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NCLGA:

Representing over 240 elected officials in over 42 local and First Nations 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 NCLGA President

by Judy Greenaway, NCLGA President

As I am coming to the end of my term as your President, I would like to thank the NCLGA Executive Committee, the Board members, the administration, and all of you for your support. The NCLGA is a strong association because of all of you.

This has been a busy year for us, with the provincial election and getting to know new Ministers and their changing portfolios. The NCLGA is working hard for you, our members, including sending out letters to the Province advocating for the resolutions that were passed at our last AGM in Smithers. Thank you to the community of Smithers for hosting the successful 2024 AGM, held from May 13-16, 2024.

Our administration has recently been working on getting a signed Memorandum of Understanding with the Chamber of Commerce of British Columbia, inviting collaboration on shared advocacy goals.

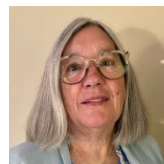
Thanks to our Past President, Sheila Boehm, who started the important work to spearhead the development of a Mental Health and Addictions Symposium and Accord. The inaugural Symposium was held on November 13 and 14, 2024 and was a great success with over 300 participants and 30 Accord signatories to date. With much enthusiasm and broad support, we are planning to co-host a one-day Symposium again this fall.

We are working on legislative reform, as a joint collaboration with the other four Area Associations, to bring the *Local Government Act* into the 21st century. I sit on the ad hoc committee as an elected official member, and we are working with Don Lidstone to do this work. The *Local Government Act* (1998) has not had significant reforms since between 1998 and 2000 and many changes are needed, including alignment with the *BC Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* of 2019.

Our next AGM will be held in Prince Rupert from May 12-15, 2025 and we look forward to welcoming you all there.

"There is only one corner of the universe you can be certain of improving, and that's your own self."

— Aldous Huxley



Judy is an active member of the NCLGA Board and sits on the Resolution Committee, Governance Committee and Finance Committee.

Read more about Judy here: [Board of Director Bio's](#)



2025 NCLGA AGM and Convention

Please join us at the upcoming **NCLGA Annual General Meeting and Convention**, co-hosted by the communities of the [City of Prince Rupert](#), the [District of Port Edward](#) and the [North Coast Regional District](#) in Prince Rupert, BC, on May 12-15, 2025.

Event Location: North Coast Hall Meeting and Event Centre

Theme: The Tides of Change

[Register here](#)

Please visit the website [2025 AGM & Convention](#) for more information.

For any questions on the AGM and Convention, please contact Sandra Moore at admin@nclga.ca.

For questions on sponsorship or tradeshow booths, please contact Heidi Martel at hmartel@nclga.ca.

Healthy Communities Forum

Join Northern Health for the Northern Health Healthy Communities Forum.

Date: Monday, May 12, 2025, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (lunch provided)

Location: Crest Hotel, 222 1st Avenue West Prince Rupert, BC

[Register here](#)

This event is a fantastic opportunity to learn about and engage in meaningful discussions on strengthening healthy communities in Northern BC.



NCLGA Advocacy and Activities

2025/26 NCLGA Resolutions

In preparation for the 2025 AGM and Convention on May 12-15, 2025, in Prince Rupert, BC, we are in the process of collating resolutions received for 2025/26, which will be printed in the Annual Report.

Please note: Late resolutions will be accepted until noon on April 18, 2025, but the topic must have arisen since the March 14, 2025, regular resolution deadline. For more information, see [resolution guidelines](#).



There are eight Executive Resolutions in development for 2025/26, on the following topics:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| E1 | Short-Term Rental Act Exemption Flexibility for Small Communities |
| E2 | Advancing Recovery-Informed Workplace Practices |
| E3 | Provincial Support for Area Associations through Regional Program Development |
| E4 | Engagement Protocols for Regional Directors in Resource Development Processes |
| E5 | Supporting a Regulated Mushroom Picking Industry |
| E6 | Blood Plasma Donor Centre for Northern BC. |
| E7 | Canada-First Local Government Procurement Strategy |
| E8 | Eliminating Interprovincial Trade Barriers |
| E9 | Modernization of Regional District Legislation |

Process for Requesting NCLGA Support Letters

Local governments and organizations that wish to receive a letter of support from the NCLGA are invited to submit a formal request to NCLGA.

Please allow up to 3 weeks to process the letter of support request.

All letter of support requests require NCLGA Board approval and are subject to the [Policy for Letters of Support](#).

Reforming the *Local Government Act*: A Roadmap

NCLGA members are asked to participate in an important initiative to modernize the *Local Government Act* (LGA).

The insights and experiences of local government elected officials and staff are essential in shaping legislative reforms, and we encourage you to take part in this process.

Don Lidstone K.C. has developed the [Regional District Legislation Roadmap](#), a framework designed to gather input from all five area associations on the challenges facing local governments under the LGA.

Please complete the survey: [Reforming the *Local Government Act*: A Roadmap Survey](#).





Webinar Report

As part of our quarterly webinar series, on February 25, 2025, the NCLGA hosted a webinar by the Prince Rupert Port Authority titled, *“Economic Impacts of Port Activities on Local Communities”*.

The webinar was presented by Kevin Moraes, Director, Government and External Relations, and Halie Osmar, Government Relations Associate, and included information on the Port’s historic \$3 billion expansion, the economic impact to Northern BC, and the community engagement initiatives to support safe and sustainable trade growth across the corridor.

All NCLGA members are invited to join our quarterly webinars. The next webinar is titled, *“Bridging Gaps in Care within Northern and Central BC - A Presentation from the BC Rural Health Network”*, and being hosted by Paul Adams, Executive Director, BC Rural Health Network, May 21, 2025, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. [Register here](#)

If you have suggestions for future webinars of interest to NCLGA membership, please email Bettina Johnson at bjohnson@nclga.ca.

FESBC Presentation to the NCLGA Board

At the March 1, 2025, NCLGA Board of Directors Meeting, presentations to the Board included a presentation by Jason Fisher, Executive Director, Forest Enhancement Society ([FESBC](#)).

Executive Director Fisher presented on the key role that FESBC plays in working with partners to support innovative projects throughout the province, delivered by Indigenous groups, communities, and contractors. The projects ensure value is generated from residual forest waste while reducing the risk from wildfires, improving wildlife habitat, and generating economic activity.

Help Us Understand the Impact of Accommodation Challenges for Medical Travel to Prince George

NCLGA is seeking your input on an important issue affecting Northern and Central BC communities. We’ve heard growing concerns about the difficulty residents face when trying to find short-term accommodation near the **University Hospital of Northern British Columbia (UHNBC)** in Prince George while attending medical appointments or supporting loved ones receiving care.

To better understand the scope of the issue, we are asking elected officials to share whether they are hearing similar concerns from their constituents and to help us estimate how many individuals in our communities may be affected.

Your feedback will help guide potential advocacy and collaboration opportunities aimed at improving access to medical travel supports in the region.

| Please take a moment to complete this short [survey](#).

2025 Mental Health and Addictions Symposium and Accord

SAVE-THE-DATE! The **2025 Mental Health and Addictions Symposium** is being planned for October 15, 2025, in Prince George, BC.



Bringing together representatives from multiple agencies and governments, the Symposium is a pivotal event aimed at addressing critical issues in mental health and addictions through comprehensive discussions and collaborative efforts.

Mental Health and Addictions – Advocacy Opportunities

We invited all Accord signatory agencies to a virtual strategy meeting on January 31, 2025, to discuss and strategize on advocacy activities and opportunities.

Core themes that were discussed included the importance of establishing northern models for northern communities, promoting inclusive discussions to address disconnect between ministries, RCMP and service providers, and advocating for dedicated longer-term funding that would free up more time for education/training and the providing of services, such as more cost-effective peer-driven programs.

A follow up meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 22, 2025**, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Living Document and Next Iteration in 2025

The Accord is intended to be a living document, outlining shared principles and actions to drive improvements in mental health and addictions services across Central and Northern British Columbia. Recognizing the need to continuously engage and understand the diverse needs of communities and organizations, the Accord is set for review and an update in mid-2025.

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

We invite all NCLGA members to consider endorsing and adopting the Mental Health and Addictions Accord in their communities.

Please reach out to bjohnson@nclga.ca if your local government or agency is interested in endorsing the Accord or would like to be included in the next round of commentary.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Northern Regional Energy Dialogues

[Regional Energy Dialogues](#) have been convened across Northern BC in the winter and spring of 2025, working with communities and First Nations to identify their interests, needs and opportunities in support of energy transitions. The goals of the workshops include facilitating peer learning amongst participating communities, sparking dialogue, and building collective regional action on energy issues across northern BC.

If you'd like to have the energy conversation brought to your community, please contact **Sarah Korn, Community Coordinator**, sarah.korn@alumni.unbc.ca.

Upcoming Dialogues

April 15, 2025, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

[Mackenzie Community Energy Open House](#)

Stop by to learn about the Northern Regional Energy Dialogues project, share your thoughts and ideas on community energy development, and take part in planning the future of energy in Mackenzie!

April 29 - April 30, 2025

Ramada Plaza by Wyndham Prince George

[NorthCAN Forum](#)

The premier event of 2025 exploring opportunities for climate action and the energy transition in Northern BC.





Rural Minds Matter Awareness Campaign – Upcoming Townhall Events in Northern BC



[Stigma-Free Mental Health Society](#) will be hosting townhall events, with speakers and local panelists breaking down stigma and discussing the challenges and opportunities for mental health and wellbeing in Northern BC communities in May of 2025. A collaboration with *AgSafe BC* and *DoMoreAg*, these townhall chats will offer informative and engaging mental wellness dialogue, share personal stories and lived experience, while highlighting the resources available to support rural residents today and in the future, including information on the exciting potential of peer supported groups.

Save-the-Dates!

- **May 13, 2025**, Terrace, BC
- **May 14, 2025**, Prince George, BC
- **May 15, 2025**, Fort St John, BC

All evening events - Times and locations TBC

For more information, please visit <https://stigmafreementalhealth.com/campaigns/rural-minds-matter/>.

If your organization would like to co-host a townhall event, please email mike.skrypnek@stigmafreementalhealth.com.

2025 Northern BC Recreation Conference

June 1-3, 2025

Prince George, BC

Join your host Engage Sport North for an inspiring and action-packed conference bringing together recreation leaders, community builders, and passionate changemakers from across Northern BC. Connect, learn, and explore innovative ways to shape the future of physical activity and recreation in your community through engaging keynotes, hands-on workshops, and active experiences. Don't miss this chance to collaborate, grow, and have fun with others from the Northern BC recreation sector — mark your calendar and stay tuned for more details to come.

Questions can be directed to sarah@engagesportnorth.com.

[Register here](#)



Upcoming Board Meetings

Strategy Session on NCLGA AGM

May 11, 2025, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

In-person, Prince Rupert, BC

NCLGA Board Meeting

June 20-21, 2025

In-person, Prince George, BC and Via [zoom](#)

UBCM Luncheon

September 21, 2025

In-person, Victoria, BC

NCLGA Board Meeting

October 17-18, 2025

Via [zoom](#)

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Member Webinar

May 21, 2025, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

***“Bridging Gaps in Care within Northern and Central BC -
A Presentation from the BC Rural Health Network”***

Presenter: Paul Adams, Executive Director, BC Rural Health Network

[Register here](#)

NCLGA Annual General Meeting and Convention 2025

May 12-15, 2025

Prince Rupert, BC

[Register here](#)

Visit: [2025 AGM & Convention](#) for more information

Healthy Communities Forum

May 12, 2025, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Crest Hotel, Prince Rupert, BC

[Register here](#)

UBCM Annual Convention

September 20-26, 2025

Victoria, BC

More information at: [UBCM 2025 Convention](#)

2025 Mental Health and Addictions Symposium

October 15, 2025

Prince George, BC

More information to be posted at:

[2025 Mental Health and Addictions Symposium](#)

CONTACT US

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NCLGA Newsletter

NCLGA Newsletter Contributions

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

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

Please submit content to Bettina Johnson at bjohnson@nclga.ca.