

In This Issue

A Message from the President 1

2026 NCLGA AGM
and Conference2-3

NCLGA Advocacy and Activities ...4-7

- Presentations to the Board
- Mental Health and Addictions Accord
- NCLGA Resolutions
- Member Webinars and Resources

Upcoming Meetings & Events..... 8

NCLGA

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

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



A Message from the President

Gladys Atrill, NCLGA President

Happy Spring!

As we look forward to warmer and longer days, we at the NCLGA Board are also looking forward to our Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Conference, this year in the City of Prince George. The organizing committee has been busy planning a great conference for you. If you haven't already registered, please register here: [AGM registration](#), and review the agenda, including the extracurricular events [here](#). I am very much looking forward to seeing you there. This conference is a time where we work together on our common issues and strengthen the bonds between our communities. I can assure you it's not all work and no play with a great party organized just for you by our hosts, the City of Prince George, the Lheidli T'enneh, and Regional District of Fraser-Fort George.

At the Board, some of the work we've been focussed on includes a new membership fee model that will be presented to you at the AGM for discussion. We have been looking for a more equitable fee structure and are looking forward to receiving your feedback.

NCLGA staff have been reviewing and assisting with resolutions, looking for duplicates and encouraging communities to work together. This is intended to strengthen the resolutions both at our AGM and when they hit the UBCM floor.

The Executive have been reaching out to members through the Regional District tables to provide updates and to hear questions from you. If you haven't seen us yet, you will.

Our next webinar, "Advancing Community-led Energy Initiatives in Northern BC", connects us back to the Regional Energy Dialogues and what we can do to shape the energy future in our communities. The webinar is April 15, 2026, from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

As always, I must thank the members of the Board for their work. We have had some very spirited discussions over the past few months, though grounded in respect and I am very grateful for those who have given their time to serve. And to our staff – Terry, Sandra, Bettina – thank you for all you do!

Gladys Atrill, NCLGA President

Gladys Atrill has served on the NCLGA Board 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. Read more about Gladys here: [Board of Director Bios](#)



2026 NCLGA AGM and Conference

Please join us at the NCLGA Annual General Meeting and Conference, co-hosted with the [City of Prince George](#), the [Lheidli T'enneh First Nation](#), and the [Regional District of Fraser-Fort George](#) in Prince George, BC.

Event Dates: May 20 - 22, 2026

Event Location: Prince George Conference and Civic Centre

Theme: *Walking Together: Honouring Relationships, Leading Change*

Registration: Please [Register here](#).

Hotel booking, draft agenda, and other AGM information can be found on the NCLGA website: [2026 AGM & Conference](#).

For questions regarding the AGM, please contact Sandra Moore at admin@nclga.ca.

For sponsorship and tradeshow opportunities, please contact Heidi Martel at hmartel@nclga.ca.

Award Nominations for 2026 AGM

Please submit nominations for:

- *Lifetime Achievement Award*
- *Community Leadership Awards*

Deadline: April 26, 2026

More info at [2026 AGM & Conference](#)



The AGM and Planning Committee has identified three tours starting at 12:30 p.m. on May 20, 2026, in the afternoon. These tours are on a first come/first served basis. Registration for the tours and more information is included in the registration for the NCLGA's AGM and Conference, located [here](#).

Tour of the Public Safety Operations Building and Prince George Emergency Support Services Reception Centre

A tour of the Public Safety Operations Building (PSOB) currently housing the Emergency Operations Center, the Fraser-Fort George Regional Fire Dispatch Service and Communications Infrastructure Room, and future location of the Fraser-Fort George 9-1-1 Call-Answer Service. Public Safety staff will discuss the nuances of operations and services provided in each area.

Participants can then expect to experience a staged evacuation registration process at the Prince George ESS Reception Centre. The tour will showcase the Reception Centre and the Incident Command Centre where staff will explain what municipalities are responsible for during an emergency under the Provincial Emergency and Disaster Management Act. Prince George staff will also highlight how they support surrounding communities in times of emergency.

Ancient Forest Interpretive Centre Experience

Delegates will visit the newly completed Ancient Forest Interpretive Centre and experience a guided walk along the iconic Ancient Forest boardwalk. The tour includes a walkthrough of the approximately 4,500 sq. ft. Interpretive Centre, highlighting its programming spaces, design intent, and cultural and educational features. Participants will then explore the universally accessible boardwalk trail, walking through an old-growth cedar forest. The experience offers a unique opportunity to learn about Indigenous-led tourism, conservation, and infrastructure development in a nationally significant ecosystem.

Prince George Energy Leadership Tour

This tour will highlight public and private facilities in Prince George that are unique Canadian energy leadership initiatives. From government infrastructure incorporating advanced energy-efficiency systems to private industrial operations showcasing renewable energy technologies, the tour illustrates how Prince George is positioning itself as a national leader in practical, community-driven climate action. These facilities showcase Prince George's efforts in reducing emissions, improving resilience, and building a model for energy stewardship that other communities can learn from.



Photo: Chuck Nisbett

Northern Health Forum

Formerly the Healthy Communities Forum, the Northern Health Forum will continue to highlight regional priorities and partnership opportunities with local governments. This year's Forum includes a presentation on understanding health system pressures in the North (trends in emergency care, primary care, and rural service delivery), an opportunity to inform Northern Health's new strategic plan, and two concurrent sessions.

Seniors' Services in Community

This session will provide an overview of Northern Health programs, initiatives, and partnerships that support seniors to live well in their communities. Presenters will highlight current service models, emerging needs, and opportunities for collaboration with local governments and community organizations.

Mental Health and Substance Use

This session will focus on mental health and substance use priorities across the region, including service pathways, community based supports, and strategies for strengthening local responses. Presenters will outline key challenges, innovations, and approaches for working alongside local governments to support community wellbeing.

Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2026, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Prince George Civic Centre, BC

Registration: Registration for the Forum is embedded as an option in the registration link for the Annual General Meeting.

NCLGA Advocacy and Activities

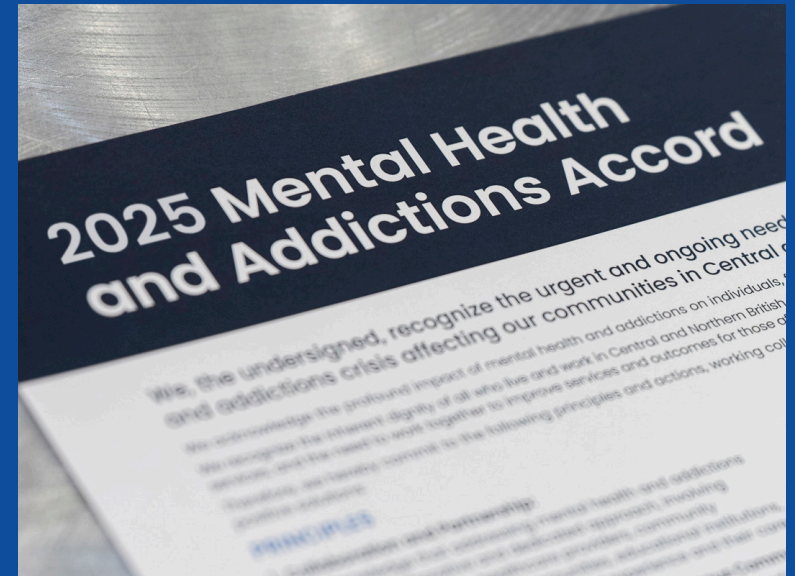
Presentations to the NCLGA Board

- On February 27, 2026, the **Northern Post Secondary Collaborative** presented to the NCLGA Board. The NPSC brings together Coast Mountain College, Northern Lights College, College of New Caledonia, and the University of Northern British Columbia in a shared commitment to serve the educational needs of northern BC. Led by the Presidents of the four institutions, NPSC ensures strategic alignment and long-term commitment at the highest level.
- A presentation was also provided by Chris Walls, Manager, BC Hydro Restoration Centre, and Bob Gammer, Manager, Northern Community Relations, BC Hydro, on the **BC Hydro ES911 Site**. Chris Walls shared an overview of the ES911 Emergency Services application, which facilitates reporting and call entry for Priority 1 Trouble work. This application reduces callbacks between external groups and BC Hydro, and allows for quicker emergency crew allocation.

For more information, NCLGA member communities are encouraged to reach out to Chris Walls at chris.walls@bchydro.com.

- On November 28, 2025, a presentation on BC Crime Stoppers was provided to the Board by Gillian Millam, Executive Director, BC Crime Stoppers. **Northern BC Crime Stoppers** is a program that empowers people to fight back against crime. Anyone can submit an anonymous tip by using the tips line, and if that tip leads to an arrest the individual will receive a reward for their efforts. Crime Stoppers operates in 15 countries around the world and since the very first program started in 1976, they have become the number one community based crime solving organization in the world.

To learn more, please visit northernbccrimestoppers.ca.



Mental Health and Addictions Accord

The most recent Accord Signatory meeting was held on January 15, 2026. Priorities that were discussed included strategies around networking, relationship-building and information sharing, inviting more people and groups, and advocating for increased mental health support.

All Accord signatory agencies are invited to the next virtual strategy meeting to discuss and strategize on advocacy activities and opportunities. The next Signatory meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2026, from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Recognizing the weight carried by local government leaders in times of crisis, please join us as we come together to advance shared urgent mental health and addictions advocacy efforts for North Central BC.

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



NCLGA Advocacy and Resolutions

The NCLGA continues to advocate on behalf of its members, to bring forward multiple resolutions for 2025/26, which were passed by NCLGA membership during our May 2025 AGM and Conference in Prince Rupert.

To review advocacy activity updates related to specific 2025 resolutions, please visit [2025 Resolutions](#). Advocacy letters are uploaded once sent out to Ministers, and advocacy response letters are uploaded once received.

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

2026/27 Resolutions

Late Resolutions: Late resolutions will be accepted until noon on **April 17, 2026**, but the topic must have arisen since the March 13, 2026 regular resolution deadline. We ask that members search the current [resolution database](#) to see if a similar resolution has been submitted already, to avoid duplication whenever possible.

NCLGA staff have uploaded regular member resolutions submitted by March 13, 2026, which will be considered at the 2026 AGM and Conference. Late resolutions will be uploaded to the resolution section following April 17, 2026.

For further submission guidelines on late, emergency, and off-the-floor resolutions, members are asked to please review the [2026 NCLGA Resolution Writing and Submission Guidelines](#).

Contact Sandra Moore at admin@nclga.ca if you have any questions.

Directors Corner

Director Kyle MacDonald,
Councillor for City of Dawson Creek

The City of Dawson Creek was recently recognized with the International Sport Event of the Year (under \$2 million budget) at the Sport Tourism Canada PRESTIGE Awards. The award recognizes the successful hosting of the Para Hockey Cup, the most recent installment in City of Dawson Creek's long-standing partnership with Hockey Canada, as the Northeast region continues to showcase its strength in hosting high-calibre national and international competitions.



This recognition is a testament to what can be achieved through regional collaboration and community pride. While the award was presented to Dawson Creek, the success of this event was achieved through regional collaboration with the Peace River Regional District, the communities of Tumbler Ridge, Chetwynd, and Pouce Coupe, and valued partners West Moberly First Nations and Sauleau First Nation. Their contributions through sponsorship, volunteerism, and cultural and artisan involvement helped elevate the event and ensure its success.

More information at dawsoncreek.ca.

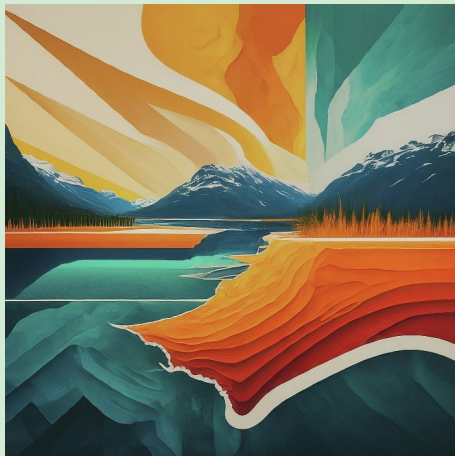
Member Webinars

Webinars

Our January 2026 webinar was presented by Dr. Barbara Kane, titled *“Addressing the Development of Substance Use and Mental Health Services in a Psychiatric Hospital for Northern BC”*.

The webinar included information on the critical need for both secure substance use services and long-term secure psychiatric care. Dr. Kane spoke to what led to the current situation, the wide-ranging effects on other parts of healthcare and societal systems, and opportunities that exist to address this critical gap in mental health and addictions care for communities in Central and Northern BC.

We accept recommendations for webinar speakers and topics from our members. To share any recommendations with us for a future webinar, please email bjohnson@nclga.ca.



Please join us at our Next Webinar:

“Advancing Community-led Energy Initiatives in Northern British Columbia”

April 15, 2026 at 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Speakers: Dr. Sinead Earley, Co-Primary Investigator, UNBC and Aleah Jordan, Community Coordinator, ACET initiative, UVIC

Who should attend: NCLGA members

This presentation will introduce the [Northern Regional Energy Dialogues](#) research project, share findings to date, and explore pathways forward.

Background: Climate action and energy transition policies in BC have typically focused on urban contexts, frequently leading to programs that are inaccessible or unresponsive to residents and communities in northern BC. Yet there is significant appetite for climate action in these regions, and well-designed energy planning has the potential to support community well-being. The Northern Regional Energy Dialogues research project is working with communities to design and advance research that will support community agency in shaping energy futures that will deliver on this potential benefit.

[Please Register here.](#)



Resources and Events

Local Government Leadership Academy

The Local Government Leadership Academy (LGLA) supports and promotes education and training for local government and First Nations elected officials and senior administrators throughout the Province of British Columbia. The **LGLA Certificate Program** is designed to support and encourage elected officials to enhance their leadership skills and knowledge to help enable effective local governance.

For more information on Certificate Programs for local elected government officials, please visit: [Local Government Leadership Academy](#).



First Nations - Local Government Land Use Planning Workshop

May 5-7, 2026

Location: House of Ancestors/Uda Dune Baiyoh, Prince George, BC

This 2.5-day workshop is co-hosted by the Local Government Management Association (LGMA) and First Nations Public Service Secretariat (FNPSS) and provides a significant opportunity for First Nations and local governments to enhance relationships and collaboration efforts amongst the sectors.

Land use planning has continued to be a recurring subject of interest for both sectors and there have been new legislative and governance considerations, including the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and the DRIPA Action Plan.

Please [Register here](#) by April 21, 2026.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Minerals North Conference and Tradeshow

May 6-8, 2026

Smithers, BC

For information on registration, tradeshow and general conference details, please visit: [Minerals North](#).



First Nations - Local Government Land Use Planning Workshop

May 5-7, 2026

House of Ancestors, Prince George, BC

[Register here](#)

NCLGA Board Meetings

Summer and Fall Board Meeting Dates to be confirmed, following the NCLGA AGM and Conference.

NCLGA Board Strategy Sessions

Minerals North Forum Strategy Session

May 5, 2026 (TBC)

NCLGA AGM Strategy Session

May 19, 2026 (all Directors)

Member Webinar

April 15, 2026, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

“Advancing Community-led Energy Initiatives in Northern British Columbia”

Presenters: Sinead Earley and Aleah Jordan, UNBC

[Register here](#).

NCLGA Annual General Meeting and Conference 2026

May 20-22, 2026

Prince George, BC

[Register here](#).

Visit the [2026 AGM webpage](#) for more information.

Northern Health Forum

May 20, 2026, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Prince George Civic Centre, Prince George, BC

Registration: *Registration for the Forum is embedded as an option in the registration link for the Annual General Meeting.*

UBCM Annual Convention

September 14-18, 2026

Vancouver, BC

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

CONTACT US

NCLGA - North Central Local Government Association

Suite 507 - 1488 4th Avenue,
Prince George, BC, V2L 4Y2

admin@nclga.ca

www.nclga.ca

NCLGA Newsletter Contributions

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

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