

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 1, 2014

The Changing Face of Northern Politics

This week marks a significant transformation in Northern BC. As local government politicians are sworn in to office, nearly 40% of them will be new. The North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA), the advocacy body for all local government officials in North Central British Columbia, is optimistic about the change.

NCLGA President, Brian Frenkel, summarized election results. "There are 245 politicians who fall under the NCLGA banner, and this week, 89 of them will be new. The NCLGA and its membership have been fighting hard to build capacity in our region, and it never hurts to bring a set of fresh eyes to the table."

In some communities, like McBride, the November 15 election saw a complete turnover. However, some key figures in provincial politics remain. Alice Maitland, Mayor of Hazelton and the Province's longest-serving Mayor; as well as Luke Strimbold, Mayor of Burns Lake and the youngest Mayor in BC, stayed in their positions and reclaimed their seats on the NCLGA's Board.

Madison Mitchell, Communications Officer for the NCLGA, is interested in emerging trends. "The country's eyes are on North Central BC – from LNG to mining and hydroelectric projects to forestry, so much is happening within our region. As the 'Elected Voice' of our region, our job is to articulate our members' perspectives and priorities. And it will be interesting to see how those two things change. "

In 2015, the NCLGA will welcome new and incumbent political representatives at its 60th anniversary in Prince George. The event, running May 6-8th, will see former Premier Harcourt as a keynote speaker, sessions on bio-energy and the evolution of wood manufacturing, and more. Frenkel notes of the convention, "Our AGM is a great place for regional leaders to learn about what's on the cutting edge and to share best practices—it'll be a great opportunity for the newly elected. While we might not agree on every issue, all our communities agree on one thing – our Province's future rests in our neck of the woods, and we need to do a lot of capacity building to get there."

To view the NCLGA's new, 4-year Strategic Plan, please go to www.nclga.ca.

Established in 1955, the North Central Local Government Association is a coalition of local governments that advocate for a prosperous and sustainable North Central British Columbia. Our jurisdiction covers 70% of BC's landmass and includes nearly 60% of the Province's Aboriginal population.

Madison Mitchell

Communications Officer, NCLGA

Phone: (250) 564-6585

Email: mmitchell@nclga.ca