room

With $1B commitment made in Budget 2018, the Provincial Government is seeking to build partnerships with local government to support the creation of new Child Care spaces in their communities. This session will provide an overview of opportunities open to local governments to connect you with provincial resources and supports to build childcare in your community. We will highlight successful project examples, and share insight into the vision taking shape for a universal child care system for BC.

Moderator: Fraser Lake Mayor Sarrah Storey
Michelle Kirby, Ministry of Children and Family Development

3:00PM – 3:15PM
Networking Refreshment Break
Reception Area

3:15PM – 6:00PM
Plenary Session 3 – Species at Risk: Community Impacts & Solutions
Main Stage

Legislation at all levels of government exists to ensure species identified as at-risk are adequately protected. How should communities and governments work together to ensure survival of these most vulnerable wildlife populations while continuing to see economic prosperity? Participants in this plenary session will hear presentations about the status of species at risk, and community tools and approaches to management and land-use decisions.

Two speaker panels moderated by Dawson Creek Councillor Shaely Wilbur will cover the topic:

Panel A
Dr. Chris Johnson, Natural Resource and Environmental Science Program, University of Northern British Columbia
Darcy Peel, Director, Provincial Caribou Recovery Program, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Plus Q&A panellist, MP Todd Doherty

Panel B
Mayor Gerry Thiessen, Nechako Sturgeon Recovery Initiative, District of Vanderhoof
Tania Solonas, Kennedy Siding Caribou Feeding Program, McLeod Lake Indian Band
Councillor Lisa Wardley, Chair, NorthWest Species At Risk Committee, Mackenzie County Ward 10, Alberta
### THURSDAY MAY 9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30AM – 6:30PM</td>
<td>Registration Desk is Open</td>
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<td>8:00AM – 8:45AM</td>
<td><strong>Networking Breakfast</strong></td>
<td>Reception Area</td>
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<td>Local government update from National Energy Board</td>
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<td>8:45AM – 9:00AM</td>
<td><strong>Northern Development Initiatives Trust Update</strong></td>
<td>Main Stage</td>
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<td>Emcee: District of Fort St. James Councillor Judy Greenaway</td>
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<td>Joel Mckay, CEO, NDIT</td>
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<td>9:00AM – 10:30AM</td>
<td><strong>Annual General Meeting Session 2 – Reports, Nominations &amp; Resolution Procedures</strong></td>
<td>Main Stage</td>
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<td>Emcee: Fort St. John Councillor Gord Klassen, NCLGA President</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Nominations</td>
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<td>• Nominations from the floor for NCLGA Board Members</td>
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<td>• Resolutions Procedures Briefing</td>
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<td>10:30AM – 10:45AM</td>
<td>Networking Refreshment Break</td>
<td>Reception Area</td>
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<td>10:45AM – 11:00AM</td>
<td>Municipal Insurance Association &amp; Municipal Finance Authority Update</td>
<td>Main Stage</td>
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<td>Fort St. John Councillor Gord Klassen, CCRHD Vice Chair Al Richmond</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00AM – 12:00PM</td>
<td>Annual General Meeting Session 3 – Speeches &amp; Resolutions</td>
<td>Main Stage</td>
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<td>Emcee: Gord Klassen, NCLGA President</td>
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<td>• Speeches for First Slate</td>
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<td>• Resolutions Debate</td>
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<td>12:00PM – 1:00PM</td>
<td>Annual General Meeting Session 4 – Voting Booths Open</td>
<td>Multiple Locations</td>
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<td>Voting Cards at Registration Desk</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00PM – 1:00PM</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Reception Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00PM – 2:30PM</td>
<td>Annual General Meeting Session 5 – Results, Nominations, Speeches &amp; Resolutions</td>
<td>Main Stage</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Emcee: Dawson Creek Councillor Shaely Wilbur, Past President</td>
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<td>• Results of the First Ballot</td>
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<td>• Nominations from the floor for Directors at Large</td>
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<td>• Candidate Speeches for Directors at Large</td>
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<td>• Additional Resolutions Debate</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30PM – 4:30PM</td>
<td>Pathways for Local Government – First Nations Collaboration in Economic Development</td>
<td>Gibraltar Room</td>
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<td>Participants in this session will come away with a clear understanding of the fundamentals of economic development, and have greater insight into the experiences of First Nation and local government relationship building and collaboration on economic opportunities.</td>
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<td>Moderator: Peace River Regional District Chair Brad Sperling</td>
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<td>Morris Prosser, Ministry of Jobs, Trade, and Technology</td>
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<td>Chief Willie Sellars, Williams Lake Indian Band</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30PM – 4:30PM</td>
<td>Preparing for Electric Vehicle Infrastructure in Northern &amp; Rural Communities</td>
<td>Main Stage</td>
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<td>Charge North is an electric vehicle (EV) network project with a bold vision to electrify close to 2,800 km of highway based on local community priorities and interests, from the Thompson-Nicola region, through Kamloops and Prince George, all the way to Haida Gwaii. By addressing EV infrastructure, along with education, outreach and engagement, Charge North provide residents with transportation options, provide communities with EV tourism opportunities and provide the region with reduced greenhouse gas emissions. CEA will provide an update on the Charge North project and introduce effective policies and tools that local governments can use to further support EV adoption in your own community.</td>
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<td>Moderator: Prince Rupert Mayor Lee Brain</td>
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<td>Janice Keyes, Senior Manager, CEA</td>
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<td>Maya Chorobik, Community Energy Manager, CEA</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00PM – 3:15PM</td>
<td>Networking Refreshment Break</td>
<td>Reception Area</td>
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<td>3:00PM – 5:00PM</td>
<td>CAO Forum</td>
<td>Mr. Mike’s Restaurant, 299 Oliver Street</td>
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<td>6:30PM – 11:00PM</td>
<td>Annual Banquet, Awards and Entertainment</td>
<td>Reception Area</td>
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<td>Join us for our annual banquet highlighting this year’s theme “Naturally Resourceful” The banquet will feature delicious foods from local sources and incredible entertainment provided by The Phoenix Tour Newman &amp; Wright Theatre Co., Theatre Royal Barkerville. As per tradition, the Lifetime Achievement Award and Community Leadership Award winners will be announced.</td>
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<td>Emcee: CRD Vice-Chair, Area D Director John Massier</td>
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<td>8:00AM – 8:45AM</td>
<td>Networking Breakfast</td>
<td>Reception Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45AM – 10:15AM</td>
<td>Exploring a Code of Conduct Framework</td>
<td>Gibraltar Room</td>
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**Exploring a Code of Conduct Framework**

The UBCM Working Group for Responsible Conduct will provide background and context for the WGRC’s work for newly elected local officials, including the Model Code of Conduct and Companion Guide. The WGRC will also provide an update on its recent work to develop the broader code of conduct framework, such as the degree of flexibility of the framework, and how a code of conduct framework, including approaches to enforcement, might fit within the current local government system. This session will outline next steps in the process, including opportunities for local government feedback.

Moderator: Area D Director, Steve Forseth

Speakers:
- Gary MacIsaac, Executive Director, UBCM
- Lesley Scowcroft, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
<table>
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<tr>
<td>8:45AM – 10:15AM</td>
<td><strong>Funding Opportunities for Local Governments</strong></td>
<td>Main Stage</td>
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<td>There is a plethora of funding opportunities designed to offer local communities the support they need to address local priorities. This session will provide an overview of some important programs and grants that local governments should be aware of, their criteria and how to access them.</td>
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<td>Moderator: Fort St John Councillor Gord Klassen</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Speakers:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Steve Kozuki, Forest Enhancement Society of BC</td>
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<td>• Lori Henderson, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development</td>
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<td>• Joel McKay, Northern Development Initiatives Trust</td>
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<td>10:00AM – 10:30AM</td>
<td><strong>Networking Refreshment Break</strong></td>
<td>Reception Area</td>
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<td>10:30AM – 12:00PM</td>
<td><strong>Plenary Session 4 – Responding to Community Risk:</strong> Wildfire &amp; Flood</td>
<td>Main Stage</td>
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<td>Emcee: Fort St. John Councillor Gord Klassen</td>
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<td>The last two years are characterized as being the worst for natural hazards in British Columbia. Participants will hear presentations by community leaders closely affected by wildfire, flood or other natural disasters of 2018. Speakers will share lessons learned, and priorities for advancing preparedness and recovery.</td>
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<td>Moderator: MLA Mike Bernier</td>
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<td>Speakers:</td>
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<td>• Dave Peterson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Emergency Management BC</td>
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<td>• Brad Sperling, Chair, Peace River Regional District</td>
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<td>• Bill Miller, former Chair of Bulkley Nechako Regional District</td>
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<td>• Chief Larry Nooski, Nadleh Whut’en</td>
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<td>• Lyn Hall, Mayor, City of Prince George</td>
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<td>12:00PM – 1:30PM</td>
<td><strong>Closing Ceremonies, Closing Keynote, Prize Draws and Networking Lunch</strong></td>
<td>Main Stage</td>
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<td>Emcee: NCLGA’s Lara Beckett, Area C Director, RDFFG</td>
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<td>Closing Speakers:</td>
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<td>• Heather Lamb and Pat Harris, Spinal Cord Injury BC</td>
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<td>“Universal Design and How It Applies in our Communities”</td>
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<td>• Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of FLNRORD</td>
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<td>Closing Keynote Remarks: “Your Community, Your Future”</td>
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Hosting Agency: Community Energy Association

Join the BC Municipal Climate Leadership Council (BCMCLC) and Community Energy Association (CEA) for an in-depth look at the future of climate action in the region. Learn about the Province's CleanBC Plan and the resulting opportunities available to local governments. Explore how to maximize community benefits, such as economic development and health, through regional collaboration applying a “climate lens” across all local government service areas. Practice communicating the co-benefits of climate action in your community and leave the session with tools and resources to move initiatives forward.

Co-facilitated by BCMCLC and CEA, this interactive session will feature guests and success stories from regional local governments and partners, and peer learning through facilitated table discussion. We will also be joined by a representative from the Climate Action Secretariat, who will share information and lead a discussion about the upcoming new provincial climate adaptation strategy.

This event is free but space is limited so please register in advance through Eventbrite at https://bcmclcworkshopnciga.eventbrite.ca.
Speakers

Wednesday, May 8

8:30AM - 9:00AM | Opening Ceremonies

President Gordon Klassen

Gord Klassen is the 2018/19 President of the NCLGA. Gord’s best guess is that he has served on the NCLGA Board of Directors for about 4 years. He is a Councillor for the City of Fort St. John.

Chief Willie Sellars

Willie Sellars was born and raised in Williams Lake, BC, and is a member of the Williams Lake Indian Band of the Secwepemc Nation. Chief Sellars has worked as a Wildland Firefighter for the Ministry of Forests, before returning to his community where he earned the position of Special Projects Coordinator in the WLIB Economic Development Department. Chief Sellars served 3 terms as Councillor. Willie is a published author, of “Dipnetting with Dad”. His second book “Hockey with Dad” is due to be released Spring of 2020. Willie enjoys hockey, cultural events, dipnetting, fastball and spending quality time with his three children.

Margo Wagner, CRD Chair

Margo Wagner has been an elected official for the Cariboo Regional District since 2011, representing the Canim Lake and Forest Grove area. She has been Chair of the CRD since November 2017 and previously spent three years as Vice-Chair and two years as Chair of the Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District Board. Margo currently sits on the Boards for Northern Development Initiative Trust and the Age Friendly Society of the South Cariboo and has recently joined a UBCM advisory committee on flood and fire review. Margo is very involved with her local fire department and is a first responder instructor. She worked for 30 years in Alberta as a registered nurse. Married to Brian for 41 years, Margo has two married children in Alberta and one grandchild.

Walt Cobb, City of Williams Lake Mayor

Walt has been involved with local government since 1980, serving as a City of Williams Lake Councillor from 1980-1990, and as Mayor from 1990 to 1996, and from 2014 to the present. He was the MLA for Cariboo South from 2001 to 2005.

Walt has kept busy volunteering with many organizations and service clubs over the years, including the Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Business Association. Among other things, he has served as treasurer for the Go-Bus Society, a non-profit group that operates the transit system in Williams Lake. Walt has served with Rotary since 1995, and sits as Vice Chair on the Barkerville Heritage Trust, as a director for the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 139, and as Vice President of Glen Arbor, a seniors’ affordable housing complex. Walt has been married to Lynnette since 1965 and has two children and 7 grandchildren who all live in Williams Lake.
8:30AM - 9:00AM  Plenary Session 1 – Emerging Trends & Opportunities

**Jill Atkey, CEO, BC Non-Profit Housing Association**

*Affordable Housing and Homelessness in Northern BC*

Jill Atkey is CEO of BC Non-Profit Housing Association, which represents and supports non-profit housing providers in British Columbia through advocacy, programs and training. She leads a team of dedicated professionals who are passionate about ensuring that all British Columbians are safely and affordably housed. Most recently, she led the development of the Canadian Rental Housing Index and a ten year plan for addressing housing affordability in BC. She is a planner by training and has an M.A. from the School of Community and Regional Planning at UBC and is a Chartered Member of the Chartered Institute for Housing Canada.

**Craig Brown, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability**

*Preparing to adapt to the future climate of North Central BC*

Craig Brown is the manager of ICLEI Canada’s BC office, located in Victoria. He is currently working with nearly a dozen local and regional governments as they being to plan and take action on climate change adaptation, and also supporting ICLEI’s work across the country. Craig holds a PhD in Environmental Science and is currently leading a chapter on climate adaptation in cities and towns for Canada’s next national climate change assessment, which will be released at the end of 2019. He is also a contributing author on the North America chapter for the next IPCC assessment.

**Michael Armstrong, Vice-President, Forestry, COFI**

*Emerging Trends and Opportunities for Northern BC in the Forest Sector*

Michael Armstrong, RPF, CPA, CA, Vice President, Forestry, at the COFI, has over 25 years of experience working in the forest sector with projects in BC and around the world including Indonesia. Michael is a Registered Professional Forester and holds a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from UBC. During his university years, he worked at various Canfor coastal operations. Michael spent 15 years with PwC undertaking forest industry consulting group where he obtained his Chartered Professional Accountant designation. He then spent five years at KPMG in their consulting group working on forestry and green house gas related projects. As VP, Forestry, Michael is responsible for the overall coordination of COFI’s policy work.

10:45AM - 12:00PM  Plenary Session 2 – The Business of Tourism in Northern British Columbia

**Clint Fraser, Executive Director, Northern BC Tourism Association**

*The Business of Tourism in Northern British Columbia*

As the Chief Executive Officer of the Northern BC Tourism Association, Clint works with the board and leads the team at Northern BC Tourism to achieve the overall vision and mission for the organization. He is a well-respected member of the tourism industry and is acknowledged industry wide as a leader and innovator in new marketing technologies. With over 15 year’s experience in the tourism industry, Clint has been devoted to building the tourism industry in northern BC and has successfully contributed by leading and managing major tourism marketing and development programs at the provincial, community, and regional level.
Amy Thacker, Executive Director, Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Tourism Association

The Business of Tourism in Northern British Columbia

Amy Thacker, Chief Executive Officer of Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Tourism Association, has a strong passion for rural tourism and economic development. Thacker holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with majors in Project Management and Operations Management. She wrote and successfully implemented the first GeoTourism program in British Columbia encompassing parts of the Cariboo Chilcotin Coast, Vancouver, Coast & Mountains and Thompson Okanagan. Since joining the Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Tourism Association, she has led destination management, including award-winning programs such as the Gold Rush Trail, Great Bear Rainforest and Cariboo Reputation Recovery collaboratives. A champion for rural Emergency Management, Thacker believes the Cariboo Chilcotin Coast region holds untapped potential and unlimited opportunities for excellence.

12:00PM - 1:00PM  Keynote Lunch

Dr. Daniel Weeks, President, UNBC

UNBC: Destination 2040

Daniel Weeks is the President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Northern British Columbia. Originally from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Dr. Weeks’ career has taken him throughout Canada and the United States. He is an accomplished academic, an inspired leader, a philanthropic champion, and an advocate for academic planning and leadership cultivation. Dr. Weeks joined UNBC in September 2014 just as the University began its 25th Anniversary Celebration year giving him the opportunity to lead the university into the next generation. Prior to joining UNBC, Dan was the Vice-President, Research at the University of Lethbridge for five years, where he experienced firsthand the important relationships that small cities have with their universities. He holds a PhD in Experimental Psychology from Auburn University with his research covering a broad range of topics in the areas of health and neuroscience, human perception and performance, and developmental disabilities such as Down Syndrome.

1:00PM - 2:00PM  Rail Transportation Panel

Ken Veldman, VP, Public Affairs & Sustainability, Prince Rupert Port Authority

Ken is responsible for leading the Prince Rupert Port Authority’s teams and strategies related to sustainability, environment, communities, governments and relationships with Indigenous Peoples. His focus is on ensuring PRPA maintains the careful and innovative approach to stewardship that is required to keep growing trade, and creating economic opportunities for our First Nations, our communities and Canada. Ken has been a member of the PRPA team since 2011. He has over 25 years of experience in economic development, including senior roles in Terrace, Prince George, Vancouver, and BC’s 2010 Olympic Games Secretariat. Born and raised in British Columbia, Ken has a degree in Finance and Economic from Simon Fraser University.
Joslyn Young
Joslyn Young is the Manager of Public Affairs at CN in British Columbia. In this role, Joslyn is the key link between stakeholders, government and the railway for CN's western gateway. Previously, Joslyn worked for the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) for 13 years where she managed the Community Excellence Awards, supported the President’s and Convention Committees and the Lower Mainland Local Government Association.

Matt Leigh
Matt Leigh joined CN as a Dangerous Goods Officer in 2016. In this role, he trains first responders for CN, and is a guest instructor with TRANSCAER and the Justice Institute of BC. Previously, Matt worked with Trevita as their Emergency Response team lead and confined space rescue technician. He has a background in hazmat responses, including clandestine labs, chemical industry fires, spills and has worked with federal and provincial agencies such as the RCMP, Transport Canada, Canada Border Services Agency, MOE, MOTI and the Coast Guard.

Jasmir Basi
Jasmir Basi is the Regional Director for Surface Branch, Pacific Region for Transport Canada. In this role, Jas oversees two directorates within the Safety and Security Group for the Pacific Region: Railway Safety and the Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG). Jas is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Surface Branch which includes management of rail and TDG-related matters affecting local industries and communities, thus, in turn, contributing to the safety of the Canadian rail transportation system and public safety in the transportation of dangerous goods by all modes.

1:00PM - 2:00PM  Resolution Writing

Lara Beckett, NCLGA VP
Resolution Writing 101
Lara Beckett is a fourth term Electoral Area Director in the Regional District of Fraser Fort George, and current Vice-Chair. Lara was elected as a Director at Large on the North Central Local Government Association twice and then elected to position of First Vice President last May. Lara lives in Chilako and enjoys spending time in the outdoors canoeing, hiking, skiing and gardening. Lara has a Degree in Biology and Environmental Studies from the University of Victoria and a background in alternative forestry.
2:00PM - 3:00PM  Health in Our Region

**Dr. Sandra Allison, CMHO, Northern Health**

*Update on Northern Health's Response to the Opioid Overdose Crisis*

Dr. Allison is a public health physician and is responsible for all public health programs in Northern Health. She advises the NH Executive Team and the Board on issues of importance to the health of Northerners. She is a Fellow of the Royal College in Public Health and Preventive Medicine, and a Certificant of the College of Family Physicians of Canada. Dr. Allison completed a B.Sc. in biochemistry at the University of Calgary, and her medical degree and her master's degree in public health at University of Manitoba. Her interests include health promotion, community development and emergency preparedness. In her work as a public health physician, she has remained active in education of medical students and residents and is a Clinical Assistant Professor with UBC and an Adjunct Professor at UNBC.

**Dr. Gerrard Prigmore, Physician**

2:00PM - 3:00PM  Building Universal Child Care for BC Together

**Michelle Kirby, Senior Manager, Partnerships and Engagement, Ministry of Children and Family Development**

*Building Child Care with the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund*

Michelle joined the Ministry of Children and Family Development as Manager of Partnerships and Engagement to help build new child care spaces, and lay the groundwork for a Universal Child Care system for BC. Michelle is a former two term Oak Bay Councillor, and child care advocate.

3:15PM - 6:00PM  Plenary Session 3 – Species at Risk: Community Impacts & Solutions

**Dr. Chris Johnson, UNBC**

*From COSEWIC to SARA - Understanding the Acronyms and Demystifying Canadian Species at Risk Legislation*

Chris Johnson is a Professor at the University of Northern British Columbia where he teaches courses in conservation biology, population and community ecology, and natural resources planning. His research focuses on understanding the relationship between human activities and the distribution and abundance of a range of mammal species. Much of that work is focused on the ecology and conservation of woodland and barren-ground caribou found across Canada, but he also dabbles with moose and mustelids. Chris is involved with a number of provincial and federal committees that work to assess or recover threatened or endangered species. This includes serving as a member of the national Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC).
Darcy Peel, Director, Provincial Caribou Recovery Program

Caribou recovery in BC

Darcy has lived and worked in the interior of BC for nearly 30 years. She spent a lot of that time doing forestry and wildlife work based in Williams Lake. Darcy’s roots are in the resource economies of small towns, having grown up in a logging/farming family. Her current role allows her to use that experience to help find workable solutions to challenging issues like caribou recovery.

MP Todd Doherty

Q&A Panel

Todd Doherty is the Member of Parliament for the riding of Cariboo Prince George, first elected in October, 2015. Mr. Doherty brings vast experience in the private sector to his new role. As an aviation executive, he was tasked with promoting regional, provincial and national passenger, cargo and tourism opportunities on the world stage. Mr. Doherty has represented Canada throughout Europe, the Middle East, Asia and the America's on trade missions, industry conferences and on industry regulatory panels. Mr. Doherty was honoured to be appointed as the Shadow Minister for Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, and the Asia-Pacific Gateway. In addition, Mr. Doherty is a member of the Taskforce on Softwood Lumber. Mr. Doherty has been elected to sit on the Executive Committees for the ParlAmericas, NATO, the Canada Group Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Association. He sits as a Member of the Parliamentary Associations of the Commonwealth, Canada-Europe, Canada-Africa, Canada-China Legislative Association including the Inter-Parliamentary Associations of Canada-United Kingdom and the Canada-United States. Mr. Doherty together with Mrs. Doherty are successful small business owners for over 20 years. Todd and his wife, Kelly have four children

Gerry Thiessen, Mayor, Vanderhoof District

Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative

Gerry Thiessen’s family moved to Vanderhoof in the early 1940’s, after graduation he spent the 70’s living in Prince Rupert and Victoria, moving back to the Nechako Valley in 1980 where they farmed for over 30 years, and has been a Realtor for over 40 years. He and his wife live there along with their 4 children and all their grandchildren. Gerry has had leadership positions as chair of Vanderhoof Rotary, his church, the Real Estate Association of Northern BC, the BC Real Estate Association, the Canadian Real Estate Association, Northern Development Trust, the current Chair of the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako and is in his 4th term as Mayor of Vanderhoof.
Tania Solonas, Land Management Officer, McLeod Lake Indian Band

Fostering positive community unity and sustainable growth for our children’s future

Tania Solonas is a member of the Tse’Khene Nation (People of the Rocks) & grew up in McLeod Lake, BC. She recently completed certificates in First Nations Applied Lands Management & Tax Administration at the Thompson Rivers University. Passionate about helping move the community forward with sustainability in mind, Tania is the Land Management Officer for the McLeod Lake Indian Band. She enjoys walking, hiking, being a member of the Tse’Khene Fire Department, various boards & committees, along with bringing her daughter to gymnastics and Girl Guides. Thankful for a loving family and being an active Steward of the Land.

Lisa Wardley, Councillor, Mackenzie County, Ward 10, Alberta & Chair NWSARC

Life After Caribou Planning Achievable with Community Involvement

Since mid 2016, Lisa has been the chairperson for the Northwest Species at Risk Committee (NWSAR). Throughout this process she has made strong connections throughout the Region and beyond… her group of dedicated Councilors have learned more about Caribou, range planning and Species at Risk than any Municipal Councilor should have to! She also supports the North to Alaska Rail Project as Chair of REDI (Regional Economic Development Initiative of the Northwest). Originally from Regina, Saskatchewan, Lisa has spent much of her time on school councils, being a volunteer fire fighter, librarian, tourism volunteer and fundraiser. She is the former premier of Saskatchewan and in 2003 she was elected the Councillor for Ward 10/Zama Cirt within Mackenzie Country. She believes that municipal government is the most important level of government as it is closest to the people.
**Thursday, May 9**

**8:45AM - 9:00AM**  
**NDIT Update**

**Joel McKay, CEO, Northern Development Initiatives Trust**  
*Northern Development Initiatives Trust Annual Update*  
Joel McKay is the Chief Executive Officer of Northern Development Initiative Trust, a quarter billion dollar regional development corporation focused on building a stronger economy across Northern British Columbia. Joel joined Northern Development in June 2012 as Director of Communications where he led a successful communications services program for small communities across the region, and handled the Trust’s communications and marketing and economic research and analysis. Joel was previously Assignment Editor at Business in Vancouver Newspaper where he led a team of journalists and focused on in-depth coverage of the resource sector. Joel is editor of the Don Rennie award-winning Small Town P.R. Playbook, a Jack Webster award winning journalist, was named one of Prince George’s Top 40 Under 40 business leaders, an alumni of the 2015 Governor General’s Canadian Leadership Conference and in 2016 was honoured with a Distinguished Alumni Award from Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

**10:45AM - 11:00AM**  
**MIABC & MFA Update**

**Gord Klassen, Municipal Insurance Association of BC**  
*Municipal Insurance Association of BC*  
Gord currently represents the NCLGA on the Board of the Municipal Insurance Association of BC (MIABC), where he sits on the Governance Committee and is Chair of the Member Services Committee. By providing stable liability and property insurance, outreach programs and expert advice, the MIABC gives members the dependable support they need to keep their communities vibrant and alive.

**Al Richmond, Vice Chair Municipal Finance Authority**  
*Municipal Insurance Association & Municipal Finance Authority Update*  
Al Richmond was first elected to the Cariboo Regional District (CRD) in 1993. He has served for seven consecutive terms over the past 26 years, representing Electoral Area “G” in the South Cariboo. Since 2003, Al has represented the CRD as a member of the Municipal Finance Authority. He was elected to the Board of Trustees in 2009 and is currently serving his tenth year as a Trustee, becoming Vice-Chair in March of 2015. Al also serves as a Trustee representing local government on the Municipal Pension Board.

Al is currently the Vice-Chair of the Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District (CCRHD). Previously, he was Chair of the CRD Board for nine years (2009 – 2017) and CCRHD Chair from 1999 to January 2009, prior to which he served three years as CCRHD Vice-Chair. In 2008, Chair Richmond was elected to the UBCM Executive as the Electoral Area representative and served in that capacity until being elected Third Vice-President during the 2012 UBCM convention. He then consecutively held the positions of Second Vice-President and First Vice-President, until he was elected as UBCM President at the 2015 UBCM convention. Al was awarded a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2013 in honour of his contributions to the Cariboo Chilcotin.

**11:30AM - 2:30PM**  
**NCLGA Business Sessions**
Pathways for Local Government – First Nations Collaboration in Economic Development

Morris Prosser
Pathways in First Nations-Local Government Collaborations

The Indigenous Business and Investment Council (IBIC) is a 24 member advisory Council to the Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology. The mandate of the Council is to increase Indigenous participation in the economy, promote Indigenous entrepreneurship and businesses, inspire Indigenous and industry partnership and create sustainable pathways for all British Columbians. IBIC often collaborates with various organizations to curate and support relationship building opportunities to engage and promote greater awareness on how to realize economic reconciliation in BC.

Chief Willie Sellars
Collaboration in Economic Development

Willie Sellars was born and raised in Williams Lake, BC, and is a member of the Williams Lake Indian Band of the Secwépemc Nation. Chief Sellars has worked as a Wildland Firefighter for the Ministry of Forests, before returning to his community where he earned the position of Special Projects Coordinator in the WLIB Economic Development Department. Chief Sellars served 3 terms as Councilor. Willie is a published author, of “Dipnetting with Dad”. His second book “Hockey with Dad” is due to be released Spring of 2020. Willie enjoys hockey, cultural events, dipnetting, fastball and spending quality time with his three children.

Maya Chorobik
Preparing for electric vehicle infrastructure in Northern & Rural Communities

Maya Chorobik is a Community Energy Manager with the Community Energy Association. She supports local governments with energy and emissions planning, project implementation, capacity building, and research. In addition, Maya facilitates the BC Municipal Climate Leadership Council. One of her current focus areas is assisting communities with implementing the BC Energy Step Code through coordinating a local government peer network, facilitating industry training, and providing direct implementation support. Maya is also one of the authors of Closing the Loop: A local government guide to regenerative infrastructure and integrated resource recovery, which explores a systems-thinking approach to infrastructure planning. Prior to joining CEA in 2017, Maya gained ten years of experience working in the field of energy and sustainability, including energy efficiency education and consulting for residents and businesses, as well as corporate and community energy management and climate action for local government.

Janice Keyes
Preparing for electric vehicle infrastructure in Northern & Rural Communities

Janice Keyes is a planning professional, with over 25 years of experience creating effective, unique and memorable stakeholder engagement and events. Since joining CEA in May 2017, as a Senior Manager, Community Energy Engagement, Janice has supported Community Energy and Emissions Plans for both Kitimat and Logan Lake, BC and led the process for McLeod Lake Indian Band near Mackenzie, BC. Janice also directs CEA’s role as the Regional Climate Advisor for the FCM-ICLEI’s Partners for Climate Protection Program for BC and the Yukon. She is the project manager for the Charge North Electric Vehicle Network project, funded by FCM and six Regional Districts in northern and central BC, leading stakeholder and public engagement across 37 corridor communities.
Friday, May 10

8:45AM - 10:15AM  Update on the UBCM Working Group for Responsible Conduct

**Gary MacIsaac, Executive Director, Union of BC Municipalities**

*Exploring a Code of Conduct Framework*

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 and he lives with his wife Marion and their three children in Saanich.

**Lesley Scowcroft, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing**

*Exploring a Code of Conduct Framework*

Lesley is a Manager in the Local Government Policy, Research and Legislation branch within the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing where she works on a range of policy issues from campaign financing to land use planning to responsible conduct. She is originally from West Kelowna and has worked for the provincial government since 2012.

8:45AM - 10:15AM  Funding Opportunities for Local Governments

**Steve Kozuki, Executive Director, Forest Enhancement Society of BC**

*FESBC Funding Opportunities*

Steve has worked within the forest industry since the 1984. He graduated with his Bachelor of Science in Forestry in 1994 and has held various positions from Timber Valuation Coordinator for Weldwood and General Manager of Forestry for the Council of Forest Industries, to working in BC Timber Sales and timber pricing for the BC Public Service. He is passionate about the work FESBC does to advance the environmental and resource stewardship of B.C.’s forests.

**Lori Henderson, Director for the Rural Policy and Programs Branch, MFLNRORD**

*Rural Dividend Program Update*

Lori Henderson is the Director for the Rural Policy and Programs Branch within the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD). The Rural Policy and Programs Branch is responsible for the administration of the Rural Dividend Program, which provides $25 million in annual grant funding to support rural and Indigenous communities to pursue economic development and diversification projects. Lori has been a part of the BC Public Service since 2007, working within the Ministry of Environment, the Environmental Assessment Office and the Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology as Regional Economics Operations Director, and prior to that, held several positions within Environment Canada. Lori holds a Master of Arts Degree in Environment and Management and a Master of Science Degree in Earth Sciences.
Joel McKay, CEO, Northern Development Initiatives Trust

NDIT Housing Programs

Joel McKay is the Chief Executive Officer of Northern Development Initiative Trust, a quarter billion dollar regional development corporation focused on building a stronger economy across Northern British Columbia. Joel joined Northern Development in June 2012 as Director of Communications where he led a successful communications services program for small communities across the region, and handled the Trust’s communications and marketing and economic research and analysis. Joel was previously Assignment Editor at Business in Vancouver Newspaper where he led a team of journalists and focused on in-depth coverage of the resource sector. Joel is editor of the Don Rennie award-winning Small Town P.R. Playbook, a Jack Webster award winning journalist, was named one of Prince George’s Top 40 Under 40 business leaders, an alumni of the 2015 Governor General’s Canadian Leadership Conference and in 2016 was honoured with a Distinguished Alumni Award from Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

10:30AM - 12:00PM

Plenary Session 4 – Responding to Community Risk: Wildfire and Flood

Mike Bernier, MLA, Peace River South & Opposition Critic For Oil & Gas Development

Moderator

Mike Bernier was first elected MLA for Peace River South in May of 2013. During his tenure as MLA, Mike has served as Minister of Education, as Parliamentary Secretary for Energy Literacy and Environment, Chair of the Climate Leadership Team, and is presently the Opposition Critic for Oil and Gas Development. Prior to his election to the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, Mike served as Mayor and Councillor for the City of Dawson Creek from 2005 to 2013. Mike is the Past President of the North Central Local Government Association and has also served on the Union of BC Municipalities, the Peace River Regional District Board, the B.C. Mayors Climate Leadership Council, the Community Energy Association, the Council of Resource Community Mayors, Northeast Regional Advisory Committee, Site C Regional and Local Government Liaison Committee, Northern Development Initiative Trust, and the South Peace Economic Development Commission. Mike is married to his wife Valerie and together they have five children. He is also has 20 years of experience in the natural gas industry.

Dave Peterson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Recovery, Planning & Disaster Risk Reduction Division

In February 2019, Dave Peterson was appointed to his present role as Assistant Deputy Minister of Recovery, Planning and Disaster Risk Reduction, Emergency Management BC (EMBC), Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSSG).

Over the last several years, Dave has led the province’s community wildfire recovery and more recently the provincial disaster recovery response from within the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD). Recently, Dave Peterson was the Assistant Deputy Minister of Rural Development, Lands and Innovation Division within FLNRORD, where he held various Assistant Deputy Minister positions since 2005.

Dave was raised on Vancouver Island, and then moved to the interior of BC. He currently resides in Vernon and travels frequently to Victoria and throughout the province during the course of his work. He has two teenage children, and loves to spend his winter days skiing.
Brad Sperling, Chair, Peace River Regional District

Brad Sperling, Chair of the Peace River Regional District, was elected as Director for Electoral Area ‘C’ in the November 2014 Local Government Election, and then as Chair in 2017. Being born and raised in the area, Brad brings experience, expertise, leadership, and a commitment to inspire change to the Board. Brad previously worked with BC Rail for 10 years and has been self-employed as a carpenter since then. Brad's strong sense of community is demonstrated by advocating for rural and remote communities in the region. Brad cares about the people who call this place home. He believes that the voice of the community should be brought to the planning process, and encourages residents to contact him with any question.

As Chair of the Peace River Regional District, Brad believes that that all local governments should have a significant voice at both the provincial and federal levels of government, and only by working together as a collective voice with our partners, can we address these challenges, and help bring about positive change to our communities and our region. Brad's political interests include health care, social-economic diversification, solid waste and recycling, reclaimed water, connectivity, community engagement, rural infrastructure and growth.

Bill Miller, former Chair, Bulkley Nechako Regional District

Wildfire and Community

Bill moved to the North with his family in the mid sixties and attended High school in Houston BC. He started his career in mining at Granisle.

Since 1979 was a business owner operator either in the service or production side of the resource sector mostly in the forest sector and Served on volunteer boards such as the Cfdc Nadina and Lakes economic development. In 2008, Bill was elected as Area B director for Bulkley Nechako RD served three Terms before retiring. Bill served 7 years as chair of the Board, Four years as chair of OBAC and Three years as co chair of the Resource benefit alliance. His passions include family, farm, forest, and community.

Larry Nooski, Chief, Nadleh Whuten First Nation

Shovel Lake Fire 2018: Our People, Our Lands... Our Responsibility

Larry Nooski is the Chief of Nadleh Whut’en First Nation, a community located in the Dakelh (Carrier) territory on the shores of Nadleh Bunk’et (Fraser Lake), in the Nechako Plateau. Chief Nooski’s homeland encompasses approximately 500,000 hectares of pristine lands, abundant water and various natural resources. Chief Larry Nooski was first elected to Council in 1992 and has served Nadleh Whut’en in various capacities since, including Band Manager, Band Councillor, Pipeline Coordinator and Chief. Chief Larry Nooski married into the Sechelt Nation and is currently living with his wife Amy in her territory. Amy and Larry have 3 children, Starr, Charmaine and Tyler and 10 grandchildren – 5 girls and 5 boys.

Lyn Hall, Mayor, City of Prince George

Mayor Lyn Hall has been an active member of the Prince George community for over 30 years. He first entered local politics in 2001 when he won a seat as a School Trustee on the Prince George School Board. He spent 10 years on the board holding various positions including vice-chair and chair. In 2011, he ran and successfully won a seat on Prince George City Council. As a Councillor, he was a member of several committees and community groups. In 2014 and 2018 he ran successful campaigns for Mayor of Prince George.
12:00PM - 1:30PM  
Closing Ceremonies

Heather Lamb, Spinal Cord Injury BC

*Universal Design and How It Applies In Our Communities*

Heather is a Registered Social Worker with SCI BC and our Information Resource Specialist. She is highly knowledgeable about services for people with disabilities. Heather has teaching experience in a variety of settings and an in-depth understanding of the diversity of issues that affect people with disabilities and seniors. In 2016 Heather was recognized as one of Prince George’s Top 40 Under 40 and received the Bridget Moran award for impact in social work. As a person with a visual impairment, she adds depth to accessibility considerations. Heather is an active member of SCI BC’s Access BC team as a presenter and providing information resource support.

Pat Harris, Spinal Cord Injury BC

*Universal Design and How It Applies In Our Communities*

Pat has worked tirelessly on removing barriers for people with disabilities over the 35 years he worked for SCI BC. He was our organization’s lead manager on the provincial Measuring Up the North initiative and was the project manager for the Access North project. As a person with spinal cord injury, he has both personal and professional knowledge of the barriers faced by people with disabilities. Over the course of his career, he has gained an in-depth knowledge of universal design and its importance in providing opportunities for all to participate in our communities. However, he is also pragmatic and understands how to prioritize improvements. A Diamond Jubilee Medal recipient and current Citizen of the Year in Prince George, Pat has done hundreds of presentations to community groups and government on disability and universal design.

Minister Doug Donaldson

*Your Community, Your Future*

Prior to becoming an MLA, Doug worked for Storytellers’ Foundation, a non-profit organization focusing on community economic development in the region, including local food action initiatives. His previous work in Stikine included jobs in forestry, tourism, education, communications and journalism. He has worked as a biologist with a forestry consulting business, as a reporter and columnist with a weekly newspaper, communications director with the Gitxsan Treaty Office, coordinator of the cultural tourism program at Northwest Community College, and instructor with the Gitxsan Wet’suwet’en Education Society. He has also owned and operated businesses in the B.C. Rockies. Doug’s many years in the northwest included living in Smithers and Telkwa before settling in Hazelton, where he was a four-term municipal councillor. He has travelled extensively throughout the Stikine constituency, which overlays the traditional territories of seven First Nations. Doug is married and has two adult children. He enjoys skiing, hiking, running and tending to his chickens, turkeys, sheep and llamas. His formal education includes an undergraduate degree in biology and a master’s degree in journalism.
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