



MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Prince George, BC - Lifetime Achievement and Community Leadership Awards and New Board of Directors Announced at NCLGA 2026 AGM and Convention

The North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) is pleased to announce the recipients of its prestigious Community Leadership Awards and Lifetime Achievement Awards. Community Leadership Awards recognize the dedication and commitment of these communities towards achieving remarkable advancements in the areas of Economic Development and Social Responsibility. Lifetime Achievement Awards are a distinguished accolade that celebrates the profound contributions and lasting influence of local government elected officials within our member communities, for the exceptional leadership and lifelong commitment to public service demonstrated by its recipients.

These awards were presented at the annual 2026 NCLGA AGM and Convention, held in Prince George from May 20-22, 2026.

Community Leadership and Lifetime Achievement Awards

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.

"The 2026 Community Leadership and Lifetime Achievement Awards are 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. We honour and congratulate the Award recipients for their outstanding contributions to public service, their advocacy efforts, and their unwavering commitment to the wellbeing of their communities in Northern and Central BC."

- Kyle MacDonald, NCLGA President

New Board of Directors

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 District
- **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

About the New NCLGA President: Kyle MacDonald

Kyle MacDonald is a councillor with the City of Dawson Creek. Kyle currently serves as president of the Northern BC Crime Stoppers, sits as a director on the BC Crime Stoppers board, and also sits as a director on the South Peace Crime Prevention Association board in Dawson Creek. He was an active participant with the provincial Community Action Initiative and sat at the table of Dawson Creek's Community Action Team.

"I am truly honoured and humbled to have been elected President of the NCLGA for the 2026–2027 term. I firmly believe that our greatest strength lies in the relationships we build — both amongst our membership and with our First Nation neighbours, provincial leaders, and community partners across the region. By continuing to work collaboratively and respectfully together, we can ensure Northern British Columbia's voice remains strong, united, and heard. I am excited for the work ahead and grateful for the opportunity to serve the membership in this new role."

- Kyle MacDonald, NCLGA President

2026 Resolutions

A number of resolutions were submitted by the Executive and the Membership in the lead up to the 2026 NCLGA AGM. During Resolutions sessions on Days 2 and 3 of the AGM, Members exercised their right to debate and vote on the resolutions. A variety of key topics were voted on, including mental health and social services, healthcare training and recruitment, skilled trades training, roads and transportation corridors, resource development, critical infrastructure, transparency in Indigenous negotiations, and land use.

For more information, and to view the 2026 NCLGA resolutions, please visit [NCLGA 2026 Resolutions](#)

About the North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA)

Established in 1955, the North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) advocates for over 240 elected officials in 40+ local and First Nations governments across North Central British Columbia, covering a vast area from 100 Mile House to the Yukon border and from Haida Gwaii to Alberta.

As a non-partisan, non-profit organization, we prioritize the needs of our members, ensuring their voices are heard on provincial and federal levels. Through resolutions, outreach programs, and close relationships with government, media, and industry, we articulate and address the unique perspectives and priorities of our member communities, championing their interests in decision-making processes.

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