



## **MEDIA RELEASE – FOR RELEASE June 11, 2025**

### **Prince Rupert, BC - NCLGA Recognizes Outstanding Contributions with Lifetime Achievement and Community Leadership Awards, and Announces New Board of Directors at its 2025 AGM and Convention**

The Northern Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) is pleased to announce the recipients of its prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award and Community Leadership Awards for Economic Development, Environment Stewardship, and Social Responsibility. These awards celebrate individuals and communities who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and dedication in advancing the well-being of their regions.

These Awards were presented at the Annual 2025 NCLGA AGM and Convention, held in Prince Rupert from May 12-15, 2025.

### **Community Leadership and Lifetime Achievement Awards**

#### **Community Leadership Awards for Economic Development**

- *Cities of Prince George and Prince Rupert* – Recognized for their joint leadership on the Northern BC Hydrogen Hub initiative, a groundbreaking partnership that is advancing clean energy innovation, supporting local industry transition, and promoting long-term regional economic resilience in northern communities.
- *District of Mackenzie* – Recognized for their Arena Upgrade project, which is designed to extend the facility's life by more than 30 years, while significantly reducing both operating costs and environmental impact. This project will future-proof the facility but also support a global shift toward environmental stewardship.

#### **Community Leadership Award for Environmental Stewardship**

- *City of Prince George* – Recognized for its innovative work in Natural Asset Management, including the development of tools and strategies to recognize, manage, and integrate natural systems—such as forests, wetlands, and waterways—into the City's asset management framework, ensuring environmental sustainability and climate resilience.

#### **Community Leadership Award for Social Responsibility**

- *City of Fort St. John* – Recognized for hosting the 2025 Health and Safety Conference, with a dedicated focus on promoting mental health, workplace wellness, and strengthening

community connections. The conference demonstrates a proactive commitment to fostering healthier, safer, and more inclusive work and community environments.

### **Lifetime Achievement Award**

- *Alice Maitland* - In recognition of Alice's extraordinary contributions to local government, community leadership, and advocacy for northern British Columbia, Alice Maitland has been posthumously recognized for the 2025 NCLGA Lifetime Achievement Award. Alice Maitland served as Mayor of the Village of Hazelton for over four decades, becoming one of Canada's longest-serving mayors.

Alice Maitland's career was defined by a dedication to community, a commitment to advancing rural and northern priorities, and a remarkable ability to foster strong, respectful relationships across all levels of government. From 1975 to 1977, Alice also served as President of the North Central Local Government Association (then known as the North Central Municipal Association), where Alice helped amplify the voice of the North at the provincial and national levels.

"We are honoured to present these awards to recognize and celebrate individuals and communities who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and dedication to their community in advancing rural and northern priorities. We congratulate all the award recipients for their outstanding contributions and their steadfast commitment to public service."

- Gladys Atrill, NCLGA President

### **New Board of Directors**

The **2025/2026 NCLGA Board of Directors** are:

- **President:** Gladys Atrill, Mayor, Town of Smithers
- **1st Vice President:** Tony Zabinsky, Councillor, City of Fort St. John
- **2nd Vice President:** Kyle MacDonald, Councillor, City of Dawson Creek
- **Past President:** Judy Greenaway, Director, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
- **Director at Large:** Julia Nelson, Councillor, District of Chetwynd
- **Director at Large:** Jesse Wright, Councillor, District of Mackenzie
- **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, Director, Peace River Regional District
- **Appointed Regional Representative:** Jerrilyn Kirk, Director, Fraser Fort George Regional District
- **Appointed Regional Representative:** Julie Maitland, Director, Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine

- **Appointed Regional Representative:** Sarrah Storey, Director, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

### **About the New NCLGA President: Gladys Atrill**

Gladys Atrill has served on the Board of the North Central Local Government Association for the past three years. Gladys has been the Mayor of the Town of Smithers since 2020 and was first elected to Council in 2014. Gladys stays well connected to local and regional issues through the Boards of the Bulkley Nechako Regional District, NW Regional Hospital District, Northern Development Initiative Trust, and BC Transit.

“I am honoured and excited take on the role of President of NCLGA for the next year. This organization connects local governments and communities through this vast region which is actually most of BC. Our collective voice can be used to advocate for the issues important to all of us. We heard from the membership at the AGM in Prince Rupert to focus on sustainability for NCLGA, advocacy for critical issues and to ensure good communication. “

- Gladys Atrill, NCLGA President

### **2025 Resolutions**

As a key part of the 2025 NCLGA AGM, members exercised their right to debate and vote on a number of resolutions submitted by the Executive and the Membership, with topics ranging from health and social development, housing, community safety, resource development, taxation, and land use.

For more information, and to view the 2025 NCLGA resolutions, please visit [NCLGA 2025 Resolutions](#)

### **About the Northern 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 for their interests in decision-making processes.

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