

**DISTRICT OF 100 MILE HOUSE****FOR INFORMATION CORRESPONDENCE –October 23rd, 2025
Received October 28th - Regular Council Meeting**

- Accessibility Committee Minutes:
 - October 16th, 2025
 - September 18th, 2025
 - June 19th, 2025
 - May 15th, 2025
- South Cariboo Joint Committee Minutes – September 8th, 2025
- Correspondence from Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs – Small Scale Multi-Unit housing
- Correspondence from 100 Mile & District Arts Council – Winter Arts & Craft Fair
- Correspondence from CNIB – Become a Vision Mate
- Correspondence from P. Perras – PFAS Contamination
- Communities in Bloom – October Newsletter
- NCLGA – October Newsletter
- Correspondence from BWSS – DesignedWithSurvivors

**100 MILE HOUSE ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF THE ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE MEETING****Thursday, October 16th, 2025, AT 11:00 AM**

PRESENT: Lori Fry
Mike Dewing
Mathew Perera

Donna Barnett
Ben Vinje

ABSENT: Elliesia Parkins
Brian Brown
Kim Irvine

Kristin Buxton
Michael McMurray

District Staff: T. Boulanger

Media: (0) Other: (0)

	<u>CALL TO ORDER</u> Chair D. Barnett called the meeting to order at 11:08 AM.
	<u>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</u>
Approval of the Agenda	Moved By: M. Dewing Seconded By: L. Fry That the October 16 th , 2025, Accessibility Committee meeting agenda be approved. CARRIED
	<u>MINUTES</u>

Minutes – September 18th, 2025	Moved By: M. Dewing Seconded By: B. Brown That the minutes from the September 18th, 2025, meeting held in Centennial Park be approved as received. CARRIED The Committee acknowledged the extensive list created with a brief tour and identified the following items for the District to consider as reasonable improvements to be explored: • Explore the feasibility of creating a delineated pathway for pedestrians accessing the park. Currently pedestrians have to walk along the main roadway into the park with no barrier from traffic. • The addition of more handicap spaces in the parking lot. • Explore creating a designated shuttle stop so people know how to catch a ride and where to go during major events where the District golf cart is in use. • Garbage cans in community are strictly foot operated and can be challenging with persons with mobility challenges or the inability to use the foot lever. Explore how the District can improve or add a handle. • Repair loose bolt and graffiti in accessible picnic table area.
	<u>DELEGATIONS</u>
	<u>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</u>
Intersection Safety	Intersection of Dogwood Ave. and First Street was noted to have low hanging signage. Staff and Chair Barnett will visit the site.
SD	School District – No Reply to Date. The Committee requested to send an additional follow up letter to both the elementary school and the high school.
	<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>

New Member	Chair Barnett welcomed Mathew Perera as the newest member to the committee. Mathew has applied to join the accessibility committee.
Birch & First Intersection	Committee members discussed the safety upgrades to the intersection at Birch Avenue and First Street. • It will take some time for residents to become familiar with the lane changes. • Challenging to navigate in larger vehicles • Provides additional protection to pedestrians • Forces traffic out into the intersection vs cutting the corner.
Mile O Music – Community Hall	The District gardener had the opportunity to install the accessible instruments at the community hall. The sign still needs to be installed and the gardener plans to complete final landscaping in the area in the spring. Chair Barnett was approached by the Free Press to provide a little news story, however once the project is completed the Committee can gather together to feature the installation. District staff will report at the next meeting what is remaining of the grant funding received; the committee can then identify an additional project that will be forwarded to Sparc BC for approval.
Centennial Park Tour & community accessibility.	Committee discussed the Centennial Park Tour and additional questions were raised on access to public washrooms and the options of accessible port-o-potty's during large events. Staff was requested to contact supply companies to obtain information about the accessible option, the price differential, and the overall demand. The committee commented on the District of 100 Mile event planning guide, does this encourage event planners to consider accessibility?

	Tourism Task Force – Promote accessibility in tourism? VIC – Home to schedule of events, can they highlight if the event is accessible OR ask the event planner if they have additional accommodations (accessible washrooms) to address accessibility. Chamber of Commerce – engage to help promote accessibility in the business community. Business excellence award for acknowledging accessibility?
Helmet Parade	M. Dewing is working with his group to host a helmet awareness campaign, promoting the use of helmets in a range of sports and activities. Exploring ideas and will work with Chair Barnett on coordinating helmet awareness at other events. (Rodeo, duck race, what's happening, hockey games, etc.)
Funding	M.Dewing circulated correspondence relating to a variety of funding options and concerns and questioned how the committee can advocate or acquire additional funding to assist in creating a more accessible environment and promote awareness. Committee members will work together to research and locate funding as they can.
	<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>
	<u>OTHER BUSINESS</u>
	<u>ADJOURNMENT</u> Moved By: Ben Vinje Seconded By: Mike Dewing CARRIED That the Committee meeting is adjourned at 12:00 PM.
	Next meeting – November 20 th , 2025 @ 11:00



100 MILE HOUSE ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, September 18th, 2025, AT 12:00 PM (Centennial Park)

PRESENT: Lori Fry
 Brian Brown
 Michael McMurray
 Ben Vinje
 Donna Barnett
 Kim Irvine
 Mike Dewing

ABSENT: Elliesia Parkins
 Kristin Buxton

District Staff: T. Boulanger

Media: (0) Other: (1)

	<u>CALL TO ORDER</u> Chair D. Barnett called the meeting to order in Centennial Park at 12:00 PM.
	<u>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</u>
Approval of the Agenda	Moved By: B. Brown Seconded By: Kim Irvine That the September 18 th , 2025, Accessibility Committee meeting agenda be approved. CARRIED Note: meeting held in Centennial Park to conduct tour to identify accessibility items (open agenda).
	<u>MINUTES</u>

Minutes – June 19th, 2025	Moved By: M. Dewing Seconded By: B. Brown That the minutes from the June 19th, 2025, meeting be approved as received. CARRIED
	<u>DELEGATIONS</u>
	<u>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</u>
Intersection Safety	Intersection of Dogwood Ave. and First Street and First Street and Birch Ave. were noted as still un-painted and low hanging signage.
SD	School District – No Reply to Date
Misc.	Misc Items previously discussed/noted: • Resource Guides • South Cariboo Recreation Centre facility tour items • Business accessibility material to circulate. • Transit accessibility
	<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>
New Member	Chair Barnett introduced Mathew Perera to the committee members.. Mathew has applied to join the accessibility committee.
Centennial Park Tour – Items identified	• Main entrance/driveway to park is un-friendly for pedestrians, bikes, etc. Could there be a way to install either a delineated pathway, walkway, sidewalk, or barriers to provide a safer route. Additionally ensure that the no parking areas along the route are clear, enforced and marked with signage. • More handicap spaces are needed in parking lot and the

	existing handicap pavement markings need painting. • During major community events where the shuttle is operating create designated shuttle stops so people know how to catch a ride and where to go. • More benches/rest stops are needed between the parking lot and the washrooms, preferably on the left-hand side just after the power pole and on the right hand side by the tree and landscaped island. • Garbage receptables are a little off pathway, could there be a bump-out from path to improve access. • There are limited areas that are wheelchair accessible, explore future pathways through the park. There is currently no path from main path to washroom area, ensure this is incorporated with new washroom designs. • At the accessible table the bolt is loose and there is graffiti on the table. Question arose about why the table is so much smaller than the others and the height seems a little high. • Park should be for all ages – Possibility to add games for seniors (horseshoe pits). • Is there a possibility to add an “outhouse” style washroom near the parking lot, it can be difficult for people to navigate the hill to access the washrooms at the top. • There is a picnic table near the spray park that has a bar across the top – is this one slated for replacement? • When a new washroom is constructed could the District also construct an accessible picnic area near waterpark. • Side note - garbage cans in and around town are strictly foot operated. Ones in park are OK.
	<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>
	<u>OTHER BUSINESS</u>

	<u>ADJOURNMENT</u> Moved By: Ben Vinje Seconded By: Kim Irvine CARRIED That the Committee meeting is adjourned at 1:00 PM.
	Next meeting – October 16th, 2025 @ 11:00 Chair Barnett had recommended that the meetings be moved to 11:00 AM.

District Facilities Tour	J. Dickerson, Manager of SC Recreation Centre is working on list of items identified by the accessibility committee. Committee would like to schedule additional block walks and facility tours for the upcoming meeting. Areas including the park, Martin Exeter Hall, Community Hall, neighbourhoods, etc. Suggested meeting at Centennial Park for the August meeting (weather permitting). T. Boulanger will circulate to the entire committee to meet at Centennial Park for the next meeting. Committee also discussed the hospital and what jurisdiction it would have touring and noting the accessibility of the space.
Resource Guides	Committee discussed the ability to locate resources and the availability of guides for either new or long-term residents. The Age Friendly Society had created a Seniors Resource Book in 2018. But it has not been updated since. The Active Living Guide produced by the staff at the South Cariboo Recreation Centre is great, however only touches on “active things to do”. Would be nice to see an updated guide to help residents find the resources they need.
	<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>
	<u>OTHER BUSINESS</u>
	<u>ADJOURNMENT</u> Moved By: K. Buxton Seconded By: B. Brown CARRIED That the Committee meeting is adjourned at 12:45 PM.
	Next meeting – September 18th, 2025 @ 12:00

**100 MILE HOUSE ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF THE ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE MEETING****Thursday, June 19th, 2025, AT 12:00 PM**

PRESENT: Lori Fry
Kristin Buxton
Kim Irvine

Brian Brown
Michael McMurray

ABSENT: Elliesia Parkins
Mike Dewing

Donna Barnett
Ben Vinje

District Staff: T. Boulanger

Media: (0) Other: (0)

	<u>CALL TO ORDER</u> Chair L. Fry called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM & acknowledged the privilege of meeting on this land and respecting mother earth.
	<u>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</u>
Approval of the Agenda	Moved By: B. Brown Seconded By: Kim Irvine That the June 19 th , 2025, Accessibility Committee meeting agenda be approved with the amendment of L.Fry as acting chair. CARRIED
	<u>MINUTES</u>

Minutes – May 15th, 2025	Moved By: K. Buxton Seconded By: B. Brown That the minutes from the May 15th, 2025, meeting be approved as received. CARRIED
	<u>DELEGATIONS</u>
	<u>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</u>
SD#27	No response to date received. Follow up letter sent in hopes to generate interest in new school year.
Community Benches	Staff compiling information on transit benches and funding.
Accessible Play Area	Final design details moving forward and on the upcoming Council agenda for final approval prior to installation. Committee will gather if possible, during farmers market once installed to generate public interest and spread awareness.
Business Licence Billing Cycle	Item previously discussed – Develop material to promote accessibility to local businesses, reaching them through the renewal of District of 100 Mile House business licences.
	<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>
Upcoming Events	Some upcoming events were noted: • Next Meeting September 18th • Seniors Resource fair being held at the South Cariboo Recreation Centre on June 26th. Kristin will bring some cards & pamphlets to display at her table.



100 MILE HOUSE ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, May 15th, 2025, AT 12:00 PM

PRESENT: Donna Barnett
Lori Fry
Kim Irvine

Brian Brown
Ben Vinje
Michael McMurray

ABSENT: Elliesia Parkins
Mike Dewing

Kristin Buxton

District Staff: T. Boulanger

Media: (0) Other: (1)

	<u>CALL TO ORDER</u> Chair D. Barnett called the meeting to order at 12:04 PM
	<u>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</u>
Approval of the Agenda	Moved By: L. Fry Seconded By: Ben. Vinje That the May 15 th , 2025, Accessibility Committee meeting agenda be approved with the addition of Mr. Bramsleven as a delegation. CARRIED
	<u>MINUTES</u>

Minutes – April 17th, 2025	Moved By: B. Vinje Seconded By: K. Irvine That the minutes from the April 17th, 2025, meeting be approved as received. CARRIED
	<u>DELEGATIONS</u>
Mr. W. Bramsleven	Accessibility Committee provided Mr. Bramsleven with a roundtable introduction of the committee members. Mr. Bramsleven presented to the committee a short PowerPoint highlighting <i>Accessibility Matters – to everyone</i>. Some key highlights included: • Mr. Bramsleven is a Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification Professional who can be engaged by commercial and public space operators to survey accessibility. • Accessibility is a broad scope – bringing awareness and sharing knowledge creates community benefits. • Exposing statistics related to accessibility challenges can help develop awareness. • Challenges can not only be experienced by those with disabilities but can also include caregivers. • Help promote National Accessibility Week May 25th – 31st, 2025 – Annual Event • Rick Hansen Foundation has many resources that are free and helpful to learn about accessibility. Virtual events, accessibility week flag to share, information on universal design, tip sheets, statistics, etc. • Be Proactive – Not Reactive The accessibility committee was extremely grateful to Mr. Bramsleven for attending and providing a wealth of information. Mr. Bramsleven will circulate the PowerPoint presentation to the committee members.

	<u>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</u>
SD#27	No response to date received. Follow up letter sent in hopes to generate interest in new school year.
Community Benches	Staff compiling information on transit benches and funding.
SPARC BC	Application was approved & committee was successful in acquiring the \$25,000. grant to create an accessible play area. Moved By: B. Vinje Seconded By: B. Brown BE IT RESOLVED THAT the accessible play area project proceed and the equipment be installed at the community hall. CARRIED The committee would like to see a small sign noting the relevance of the play area and the importance of accessibility. Details will be forwarded to the District of 100 Mile House Council for final approval. Previous items discussed includes certificates of appreciation and advocating through the Chamber of Commerce.
	<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>
Come On IN	M. Dewing passed along some information to D. Barnett about the <i>Come On In</i> program promoted by the Williams Lake Accessibility Committee. This program provides businesses with stickers that can be placed on the entrance to the business with a number should someone need assistance accessing the business. Committee liked the idea and will discuss this and other incentives to help promote accessibility to local businesses. The District can incorporate information into the business licence renewals that are sent out in December of each year.

Upcoming Events	Some upcoming events were noted: • Fraud seminar being held at the Creekside Seniors Centre on May 24th • Next Meeting June 19th • Seniors Resource fair being held at the South Cariboo Recreation Centre on June 26th • Family Fun day in the park July 5th.
	<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>
	<u>OTHER BUSINESS</u>
	<u>ADJOURNMENT</u> Moved By: B. Vinje Seconded By: B. Brown CARRIED That the Committee meeting is adjourned at 12:55 PM.
	Next meeting – June 19 th , 2025 @ 12:00



CARIBOO REGIONAL DISTRICT
SOUTH CARIBOO JOINT COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 8, 2025

12:00 p.m.

District of 100 Mile House Council Chambers
385 Birch Avenue
100 Mile House, BC

PRESENT: Co-Chair M. Wagner, Director A. Richmond, Director E. de Vries, Co-Chair M. Pinkney, Councillor D. Barnett, Councillor J. Guimond, Councillor D. Mingo, Councillor M. Norgren

STAFF: D. Campbell, Manager of Community Services, Cariboo Regional District, T. Boulanger, CAO, District of 100 Mile House, T. Conway, Director of Community Services, District of 100 Mile House

1. CALL TO ORDER - By Co-Chair Wagner

1.1 Adoption of Agenda

SCJ.2025-09-01

That the agenda be adopted as presented with the addition of a delegation from Dawson Road Maintenance.

Carried

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Minutes of the South Cariboo Joint Committee Meeting - July 14, 2025

SCJ.2025-09-02

That the minutes of the South Cariboo Joint Committee meeting, held July 14, 2025, be adopted.

Carried

3. DELEGATIONS

3.1 12:00 p.m. Delegation - Dawson Road Maintenance

Caroline Slade from Dawson Road Maintenance was in attendance to introduce herself and provide an update on issues in the South Cariboo.

5. ADJOURNMENT

SCJ.2025-09-03

That the meeting of the South Cariboo Joint Committee be adjourned at 1:22 p.m.,
September 8, 2025.

Carried

Co-Chair



October 9, 2025

Reference: 188648

Mayors of British Columbia

Dear Mayors:

Today, I introduced new legislation in the house to improve the implementation of small-scale multi-unit housing (SSMUH). Before I explain the details of this legislation, I want to acknowledge the hard work of local government Councils, Boards and staff in B.C. to implement the changes by adopting the SSMUH densities on time and as intended by the Province. Many communities are demonstrating leadership and innovation to fully enable SSMUH and deliver the type of homes that work for people and growing families.

This includes modernizing zoning bylaws and updating site standards (such as removing floor space ratios, increasing building heights and lot coverage for SSMUH level densities), as well as adopting and streamlining standardized housing designs, eliminating or waiving form and character development permit requirements, and providing educational tools to support SSMUH development including webinars, handbooks and webpages. Communities that fully enabled SSMUH, adopted many of the recommended site standards, and are actively supporting this type of development are starting to see meaningful uptake. This means more homes built in existing communities throughout B.C. that more people and families can afford.

Since June 30, 2024, a review of implementation has highlighted that barriers to the development of SSMUH still exist in a few communities throughout B.C. This inconsistency and barriers in some communities are creating challenging conditions for development and limiting SSMUH from being viable and getting built. Specifically, a small number of local governments have not fully enabled SSMUH in all areas with single-family and duplex housing due to differing interpretations of the requirements.

The legislation that was introduced today is intended to address these inconsistencies and ensure that all communities offer viable and consistent conditions for SSMUH development.

If passed, the changes will remove barriers to create consistent conditions across the Province for SSMUH by ensuring that municipalities allow the three to six units in all zones:

- with parcels restricted to single-family and duplex housing, even if higher residential density is allowed elsewhere in the zone,
- restricted to single detached homes with a secondary suite and an accessory dwelling unit.

The small number of communities impacted by these changes will need to comply by June 30, 2026. An extension process will be established for upgrading infrastructure, lack of sufficient infrastructure to support additional residential density, and for extraordinary circumstances.

The updates aim to create uniform development opportunities across local governments, reducing barriers and uncertainty for builders and homeowners. Your planning staff will need to review your zoning bylaws for compliance with the new requirements. If the zoning bylaw already meets the requirements, no action is required.

I have also introduced changes to the legislation to ensure there is clear authority to establish site standards in regulations for off-street parking requirements, and housing unit "form" and "density". However, I am not bringing forward any regulations at this time. I strongly encourage all local governments to align with the Provincial Policy Manual and Site Standards, which provides clear expectations for zoning amendments, site design, and development feasibility. The Province will continue to monitor implementation and uptake of SSMUH to ensure consistency and effectiveness across jurisdictions. If needed in the future, the Province may make regulations for minimum standards or introduce further legislation as needed.

I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to all local governments for your hard work to enable and facilitate housing development across British Columbia. Your work is beginning to show results, and together, we are making meaningful progress toward resolving the housing crisis. I look forward to working collaboratively with all of you to continue improving livability for residents.

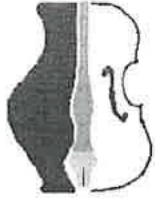
Sincerely,



Christine Boyle
Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs

Link: [BC Gov News](#)

CC: Chief Administrative Officers and City Managers



100 Mile & District Arts Council

'Serving the South Cariboo Since 1975'

RECEIVED
OCT 14 2025
BY: _____

October 14, 2025

Mayor and Council
District of 100 Mile House
385 South Birch Avenue
100 Mile House, BC, V0K 2E0

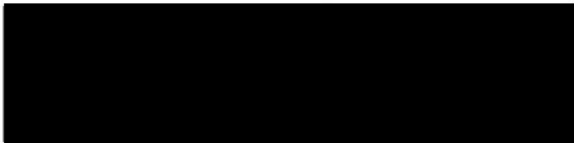
Dear Mayor and Councilors:

Please accept this letter as a request from the 100 Mile & District Arts Council to have 100 Mile House Public Works erect our annual Winter Arts and Craft Fair highway signs advertising our event that occurs this year on November 14 and 15. The signs have been updated and are in the District of 100 Mile works yard.

Feel free to contact me at 395-2148 (cell: 778-834-5157) or email if you have any questions or problems regarding this matter.

Thank you for past permissions and for considering this request. We appreciate your ongoing support of the Arts in 100 Mile House.

Yours truly,



Gordon Hoglund,

100 Mile & District Arts Council
g.hoglund@shaw.ca

cc: 100 Mile House Public Works Yard

PO Box 2262, 100 Mile House, BC V0K 2E0

Email administration@100MileArts.com



The CNIB logo is displayed in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font. It is set against a black, brush-stroke-like background that has a rough, textured edge. The logo is positioned in the upper left corner of the advertisement.**CNIB**

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From: District of 100 Mile
Subject: FW: A Call for Municipal Solidarity and Transparency on PFAS Contamination at YYJ and all BC Airports

From: Phil Perras <philip_perras@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 17, 2025 12:30 AM
Subject: A Call for Municipal Solidarity and Transparency on PFAS Contamination at YYJ and all BC Airports

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you of a concerning pattern that has emerged around **Victoria International Airport (YYJ)** — one that reflects not only an authoritarian tone from federal authorities, but also likely a deeper effort to suppress transparency and silence public concern.

Recently, the **District of North Saanich** designated airport lands as **multi-purpose** — including residential, commercial, and industrial uses — as part of its new **Official Community Plan (OCP)**. This democratic, good-faith decision was met with immediate federal hostility. **Transport Canada** responded with a letter demanding that the municipality reverse course and defer entirely to federal control.

Please note how the tone of that response was *not* cooperative. It was **authoritarian**.

Instead of acknowledging legitimate local priorities — housing, affordability, and environmental safety — the federal government defaulted to territorial defensiveness. Its message was simple: *do not question us*.

Yet the truth is that the lands around the airport have long been suspected of **PFAS contamination** from decades of **firefighting-foam use**. These so-called “forever chemicals” have been confirmed at many Canadian airports and are known to **bio-accumulate in groundwater, soil, plants and the human body**. According to the Canadian Environmental Law Association, the Victoria International Airport’s fire-training area is listed as a **suspected PFAS contamination site**, and petition records reference **PFAS-impacted soil stockpiles** at YYJ — facts the public appears to have never been given in full detail.

Thus, the likely motive behind Ottawa’s reaction is *self-preservation*.

Any honest environmental audit could expose a costly legacy of contamination — one that would demand accountability for decades of harm to our people, our drinking water, and our healthcare system.

If the federal government acted in good faith, it would **welcome local participation, share test data, and plan transparent remediation**. Instead, it has chosen secrecy and coercion.

That choice reflects not leadership, but *fear*.

The Role of the Mayor and the People’s Voice

In this context, the **North Saanich Mayor's** offhand remark at a council meeting — one that drew national attention — must be understood not as a threat, but as an **expression of anguish**. I believe his tone mirrors that of the people he represents: people like **Szorra**, an elderly woman I met in a municipality neighbouring the airport. Szorra lives in pain, unhoused after being priced out of supportive housing by a fee increase she could not afford. In despair, she told me she sometimes wants to “burn the system down” — not because she wishes harm, but because she can no longer bear what the system has done to her. She knows those thoughts are wrong, yet admits that they can offer a momentary solace in the biting cold. This is what leadership must confront *honestly*. The mayor is not detached from his people's pain — **he feels it with them**. His blunt words are the echo of collective suffering that polite diplomacy has ignored for far too long. That empathy is not weakness; it is proof that democracy still breathes in North Saanich. When federal authorities scold a mayor for voicing that pain, they are not defending civility — they are **attacking representation itself**.

A Call for Transparency and Municipal Solidarity

Every municipality in British Columbia should demand from **Transport Canada**:

1. **Immediate disclosure** of all environmental assessments, PFAS testing data, and historical firefighting-foam use records from BC airports. **Independent, third-party testing** of groundwater and soil near BC airports — funded by the federal government but **overseen by municipal and provincial representatives**.
2. **A joint remediation plan** developed with municipalities and health care providers to ensure that our communities are not left with the cleanup burden.
3. **Public release of monitoring results** through an open data portal accessible to all residents.
4. **A formal commitment** that local voices will not be silenced, discredited, or punished for raising legitimate concerns.

This is not only about North Saanich — it is about **every community living in the shadow of federal land management**, and every resident whose health and housing are treated as collateral.

Conclusion: Pain Is the Proof of Conscience

When a mayor speaks harshly, it is because they refuse to go numb to the suffering around them. When senior governments react harshly, it is because they cannot stand being reminded of their neglect. Municipal leaders must never forget their duty: **to amplify the voices of their people**, especially when those voices tremble with anger or pain. That is what North Saanich Mayor Peter Jones did — and it is what every other principled leader in this province *must* continue to do.

Respectfully,
Philip Perras


philip_perras@hotmail.com

Growing GREAT PLACES Together

B.C. COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Anniversary & Awards Dinner
 - Some event photos
 - Message from Chair
 - 2025 Participant Results
- Showcase
 - Castlegar - Sherbiko Hill Mural
 - Sicamous - Healing Centre Art

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Coordinator Catherine Kennedy
c.kennedy@telus.net

Celebrating 20 Years and the Provincial Edition Awards

On October 2nd, BC Communities in Bloom (BC CiB) was pleased to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the provincial organization with a special event in Kelowna. Current board members along with former directors and judges gathered to celebrate all of this year's community participants.

Congratulations to Hope, Chase, Kelowna and Harrison Hot Springs who were in the evaluated Bloom & Grow programs and to 100 Mile House, Castlegar, Qualicum Beach and Sicamous who were in the non-evaluated Friends program this year. Showcase participants were also recognized with certificates.

Receiving sponsored criteria recognition awards were Harrison Hot Springs for Plant and Floral Displays (Teck) and Kelowna for Community Appearance (Urban Systems). A special golden garden gnome trophy 'Buddy' was awarded to Chase for Outstanding Community Involvement. Thanks to Specimen Trees Wholesale Nurseries, anniversary trees were presented to many of our municipal participants to commemorate our special year.

Thank you to all who helped make this year a success, this program celebrates your amazing commUnity.

The BC CiB program provides a proven process to help municipalities inspire their residents and businesses around a positive message of 'Growing Great Places Together'.



BC Board of Directors: (l to r) Heather Doheny, Anne Kulla, Kerry Bysouth, Linda Tomlinson behind Catherine Kennedy, Darlene Kalawsky, Edward Stanford, Tom Meyer and Shirley Fowler.

Planning for our Anniversary was a bit of a leap of faith. When we were discussing the event, we had no idea of the number of community participants, but we knew it was an opportunity to reach out to our former directors and judges who still keep in touch. Thank you to everyone who came to Kelowna and joined us at the Vintage Room in the Hotel Eldorado. Being on Lake Okanagan, in a historical building, was a lovely setting for a gathering of the BC Communities in Bloom family. Many people commented on the camaraderie that was shared by former participants with the newer community participants.

Earlier in the day, Kelowna Parks staff Jane Jones and Paula Gosse treated us to a bus tour of some lovely parks in the Mission/Pandosy area. Duhart Park was recently acknowledged with a design award at the UBCM, and the Okanagan Xeriscape UnH2O demonstration garden with explanations by E.D. Sigre Kendrick were some of the highlights. On the ride we were treated with some homemade cookies, thanks Heather!

Here are a few photos from the day. You will find more photos on our www.bccib.ca website and on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/bccib).



Former Directors and Judges - Certificates of Appreciation



Harrison Hot Springs: Evaluated, Showcase and Criteria Winner



Kelowna: Evaluated and Criteria Winner



Hope: Receives Flag for 5-Blooms!



Chase and their BC CiB Buddy the Community Involvement Gnome



Touring the OXA UnH2O garden with Sigre in Red

**Note from the Chair:**

I must say how much I enjoyed seeing all of you in person at our CiB gathering in Kelowna. From the City tour to the evening event, I saw many smiling faces connecting with friends and meeting new acquaintances.

Thanks to everyone who contributed in some way to make this event special for CiB participants. I would say it was a resounding success! We have renewed energy!

*Warm regards,
Darlene Kalawsky*

2025 Provincial Results**Newsletter Issue Recognition Mention or Project Name****EVALUATED – BLOOM (6 criteria) or GROW (3 criteria)**

Village of Harrison Hot Springs - Grow	May	Promenade along Esplanade Avenue
Village of Chase - Awarded 3-Blooms	May	Recognizing 'Together Chase' a Collaborative Initiative
District of Hope - Awarded 5-Blooms	May	Resilience and Pride in Public Spaces
City of Kelowna - Grow	May	Clean Team Program for Fostering a Positive Safe Environment

FRIENDS non-evaluated

District of 100 Mile House	Sept	Community Pride and Celebrating 60 Years
Town of Qualicum Beach	Oct	Pollinator Pathways
District of Sicamous	S & O	Heritage Walking Tour, Sicamous Healing Centre, Art Boards
City of Castlegar	Oct	The Edible Garden Mural on Sherbiko Hill

SHOWCASE non-evaluated

Berwick Qualicum Beach	Sept	A Focus on Food for Berwick's Retirement Community
Okanagan Xeriscape Association	Aug	OXA Demonstration Garden
Harrison Hot Springs	Sept	Canada Day in HHS and Community Planting Day
Penticton Edible Gardens	July	Culture and Beauty through edible gardens

Chase CiB was Awarded 'Buddy' the Garden Gnome for OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**LOOKING GOOD - AMBASSADOR PROGRAM**

Hope – new entry signage	May	Oliver – Display around Wine Capital Sign	Aug
Peachland – Beach Avenue	June	Merritt - Spirit Square murals and plantings	Sept
Pemberton – District Museum/Archives	July	Greenwood – Nikkei Legacy Park	Sept
Kelowna – Pianos in the Park	July	Qualicum Beach's – Cumberland Coal car planting	Sept
Summerland – Downtown Area	Aug		

Framed Certificates were presented to all current and former Directors and Judges – Thank you Volunteers!

Former Directors and/or Judges: Don Alberg, Suzanne Anderton, Shirley Culver, Fred Giesbrecht, Bruce Hobin, Floortje Molenaar, Michele Rule, Teresa Williams. Thank you for being part of our 20 years! Board members are listed on page 1.

2025

SHOWCASE

CASTLEGAR**Nature's Harvest Mural – Castlegar Communities in Bloom's Latest Project**

In the Fall of 2024 Castlegar Communities in Bloom Committee discussed the possibility of adding a mural to an unsightly roadway cement wall along a major thoroughfare in Castlegar, BC.

Fast forward, after numerous city meetings and discussions, it seemed fitting that the National CIB theme for 2025 was Edible Gardening, and perhaps a storytelling mural of seed to harvest could be designed for this wall. This wall also has agricultural significance.

Sherbiko Hill was named after an early Doukhobor settler Nicholas W. Sherbiko who arrived in the early 1900's to establish a dairy farm operation. The hill is now a prominent feature of the Castlegar landscape. The wall extends more than 540 feet along the hillside, and its scope necessitated the expertise of a highly skilled mural artist to effectively depict our story. We approached Tyler Toews.

Tyler Toews is a mural artist renowned for his large-scale, three-dimensional and anamorphic works that transforms public spaces into vibrant community-focused art experiences. Tyler has completed over 200 public artworks for cities, municipalities, and businesses across Canada. His pieces are noted for their dynamic interaction with the viewer, blending fine art and street art influences to create visual depth and immersive spatial illusion.

The mural "Nature's Harvest" impresses the community with its vivid colours, skilled technique, and depiction of food biodiversity from seed to harvest.

It is a testimonial, an accomplishment to counterpoint that Castlegar Blooms...is more than, "Just Flowers."





SHOWCASE SUBMISSION

Sicamous Healing Centre Community Art Boards



Introduction

The Sek'maws (Sicamous) Health Centre is a place rooted in reconciliation and harmony with the natural world. Designed with the vision of renowned architect [Douglas Cardinal](#), the centre draws on themes of water, air, mountains, and spirit. The Sek'emaws (Sicamous) Health Centre addresses Calls to Action 21, 22 and 23 of the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action](#).

To honour and support this vision, local volunteers came together to create a series of painted art boards on neighbouring commercial buildings that surround the site. Each board represents a theme of healing, balance and nature, reminding the community of the Centre's purpose. The **Sicamous Community Banner Project** also supported the project by providing art banners with an indigenous theme to hang on the light standards in the area.

About the Project

The initiative was a true community collaboration. Local artists and volunteers partnered with neighbouring businesses to hang Art Boards inspired by the Healing Centre's design themes:

Water: representing flow, renewal, and life.

Air: symbolizing breath, spirit, and freedom.

Mountains: grounding, strength, and stability.

Healing: the Centre's purpose, woven through every image.

Volunteers installed screening to hide dumpsters and to serve as a back drop for our beautiful art boards.

The neighbouring industrial fence was converted into an outdoor gallery.

Passersby encounter beauty, inspiration, and cultural connection.



SHOWCASE SUBMISSION



Community Impact

The art boards reflect Sicamous' spirit of community in several ways:

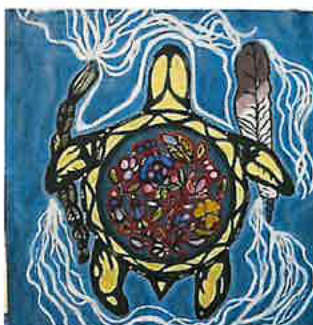
Beautification: Commercial fencing became a vibrant community art installation.

Volunteerism: Local residents and artists donated their time and creativity.

Cultural Expression: The artwork reflects natural elements central to both Indigenous worldviews and healing.

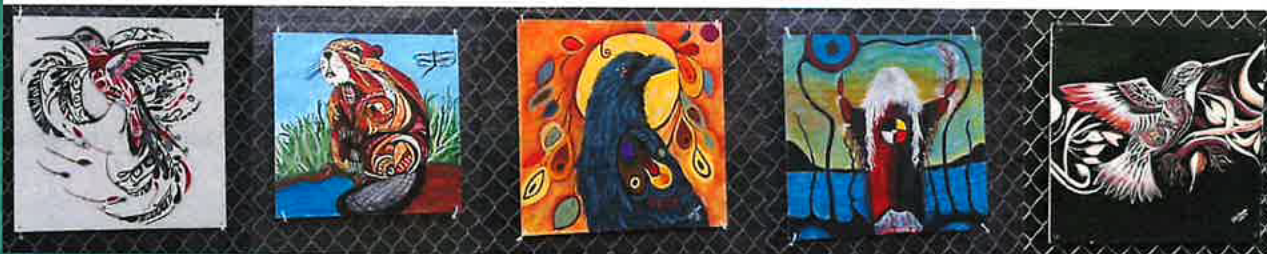
Community Pride: Residents can see their contributions celebrated in a project of lasting importance.

Legacy: The boards mark the beginning of a healing space that will serve generations.



The Sek'maws (Sicamous) Health Centre Art Boards Project transformed neighbouring fencing into a canvas of community pride, cultural expression, creativity, and healing. By weaving natural themes into public art, residents have helped bring Douglas Cardinal's vision to life while celebrating Sicamous' connection to land, water, and spirit.

This project embodies the Communities in Bloom values of community involvement, cultural expression, beautification, and pride of place.



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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

Musings for autumn!

As the hillsides adopt hues of yellow and orange and the mountain tops are dusted in white, autumn is upon us. This season somehow prompts in me the drive to work a little harder to get things finished before the snow comes. While that may be literal when it comes to my yard, it still rings true for the work we all do in local government. UBCM has now rushed past and next up, our budgets are looming. How to plan and cost out all the projects we want for our communities and how to pay for them – that is our constant challenge.

Touching back on UBCM now behind us, it was indeed a busy week. It was great to connect with many of you, even if it was just a quick hello as we passed each other heading to the next meeting or workshop. The organizers of the conference deserve a big thank you as does the City of Victoria for the fabulous weather!

As the Board of NCLGA continues its work stemming from the last Annual General Meeting, I can update you on a couple of things.

We have been rescheduling our Board meetings to make it easier for directors from all our member Regional Districts to attend. This is no small feat considering the number of meetings that must be planned around. Thanks to NCLGA staff for creating a bit of a Tetris puzzle to make this work.

On advocacy, UBCM was the stage for advocacy through meetings with Ministers and on the resolution floor. Specific meetings can be read about in the Advocacy section on Minister Meetings at UBCM, page 3. We worked to ensure Board members were on the convention floor speaking to the resolutions that came forward from NCLGA.

Other highlights important to communities in our region included:

- *Forest Minister Ravi Parmar announced the results of the review of the BC Timber Sales, accepting all recommendations of the review panel.*

- *Save our Streets rally at the legislature drawing attention to the challenges to public safety due to addictions and mental illness, homelessness and strains in both the health care and justice systems.*

...continued on page 2



I want to thank all of you who took time to attend the NCLGA luncheon during UBCM week. That event provides a valuable networking opportunity and a chance to focus on our region. We provided a speaking opportunity to all of the candidates from the NCLGA region who were running for seats on the UBCM Board and I am delighted to let you know the following elected officials from the NCLGA region will be on the UBCM Board for 2025-2026:

- Cori Ramsay, President of UBCM
- Sarrah Storey, Second Vice President
- Sheila Boehm, Director at Large
- Gord Klassen, Director at Large
- Jerrilyn Kirk, Electoral Area representative.

I will also join my colleagues at the UBCM table representing NCLGA. Congratulations to all – we will be well represented!

An important event that is upon us now is the second Mental Health and Addictions Symposium. It takes place October 15, 2025 in Prince George. A big thank you to all have worked hard to bring this to fruition.

I will take a moment to thank all of the Board members who took up the extra challenge at UBCM to attend our meetings, in addition to those of their own local government, and for your support throughout the week.

And always – thank you to our small but mighty staff team. Terry Robert and Sandra Moore worked hard at UBCM as they always do. They prepped our meetings, including the briefing notes, and organized our luncheon. And thank you to Bettina Johnson for managing communications on behalf of us all – no mean feat!

Enjoy autumn everyone and do take time to enjoy the colours!

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](#)





NCLGA Directors at UBCM (L-R): Jesse Wright, Gladys Atrill, Kyle MacDonald



NCLGA/Minister Meeting (L-R): Kyle MacDonald, Gladys Atrill, Minister Jessie Sunner, Jesse Wright, and Barry Cunningham



NCLGA/Ministers Meeting (L-R) Jesse Wright, Minister Tara Richards, Minister Nina Krieger, Melanie Woods, Gladys Atrill, and Kyle MacDonald

NCLGA Advocacy

UBCM Annual Convention

NCLGA Directors attended the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Annual Convention, which took place from September 22-26, 2025, in Victoria, BC. From advocating for regional priority issues to engaging in information sharing, UBCM serves as a key space for local government elected officials to convene and share in a collective voice, and to debate and vote on resolutions.

The NCLGA Board of Directors held a Strategy Session on Sunday, September 21, 2025, to prepare for Minister meetings and discuss resolutions session planning.

NCLGA Members and dignitaries attended the Area Association Luncheon, sponsored by PNG, on September 24, 2025. Attendees had the opportunity to network, connect on regional issues, hear the President's address, and hear speeches from Candidates for the UBCM Board.

Update on Minister Meetings at UBCM

NCLGA Board members met with the following Ministers, to advocate on priority issues on behalf of NCLGA:

- **Local Governments and Rural Communities – Minister of State Brittny Anderson:** on Public transportation for rural communities, Access to post-secondary education, and Legislative Reform
- **Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills – Minister Jessie Sunner:** on Impacts to business due to the loss of funding for international students, and loss of temporary foreign workers
- **Public Safety and Solicitor General – Minister Nina Krieger and Minister Tara Richards:** on Community and Drought Safety
- **Emergency Management and Climate Readiness – Minister Kelly Greene:** on Emergency Preparedness, Impacts of wildfire and drought.

2025/26 NCLGA Resolutions

A total of 10 Executive Resolutions and 52 Member Resolutions were shared with membership in the [2025 AGM Annual Report](#). The 2025 resolutions are posted in full on the website for review: [2025 NCLGA Resolutions](#).

Resolution Number UBCM	Resolution Number NCLGA	Resolution Title	Endorsed/Not Endorsed/ Referred to NCLGA or UBCM Executive	Sponsor(s)
NR36	E3	Short-Term Rental Accommodation Act Exemption Flexibility for Small Communities	Endorsed	NCLGA Executive
EB86	E7	Engagement Protocols for Regional Directors in Resource Development Processes	Endorsed	NCLGA Executive
NR123	E10	Establishment of a Permanent Provincial Housing Policy Roundtable	Endorsed	NCLGA Executive
EB2	R1	Streamlining Licensing for Out of Province and International Healthcare Professionals	Endorsed	City of Fort St. John
NR5	R2	Addressing Rural Physician Shortages Due to Practice Ready Assessment BC and Longitudinal Family Physician Changes	Endorsed	City of Dawson Creek
NR11	R3	Mental Health Support for Local Elected Officials	Endorsed	Cariboo Regional District
NR9	R4	Rural Foundry Centres	Endorsed	District of Mackenzie
NR23	R9	Co-op Housing Program and Sustainable Funding for Housing	Endorsed	City of Fort St. John
NR24	R10	Lowering Financial Barriers for Community Housing Projects	Endorsed	Town of Smithers
EB15	R11	Funding Off- Site Works for Affordable Housing	Endorsed	Town of Smithers
EB21	R12	Speculation and Vacancy Tax	Endorsed	
EB24	R13	Initial Fire Attack Crew Relocation	Endorsed	District of Chetwynd
NR48	R14	Emergency Social Services Grant Funding for Capital Costs	Endorsed	Town of Smithers
NR56	R15 – NR56	Release of Prolific Offenders in Communities	Endorsed	City of Williams Lake
NR55	R16	Creation of Regional Crime Prevention Officer Positions for Rural BC	Endorsed	City of Dawson Creek
EB29	R17	Managing Policing Contract Costs Through Engagement in RCMP Collective Bargaining	Endorsed	City of Terrace
NR54	R18	Addressing RCMP Staffing and Contract Costs	Endorsed	City of Fort St. John
EB36	R21	Moose Habitat Considerations in Landscape Planning	Endorsed	Village of Burns Lake
EB45	R22	Biodiverse Climate Resilient Ecosystems	Endorsed	Regional District of Fraser Fort George and Regional District of Bulkley Nechako
NR67	R24	Nuclear Energy in BC	Endorsed	District of Mackenzie
EB51	R25	Including Rail Related Activities in the Environmental Assessment Act Scope	Endorsed	City of Terrace

Resolution Number UBCM	Resolution Number NCLGA	Resolution Title	Endorsed/Not Endorsed/ Referred to NCLGA or UBCM Executive	Sponsor(s)
EB48	R26	Sustainable Funding for Small Water Systems	Endorsed	Regional District of Fraser Fort George
EB56	R34	Expedite Municipal Applications for Crown Lands	Endorsed	Town of Smithers
EB55	R35	Efficient Resource Permitting	Endorsed	Peace River Regional District, District of Hudson's Hope, District of Taylor, and City of Fort St. John
EB72	R39	Twinning of Highway 16	Endorsed	District of Fort St. James and Regional District of Bulkley Nechako
EB68	R41	Forest Service Road Closures	Endorsed	District of Mackenzie
EB73	R42	Active Transportation Infrastructure on Rural Highways	Endorsed	City of Williams Lake
EB90	R46	Industrial Electrification Expansion	Endorsed	Peace River Regional District, District of Taylor, District of Hudson's Hope
EB90	R47	Expanding Industrial Electrification	Combined with R46 in UBCM Disposition	City of Fort St. John
EB88	R49	Consultation on Removal of Crown Land	Endorsed	District of Mackenzie
EB94	R51.- EB94	BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Representation in Rural BC Communities	Endorsed	Village of Burns Lake
EB80	L2	Review of the BC Library Act	Endorsed	District of Taylor

NOT ENDORSED/REFERRED BACK TO NCLGA/REFERRED BACK TO UBCM EXECUTIVE/TBC

Resolution Number UBCM	Resolution Number NCLGA	Resolution Title	Endorsed/Not Endorsed/ Referred to NCLGA or UBCM Executive	Sponsor(s)
NR13	E1	Advancing Recovery Informed Workplace Practices	Not Endorsed	NCLGA Executive
NR66	R23	Balanced Emissions Policies	Not Endorsed	Peace River Regional District, District of Taylor
RR47	E2	Blood Plasma Donor Centre for Northern BC	Referred back to NCLGA	NCLGA Executive
RR48	R6	Psychiatric Hospital for Northern BC	Referred back to NCLGA	District of Vanderhoof and District of Fort St. James
RR45	R8	Enhanced Wraparound Supports and Second Stage Housing for Individuals in Recovery in Rural Northern Communities	Referred back to NCLGA	District of Chetwynd
RR22	R19	Conservation Officer Advocacy	Referred back to NCLGA	City of Prince George
RR25	R27	Provincial Funding for Public Libraries	Referred back to NCLGA	City of Prince George

Resolution Number UBCM	Resolution Number NCLGA	Resolution Title	Endorsed/Not Endorsed/ Referred to NCLGA or UBCM Executive	Sponsor(s)
RR26	R28	Increased Funding for Public Libraries	Referred back to NCLGA	District of Hudson's Hope
RR27	R29	Increased Capital Funding for Libraries	Referred back to NCLGA	Town of Smithers
RR34	R36	Removal of the BC Port Tax Cap	Referred back to NCLGA	North Coast Regional District
RR31	R37	Essential Service Levels of Inland Ferries	Referred back to NCLGA	Regional District of Bulkley Nechako
RR32	R38	BC Ferry Advisory Committee	Referred back to NCLGA	North Coast Regional District
RR46	R40	Quesnel North South Interconnector	Referred back to NCLGA	Cariboo Regional District
RR35	L1	Highway Road Maintenance Agreements – Addressing Regional Adaptation	Referred back to NCLGA	Village of Pouce Coupe
NR70	R7	Regional Secure Psychiatric Care Facility	Referred back to NCLGA	City of Prince George
NR114	E4	Regulation of Mushroom Harvesting Industry	Referred to UBCM Executive	NCLGA Executive
NR115	E8	Canada First Local Government Procurement Strategy	Referred to UBCM Executive	NCLGA Executive
NR78	E9	Eliminating Interprovincial Trade Barriers	Referred to UBCM Executive	NCLGA Executive
NR85	R20	Allocation of Wildlife Revenues to Conservation	Referred to UBCM Executive	Regional District of Kitimat Stikine
NR86	R31	Agricultural Land Reserve Boundary Review	Referred to UBCM Executive	Cariboo Regional District
NR92	R32	Accessory Dwellings in the Agricultural Land Reserve	Referred to UBCM Executive	Cariboo Regional District
	R33	Natural Resource Royalty Sharing with Watershed Associations (title changed since NCLGA Annual Report)	Referred to UBCM Executive	Regional District of Fraser Fort George and Regional District of Bulkley Nechako
NR107	R43	Leaves of Absence Provisions for Elected Officials	Referred to UBCM Executive	Cariboo Regional District
NR109	R44	More Formalized Property Assessment Processes for Communities in BC	Referred to UBCM Executive	District of Houston
NR112	R45	Economic Impact and Fair Resource Revenue Sharing	Referred to UBCM Executive	City of Terrace
NR111	R48	Natural Gas and Liquefied Natural Gas Strategy	Referred to UBCM Executive	City of Fort St. John, District of Hudson's Hope, and District of Taylor, and Peace River Regional District

To address resolutions not passed at UBCM, the NCLGA will continue advocacy efforts through letters and request for appointments to respective Ministers. Please [check the webpage](#) regularly for updates on advocacy activities related to each resolution.



Member Webinars

NCLGA continues to host quarterly webinars for its membership with topics relevant to local government and consistent with advocacy priorities identified by member communities and the NCLGA's Board of Directors.

Our August 2025 webinar was presented by Louise Pedersen, Executive Director of the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC, on their newly released [Outdoor Recreation Guidebook for Rural British Columbia Communities](#), to help rural B.C. communities plan and develop sustainable outdoor recreation as a powerful catalyst for community well-being.

Do you have a suggestion for a webinar of interest to NCLGA membership? Please contact: bjohnson@nclga.ca.

Please join us at our Next Webinar on Resolutions:

"Advancing Local Government Advocacy through Effective NCLGA Resolutions Processes"

November 12, 2025 at 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. PDT

This webinar will provide education to NCLGA membership on how to prepare for and craft effective resolutions, and will include an overview of NCLGA resolutions processes and detailed how-to's on writing a resolution to maximize reach and strength of the advocacy position.

Speakers: Lara Beckett, RDFFG Chair - Gord Klassen, NCLGA Past President

Who should attend: NCLGA membership (elected officials, staff who write resolutions, Chief Administrative Officers, Corporate Officers, etc.)

[Register here](#)

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 be a focused space dedicated to collaboration and progress sharing on advocacy activities.

To learn more on the Accord purpose and vision, visit nclga.ca/accord. If you are not already a signatory and would like more information, please contact Bettina Johnson at bjohnson@nclga.ca.

For registration or information on the Symposium, please contact Sandra Moore at admin@nclga.ca.

A Mental Health Resource for Individuals in North Central BC

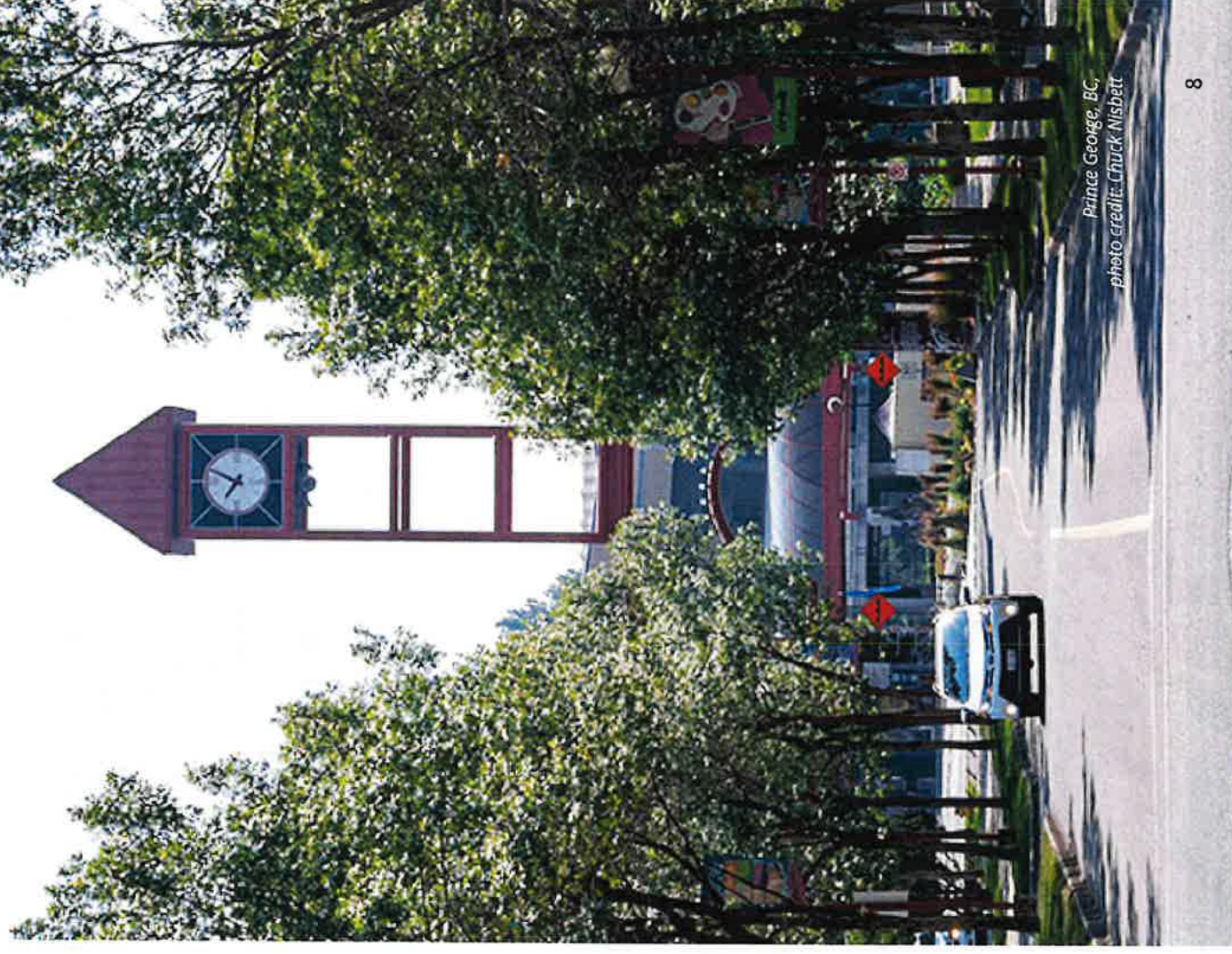


Looking Glass Counseling
Bridge the Gap™

Looking Glass Foundation offers recovery-focused counselling services and peer support programs to individuals in BC who are affected by eating disorders – a complex mental health issue with rising impact across BC. Since 2020, hospitalizations for youth with eating disorders have doubled, a reality that underscores the urgent need for early intervention, accessible care, and increased awareness.

Bridge the Gap is a program which provides affordable, accessible counselling through virtual support services.

To learn more, please visit www.lookingglassbc.com.



Upcoming Board Meetings

NCLGA Board Meeting
November 28-29, 2025
In-person, Prince George, BC
and virtual via [Zoom](#)

2026 dates to be confirmed

Upcoming Meetings & Events

2025 Mental Health and Addictions Symposium
October 15, 2025, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Prince George, BC
More information 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
[Register here](#)

Member Webinar
January 14, 2026, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
“Addressing the Development of Substance Use and Mental Health Services in a Psychiatric Hospital for Northern BC”
Presenter: Dr. Barbara Kane, Head of Psychiatry, UHNBC
[Register here](#)

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
More information at nclga.ca

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.

October 21, 2025

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I am writing to follow up on our earlier correspondence regarding the #DesignedWithSurvivors campaign, a province-wide initiative that reframes gender-based violence (GBV) as a public safety crisis. This campaign remains rooted in the essential question:

What would public safety look like if it were designed with survivors in mind?

We have called on municipalities across British Columbia to take coordinated, local action to address GBV as a matter of public safety and gender equity. Since our initial outreach, BWSS has met with **19 municipalities**. Through council delegations and one-on-one discussions with mayors and staff, we have been able to explore practical steps that municipalities can take to strengthen prevention, response, and coordination on GBV. These conversations have been encouraging and demonstrate the growing recognition that safety starts at the local level.

Today, we are following up to ensure that your community has the opportunity to participate in this critical initiative, starting with a meeting or council delegation from BWSS. Our goal is to support your municipality in:

- **Identifying opportunities for municipal leadership**, including establishing task forces, implementing risk assessment protocols, and advancing public awareness initiatives.
- **Developing a gender-based violence prevention and response strategy** that aligns with community safety and equity goals.
- **Collaborating with community organizations and other levels of government** to ensure an integrated, survivor-centred approach.

As November 25 approaches, marking the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the start of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence**, now is a meaningful time to join this provincial conversation and demonstrate your local government's commitment to ending gender-based violence.

We would be pleased to schedule a meeting or delegation at your convenience to discuss how BWSS can support you in this vital work.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to community safety.

Warm regards,
Angela Marie MacDougall



Executive Director
Battered Women's Support Services
(BWSS)

BUSINESS LINE 604.687.1868

www.bwss.org

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