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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

Kyle MacDonald, NCLGA President

Following the 2026 Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Convention, I want to thank everyone who helped ensure that the priorities of northern and central British Columbia were heard clearly and consistently.

UBCM provided an important opportunity for the NCLGA Executive to meet with provincial representatives and advance issues identified by our members. Our discussions addressed northern highways and transportation infrastructure; housing costs and regional funding inequities; education and workforce development; and access to mental health and substance use services in northern, rural, and remote communities. We will continue to follow up on these discussions and keep members informed as responses and next steps are confirmed.

I was also pleased to welcome members to our annual NCLGA Members Luncheon. The event gave us an opportunity to recognize the service of local and Indigenous leaders, hear from members seeking positions on the UBCM Executive, thank Pacific Northern Gas for its continued support, and share updates on NCLGA's advocacy and upcoming activities.

A particular highlight was the button-and-sticker campaign supporting NR13, which calls for the reinstatement of the Northern and Rural Area Homeowner Grant Benefit. Thank you to everyone who wore a button, displayed a sticker, and helped raise awareness throughout the convention. I was very pleased to see NR13 endorsed by the UBCM membership.

The endorsement was one of several strong results for NCLGA members. Of the 24 NCLGA-endorsed resolutions

included in the UBCM Resolutions Book, 19 were endorsed by delegates. Four others were linked to similar resolutions that were endorsed, and one was referred to the UBCM Executive for further consideration.

These results demonstrate what we can accomplish when our members identify common priorities and speak with a coordinated regional voice. The resolutions address challenges and opportunities affecting communities throughout our region, including housing, transportation, emergency services, wildfire resilience, infrastructure, taxation, and economic development.

Thank you to our members, Directors, Executive Committee, speakers, sponsors, and staff for contributing to a successful UBCM week. Your preparation, participation, and advocacy strengthened NCLGA's collective voice.

I also encourage everyone to mark their calendars for the 2027 NCLGA AGM and Convention, taking place May 26–29, 2027 at the Prince George Civic Centre. Our theme, *At the Centre of Opportunity: North Central Leadership for a Changing World*, reflects both the importance of our region and the leadership our communities continue to demonstrate.

I look forward to building on the momentum from UBCM and continuing our work together on behalf of northern and central BC. Thank you for your service to your communities and your continued commitment to NCLGA.

Kyle MacDonald, NCLGA President

Kyle MacDonald has served on the NCLGA Board for the past two years. Kyle is a first-term Councillor with the City of Dawson Creek. Read more about Kyle here: [Board of Director Bios](#)

NCLGA Advocacy and Activities

Highlights from UBCM 2026

NCLGA Members Gather at UBCM Luncheon

NCLGA members gathered in Vancouver on September 16, 2026, for the association's annual UBCM Members Luncheon, sponsored by Pacific Northern Gas.

President Kyle MacDonald welcomed delegates and recognized Indigenous leaders, past NCLGA Presidents, federal and provincial representatives, members of the UBCM Executive, and other guests. Pacific Northern Gas President Gord Doyle also addressed the luncheon and spoke about the company's continued support for NCLGA and communities across the region.

The program highlighted NCLGA's recent member engagement and advocacy. This included an August 27, 2026 joint webinar that helped members prepare for meetings with provincial ministers and attracted 175 participants, as well as NCLGA's inaugural pre-UBCM advocacy forum for Mayors, Regional District Chairs, and Indigenous leaders.

Members also received an update on the 45 resolutions adopted at the 2026 NCLGA AGM. Particular attention was given to NCLGA Resolution R13, listed at UBCM as NR13, which called for the reinstatement of the Northern and Rural Area Homeowner Grant Benefit. Buttons and stickers were distributed to help members raise awareness and encourage conversations about the importance of the benefit to northern and rural communities.

The luncheon also recognized NCLGA members seeking positions on the UBCM Executive and thanked elected officials completing their local government service.



Photo credit: Terry Robert



Photo credit: Terry Robert



Photo credit: Terry Robert

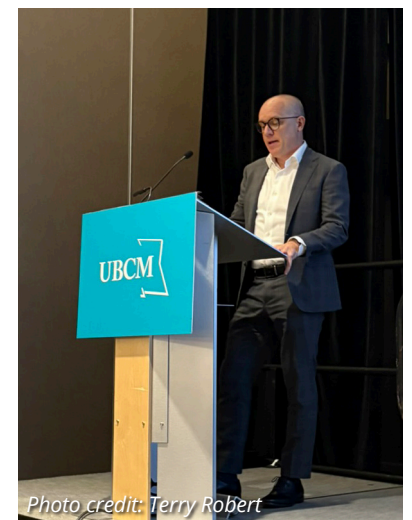


Photo credit: Terry Robert

NCLGA Advocacy and Activities (continued)



Photo credit: Terry Robert



Photo credit: Terry Robert

NCLGA Advances Regional Priorities Through UBCM Advocacy Meetings

The NCLGA Executive used the period leading up to and during the 2026 UBCM Convention to advance priorities identified by members across northern and central British Columbia.

In discussions with transportation officials, NCLGA called for coordinated, multi-year planning to improve the safety, reliability, and resilience of northern highways. The Executive emphasized the importance of dependable transportation infrastructure for residents, emergency response, industry, and regional economic development.

Housing discussions focused on the higher cost of construction in northern communities, gaps in community-level housing data, and the need for provincial programs to better reflect regional cost differences and local conditions.

NCLGA also met with Minister of Education and Child Care Lisa Beare and Deputy Minister Trevor Hughes. The Executive emphasized the importance of stable support for northern education, post-secondary programming, and locally delivered workforce training. It noted that these services are essential to addressing labour shortages and helping residents access education and employment opportunities closer to home.

In a separate health discussion, the Executive raised the need for equitable access to publicly funded mental health and substance use services in northern, rural, and remote communities.

The meetings were informed by the 45 [resolutions](#) adopted at the 2026 NCLGA AGM and by input received through NCLGA's pre-UBCM advocacy forum for Mayors, Regional District Chairs, and Indigenous leaders.

NCLGA will continue to follow up with provincial representatives and report back to members as responses, commitments, and next steps are confirmed.



Photo credit: Terry Robert

NCLGA Advocacy and Activities (continued)

Strong Results for NCLGA Resolutions at UBCM

NCLGA member priorities received strong support at the 2026 UBCM Convention.

Of the 24 NCLGA-endorsed resolutions included in the UBCM Resolutions Book, 19 were endorsed by convention delegates—eight through the Endorse Block and 11 following individual debate in the No Recommendation section. Four others were linked to similar resolutions that were endorsed, and one was referred to the UBCM Executive for further consideration.

A key result was the endorsement of NR13, Northern and Rural Area Homeowner Grant Benefit. Sponsored at UBCM by the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako and the City of Prince Rupert, the resolution calls on the Province to reinstate the benefit effective January 1, 2027.

NCLGA highlighted NR13 during its Members Luncheon through a button-and-sticker advocacy campaign. Delegates were encouraged to wear a button or display a sticker to build awareness and start conversations about the importance of the benefit. Supporters noted that reinstating it would help northern and rural homeowners manage higher costs and strengthen communities' ability to attract and retain residents and workers.

The other NCLGA-endorsed resolutions supported by convention delegates addressed a broad range of member priorities, including housing and emergency shelters, wildfire risk reduction, regional construction costs, rural roads, transportation corridors, access to aggregate, energy infrastructure, property rights, and taxation.

Four additional NCLGA-endorsed resolutions were not debated separately because they were linked to similar resolutions addressing Indigenous-led housing, expanded Provincial Sales Tax exemptions, preservation of a strategic provincial rail corridor, and local government involvement in reconciliation-related policy development. Each of the related resolutions was endorsed.

A further resolution asking UBCM to consider rural and remote impacts when evaluating resolutions was referred to the UBCM Executive for further consideration.

These results demonstrate the value of members developing shared positions through NCLGA and bringing a coordinated northern and central British Columbia voice to the provincial level. NCLGA will continue working with UBCM, member communities and senior governments to advance these priorities and report on provincial responses.

► **Search NCLGA Resolutions by Topic, Year, or Sponsor:**
[Resolutions Search](#)



Update from the Mayors, Chairs and Indigenous Leaders Forum

The Mayors, Chairs and Indigenous Leaders Advocacy Forum was held on September 2, 2026. The Forum provided an opportunity for local government leaders to meet in advance of UBCM to discuss emerging issues, identify shared priorities, and help shape the NCLGA's advocacy agenda and engagement with provincial and federal decision-makers. NCLGA is working to establish the forum as an annual event, so leaders across its region can help shape NCLGA's advocacy before UBCM.

Mackenzie Mental Health Summit 2026

NOVEMBER 13 AND 14 2026

Mental Health Summit

Featuring

Corey Hirsch
FORMER NHL'ER AND CANADIAN OLYMPIAN

THE SAVE OF MY LIFE
COREY HIRSCH

A TWO DAY EVENT FEATURING:
TALKS/PRESENTATIONS,
WORKSHOPS,
FUNDRAISERS
NETWORKING

ON ALL THINGS MENTAL HEALTH IN MACKENZIE

Full Agenda Is Available Online
Follow the Youth Wellness Society of your socials

Made possible by the generous support from:

REGIONAL DISTRICT of Fraser-Fort George

THE PURPLE BEETLE

IREN

ENBRIDGE

vitreo MINERALS

EVERYONE HAS MENTAL HEALTH—
FIND YOUR PATH WITH SUPPORTS AVAILABLE TO THE MACKENZIE COMMUNITY

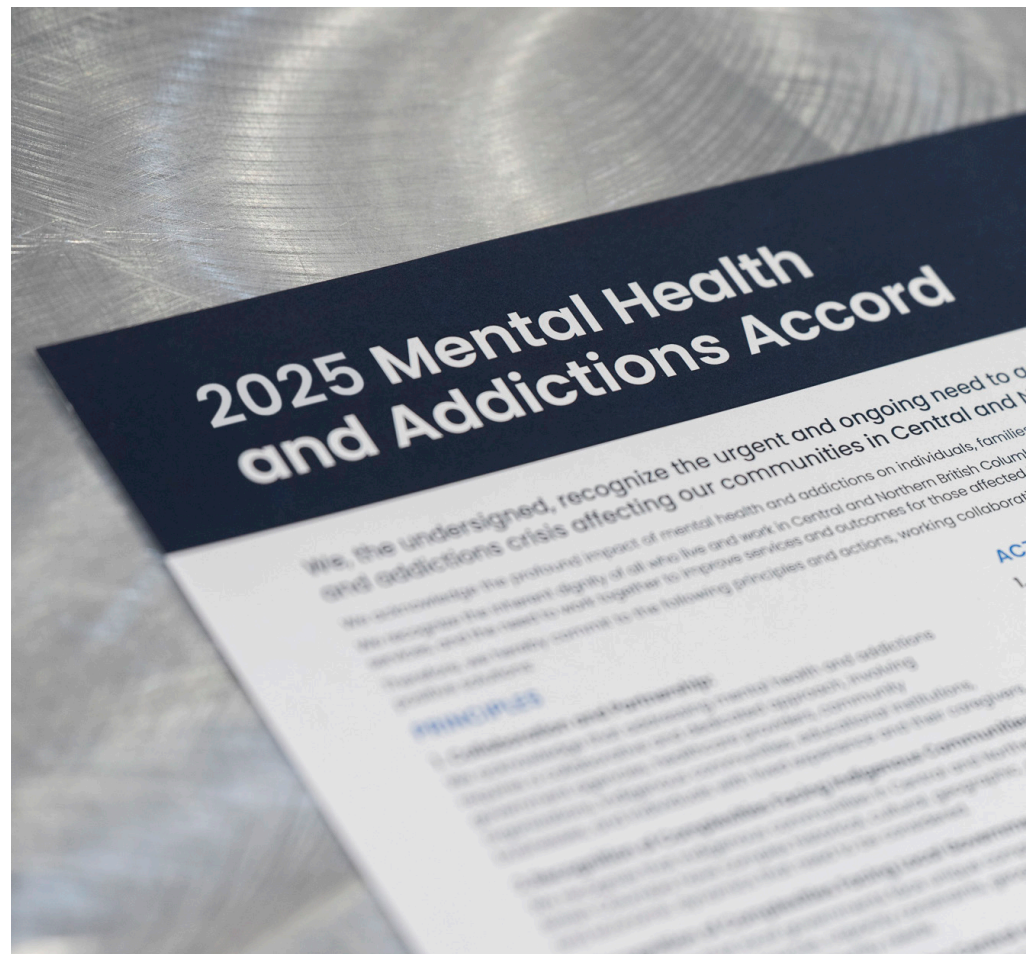
Directors Corner

2nd Vice President Jesse Wright

Councillor, District of Mackenzie

2nd Vice President Jesse Wright is leading the planning of a two-day event called the "Mackenzie Mental Health Summit" in the community of Mackenzie. Inspired by the NCLGA's previous Mental Health and Addictions Symposium, 2nd Vice President Wright is bringing the event to the local Mackenzie context. The two-day event will dedicate one day to youth, in partnership with School District 57, and a second day to the broader community. It will feature panels, keynote speeches, workshops, and networking focused on mental health and the supports available to people in Mackenzie.

[More Information](#)



Mental Health and Addictions Accord

The Mental Health and Addictions Accord Signatories met virtually on July 29, 2026, to share updates and discuss opportunities for joint advocacy strategies. Key issues of regional importance were identified, including: staffing capacity and staff retention, access to services, and coordination.

The next virtual Accord Signatories meeting will be held on **November 25, 2026, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.**

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

Member Webinars and Resources

Update on Member Webinars

The recent webinar titled **“Strategizing for UBCM Ministers Meetings”** was held on August 27, 2026, and was co-hosted in partnership with the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities, Southern Interior Local Government Association, Lower Mainland Local Government Association, and Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments.

Presented by Shirley Bond, former Member of the Legislative Assembly, Cabinet Minister, and Leader of the BC Liberal Party, and Aileen Machell, former Deputy Chief of Staff to Premier Eby, and attended by 175 participants, this webinar provided timely information to local government elected officials on how to best prepare and strategize in advance of Ministers Meetings at UBCM.

The presentation slides and the recording may be accessed here: [Webinar Recording](#) and [Presentation Slides](#).

Please join us for our Next Webinar:

“Resources and Services to Promote Accessible Organizations: Disability Alliance BC”

November 18, 2026, from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.



This webinar will provide an overview of the Accessible Organizations Project and will include information on the *Accessible BC Act*, the draft Standards to be developed by the Province, and current funding opportunities. Inspiring success stories will be shared from communities around BC. Participants will learn about supports that are available to communities and organizations in North and Central BC to remove disability barriers, promote advocacy work, and create a more inclusive and equitable society.

Background: The Accessible Organizations Project is a project funded by the Government of British Columbia and led by Disability Alliance BC. The purpose of the project is to support over 750 Prescribed Organizations, including municipalities and regional districts across BC, to meet the requirements of the *Accessible BC Act*. Disability Alliance BC is working directly with partners and collaborators in all sectors to reach Prescribed Organizations and provide them with resources and services to establish an accessibility committee, develop a plan, and create a public feedback mechanism.

Speakers: Roberta McDonald and Anna-Maria Wijesinghe, Disability Alliance BC.

Who should attend: NCLGA membership (local government elected officials and CAOs), members of the municipally-operated Access and Inclusion Advisory Committees.

[Register Here.](#)



Other Resources



Climate Projections Training for Northern BC Communities

Local government and First Nations staff from across Northern BC are invited to take part in free training designed to help communities understand and apply climate projections to support planning and decision making.

Trainings will be held on Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. PT each day:

October 8, 2026: [Climate Projections 101](#)

October 29, 2026: [Public Works and Utilities](#)

November 5, 2026: [Planning and Development](#)

November 19, 2026: [Public Safety and Health](#)

November 26, 2026: [Community Services and Facilities](#)

[Register here.](#)



Local Government Leadership Academy Elected Official Seminar (LGLA-EOS) Series

The LGLA-EOS takes place every four years following the local government general election. The LGLA-EOS for the NCLGA region will be held on January 27-29, 2027, at the Coast Prince George Hotel, in Prince George, BC.

The seminar series is designed to deepen elected officials and senior staff understanding of the local government system, and best practices for civic leadership. The 2026/2027 EOS agenda will include presentations, keynotes, mentorship panels, and networking opportunities that build upon local and regional orientation sessions for Councils and Boards.

For more information, please visit [LGLA EOS](#).

Board Meetings

NCLGA Board Meetings

2026/27 Board Meeting Dates may change following the fall election.

- November 27-28, 2026 (virtual)
- January 2027 – Date to be confirmed

Board Strategy Sessions

Natural Resources Forum Strategy Session

January 15, 2027 (virtual) 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Member Webinars

Member Webinar

November 18, 2026, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

“Resources and Services to Promote Accessible Organizations: Disability Alliance BC”

Speakers: Roberta McDonald and Anna-Maria Wijesinghe, Disability Alliance BC

[Register here.](#)

Meetings and Events

BC Natural Resources Forum

January 19-21, 2027

Prince George, BC

More information at: [BC Natural Resources Forum.](#)

2027 NCLGA AGM and Convention

May 26-29, 2027

Prince George, BC

More information at: [2027 AGM & Convention.](#)

CONTACT US

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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, Webinar topics, and presenters.