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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

Summer greetings NCLGA Members!

I hope you are finding time to rejuvenate yourself and spend some time with your family and friends this summer.

Your Board of Directors met in June to consider all we learned at the AGM and conference in Prince Rupert and to reflect on the opportunity we had to meet with many of you and to hear your perspectives. I must say a thank you, again, to the host communities, it was wonderful to gather on the coast.

Themes we heard and that we are digging into include (1) strengthening our financial position, (2) creating a stronger forum for resolutions at next year's AGM and ensuring we advocate for the issues important in our vast region, and (3) communicating with you.

I have had my first meeting with the Presidents of the other area associations.

Points of common interest are housing needs, homelessness and issues stemming from mental health and addictions, the infrastructure gap and how to pay for it, downloading from other orders of government, emergency management, health care challenges, and electoral reform. More specifically to managing our area associations, the challenge of creating the 'perfect' AGM and conference, holding the ideal resolutions sessions, and delivering on advocacy and the setting of membership fees.

The Executive Committee will meet monthly or as needed over the summer and I look forward to seeing many of you at UBCM. Please join the NCLGA Luncheon on Wednesday September 24, 2025. You will need to pre-register. It is a good opportunity to get an update on NCLGA, network with your neighbours, and hear from those running for positions on the UBCM Board from our region. We strive to have strong representation from northern communities on the UBCM board.

Thank you to the Board for stepping up and I look forward to working with you. A special thank you to Past President Judy Greenaway who will provide continuity and guidance for the next year.

As always, thank you to our small but mighty staff team.

Best,

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](#)



2025 NCLGA AGM and Convention in Prince Rupert

The 2025 NCLGA AGM was held in beautiful Prince Rupert, BC, and co-hosted with the City of Prince Rupert, the District of Port Edward, and the North Coast Regional District.

Over 260 participants representing local governments took part in the activities and events spanning the week of May 11-15.

The event drew delegates, partners, sponsors, vendors, speakers, and elected officials from across the region. Key local highlights included a harbour tour of the Prince Rupert Port Authority and a vintage trolley tour for participants to enjoy the sights and sounds of Prince Rupert. An evening welcome reception was held at the North Pacific Cannery Museum.

At the Opening Ceremonies, a UBCM Welcome was provided by Trish Mandewo, President, Union of BC Municipalities. The Honourable Janet Austin, former BC Lieutenant Governor provided an engaging Keynote speech.



A range of plenary and panel sessions were held, including:

- Rising Tide: Haida Title Lands Agreement
- Mental Health and Wellbeing for Local Government Elected Officials
- Harnessing AI for Enhanced Capacity in Local Government
- First Nations and Their Rising Role in Community Investment
- Tale of a Tax Sale (Watson Island)
- Updates from MIABC, NDIT, and Northern Medical Programs Trust
- Building Bridges: Climate Adaptation, Housing, and Reconciliation.

Community Leadership and Lifetime Achievement Awards

Awards were presented in recognition of communities that have demonstrated exceptional leadership and dedication in advancing the well-being of their regions.



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 demonstrated a proactive commitment to fostering healthier, safer, and more inclusive work and community environments.



Lifetime Achievement Award

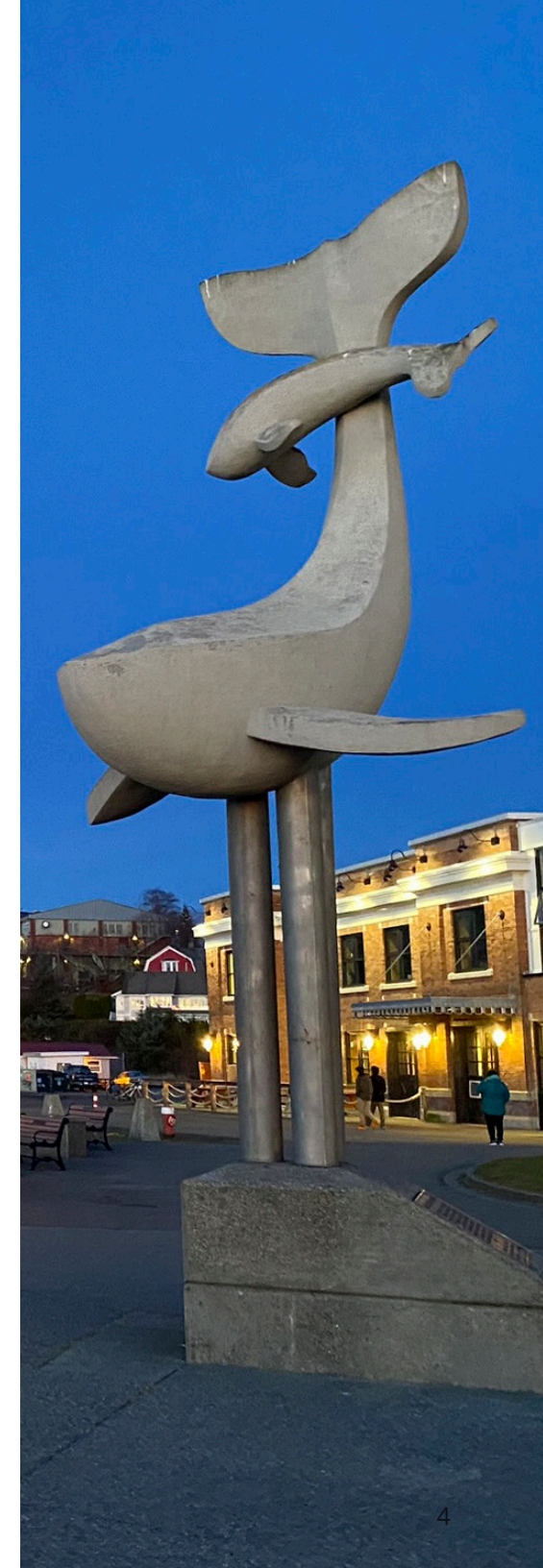
- **Alice Maitland** - In recognition of Alice Maitland's extraordinary contributions to local government, community leadership, and advocacy for northern British Columbia, Alice Maitland has been posthumously recognized for the 2025 NCLGA Lifetime Achievement Award. Alice Maitland served as Mayor of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

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 NCLGA (then known as the North Central Municipal Association), where Alice helped amplify the voice of the North at the provincial and national levels.

New Board of Directors for 2025/26

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
- **Directors at Large:** *Julia Nelson*, Councillor, District of Chetwynd - *Jesse Wright*, Councillor, District of Mackenzie - *Melanie Woods*, Councillor, Village of Gitlaxt'aamiks
- **Appointed Regional Representatives:** *Barry Cunningham*, Director, North Coast Regional District - *Eric de Vries*, Director, Cariboo Regional District - *Brenda Enax*, Director, Northern Rockies Regional District - *Leonard Hiebert*, Chair, Peace River Regional District - *Jerrilyn Kirk*, Director, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George - *Julie Maitland*, Director, Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine - *Sarrah Storey*, Director, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako.





From left to right: Staff: Sandra Moore, Terry Robert. NCLGA Directors: Tony Zabinsky, Barry Cunningham, Judy Greenaway, Jerrilyn Kirk, Gladys Atrill, Julia Nelson, Kyle MacDonald, Eric de Vries, Leonard Hiebert, Jesse Wright (missing from photo: Brenda Enax, Melanie Woods, Sarrah Storey, Julie Maitland).

NCLGA Advocacy and Activities

2025/26 NCLGA Resolutions

A total of 10 Executive Resolutions and 52 Member Resolutions were received in preparation for the AGM, and shared with membership in the [2025 AGM Annual Report](#).

Resolutions sessions at the AGM saw membership voting on and discussing 10 Executive Resolutions and 24 Member Resolutions, on topics ranging from health and social development, housing, environment, legislation, finance, community economic development, community safety, land use, taxation, transportation, elections, and assessments. Due to time constraints, Resolutions R25-R51, and L1, L2 were deferred to the Board.

The **2025 resolutions** are posted in full on the website for review: [2025 NCLGA Resolutions](#).

Please check back for updates on advocacy activities related to each resolution, after submission to UBCM in September 2025.

Board Meeting Report

A Board of Directors meeting was held virtually and in person in Prince George, on June 20 and 21, 2025. New President Gladys Atrill provided a Presidents Report and reflected on areas of priority focus for 2025/2026 as identified at the 2025 AGM, including advocacy, finances, and sustainability of operations. New directors were welcomed and key themes were discussed relating to community and governance priorities.

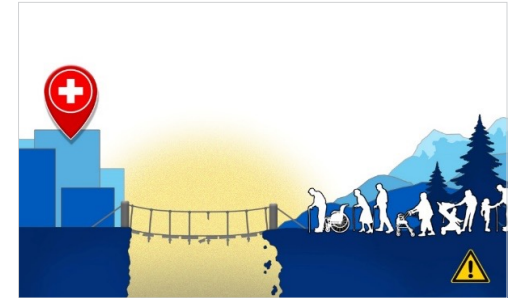


Member Webinars

Webinar Report

Our April 2025 webinar was presented by Paul Adams, Executive Director of the **BC Rural Health Network**, on *“Bridging Gaps in Care within Northern and Central BC”*. The presentation included valuable information on the work of the BCRHN, as a voice for rural residents, communicating health concerns and solutions between communities and with governments.

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



Please join us at our Next Webinar:

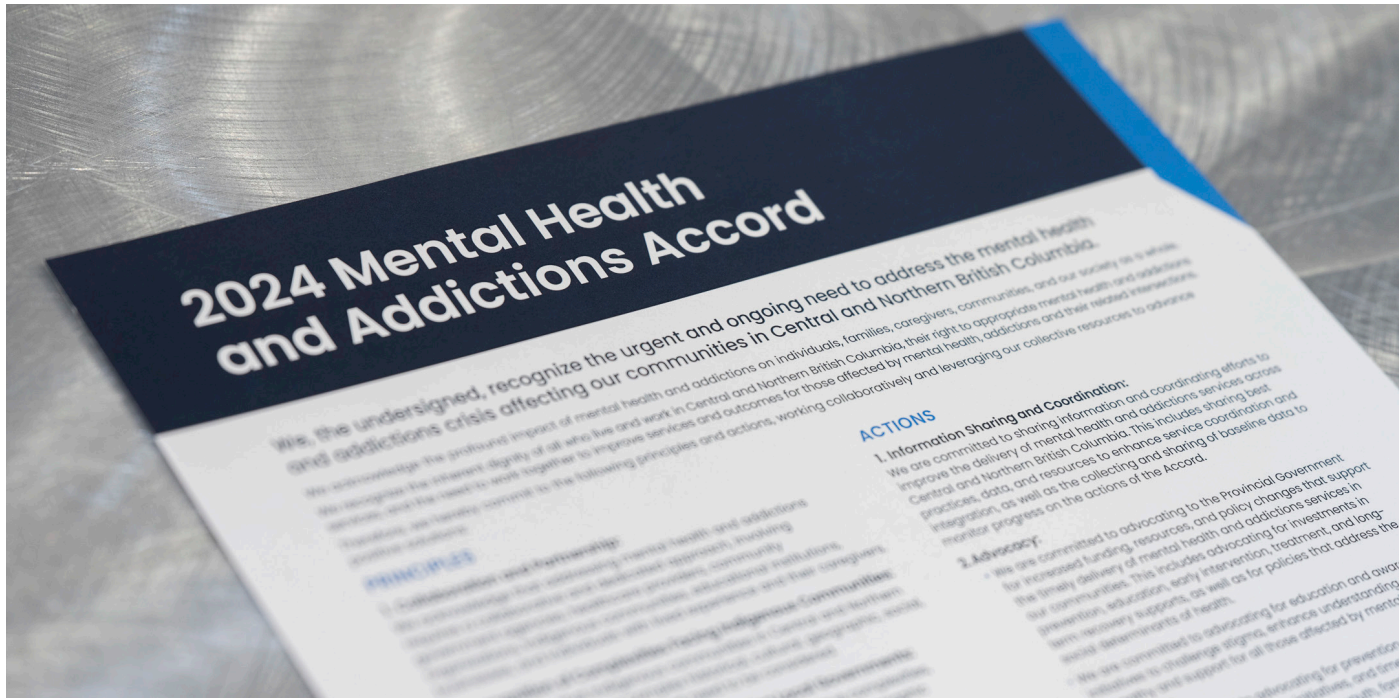
“Outdoor Recreation for Community and Economic Development – A Guidebook for Rural British Columbia Communities”

August 13, 2025 at 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. PDT

The webinar will be presented by **Louise Pedersen, Executive Director, Outdoor Recreation Council of BC**, and will include information on the work of the ORCBC and the newly released guidebook *“Outdoor Recreation for Community and Economic Development”*, to help rural B.C. communities plan and develop sustainable outdoor recreation as a powerful catalyst for community well-being.

Created by researchers at Selkirk College with input from experts and an advisory committee, the guidebook offers practical tools for local governments, First Nations, nonprofits, and economic development professionals.

[Click here](#) to register.



2025 Mental Health and Addictions Symposium and Accord

The **2025 Mental Health and Addictions Symposium** will be held in Prince George on **October 15, 2025**, and is intended primarily for Accord Signatories. It will not be open to the general public, allowing for a focused space dedicated to collaboration and progress sharing. The agenda is designed in a workshop-style format, where Signatories will “report back” on actions taken in alignment with the Accord’s principles, and work together to identify concrete actions, challenges, and opportunities. This format supports ongoing commitment and accountability. Stay tuned for more information.

The **Mental Health and Addictions Accord** is a shared advocacy framework and commitment to work together to improve mental health and addictions outcomes in northern and central BC, through specific principles and actions. To learn more on the Accord purpose and vision, [click here](#).

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

If you have any questions about the Symposium, please contact Sandra Moore at admin@nclga.ca. For more information on the Accord development, contact Bettina Johnson at bjohnson@nclga.ca.



Upcoming Board Meetings

UBCM Luncheon

September 24, 2025

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

In-person, Victoria, BC

NCLGA Board Meeting

October 17-18, 2025

Virtual via [zoom](#)

NCLGA Board Meeting

December 12-13, 2025

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

NCLGA Board Meeting

February 27-28, 2026

Virtual via [zoom](#)

NCLGA Board Strategy Sessions

NCLGA Board Strategy Session

September 21, 2025, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Week of UBCM

In-person, Victoria, BC

NCLGA Board Strategy Session

January 19, 2026, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

In-person, Prince George, BC

NCLGA Board Strategy Session

May 19, 2026, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

In-person, Prince George, BC

Other Upcoming Meetings & Events

Member Webinar

August 13, 2025, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

“Outdoor Recreation for Community and Economic Development – A Guidebook for Rural British Columbia Communities”

Presenter: Louise Pedersen, Executive Director, ORCBC

[Register here](#)

UBCM Annual Convention

September 20-26, 2025

Victoria, BC

More information at: ubcm.ca

2025 Mental Health and Addictions Symposium

October 15, 2025, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Prince George, BC

More information to be posted at: nclga.ca

Member Webinar

November 12, 2025, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

“Advancing Local Government Advocacy through Effective NCLGA Resolutions Processes”

Presenters: Lara Beckett, Chair of the RDFFG and Gord Klassen, NCLGA Past President

Member Webinar

April 15, 2026, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

“Update on the Findings of the Northern Energy Dialogues”

Presenters: Sinead Earley and Sarah Korn, UNBC

NCLGA Annual General Meeting and Convention 2026

May 20-22, 2026

Prince George, BC

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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 – thank you!