



91st Annual AGM & Convention

RESILIENCE

April 19-21, 2024

VILLAGE OF radium
hot springs





TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive & Committee.....	page 3
Sponsors.....	page 4
AKBLG & Host Community Welcome.....	pages 5 - 6
Radium Hot Springs Centre Floorplan.....	page 7
Program at a Glance.....	pages 8-10
Tours.....	pages 11-12
Welcome Reception.....	page 12
Banquet.....	page 13
Session Info & Speaker Bios.....	pages 14-31



AKBLG Mission Statement

To assist our members in providing effective, responsible and accountable local government through dialogue, education and advocacy.

2023 - 2024 AKBLG Executive

President Keith Page - Councillor, City of Nelson

Vice President Kevin McIsaac - Councillor, City of Fernie

Director Keith Baldwin - Councillor, Town of Creston

Director Susan Clovechok - Area F Director,

Regional District of East Kootenay

Director Kyle Hamilton - Councillor, City of Fernie

Director Colleen Jones - Mayor, City of Trail

Director Aidan McLaren-Caux - Councillor, Village of Nakusp

Director Wesley Routley - Councillor, Town of Golden

Director Erin Palashniuk - Councillor, Village of Radium Hot Springs

2024 Convention Planning Committee

Chairperson Susan Clovechok - Area F Director,

Regional District of East Kootenay

Colleen Jones, Committee Co-Chair - Mayor, City of Trail

Keith Baldwin - Councillor, Town of Creston

Erin Palashniuk - Councillor, Village of Radium Hot Springs

Wesley Routley - Councillor, Town of Golden

Linda Tynan - AKBLG Executive Director

Andrea Tubbs - Convention Coordinator

Village of Radium Hot Springs

Mike Gray - Mayor

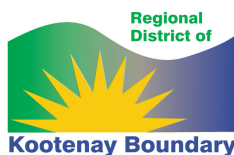
Jill Logan - Corporate Officer

Thank you to our sponsors for their generous and ongoing support of the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments Annual Convention and AGM, your support is greatly appreciated!

Diamond Sponsor



Platinum Sponsors



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors



AKBLG PRESIDENT'S WELCOME



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As we gather in the beautiful backdrop of Radium Hot Springs for the 2024 AKBLG Convention, I want to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to each of you. This year, we embark on something different, a journey together under the theme of "Resilience", a concept that has never been more pertinent to our roles as leaders within our communities.

In a time where the landscape of local governance is continually evolving, marked by new challenges brought by increasing weather instability and opportunities like the province's commitment to a rural policy lens, our gathering is an opportunity to refocus, reconnect, and reinvigorate our commitment to the communities we serve. Our aim for this convention is not just to discuss policy and practice but to engage in an intimate conversation about what it truly means to lead with purpose, empathy, and foresight.

Our convention committee volunteers have curated a program that mirrors the complexity of our roles –spanning the breadth of climate resilience and its intersection with poverty, homelessness, and health, to the nuanced art of making tough and faithful decisions for our communities. Through our panels, speakers, and workshops, we hope to provide you with insights that are both inspiring and actionable, ensuring you leave with not just new connections but with strategies and ideas ready to be implemented across the Kootenay Boundary.

This setting, surrounded by the natural beauty of our region, serves as a reminder of what we are working to preserve, protect, and enhance through our roles. It also underscores the need for us to build resilience not just in our infrastructure and policies but within ourselves. The path of a local government official is often challenging, filled with decisions that may not always be popular but are necessary for the greater good. It is in these moments, through the support of our peers and the strength of our convictions, that our leadership truly shines.

As we proceed with the convention, I encourage you to engage deeply, ask the hard questions, and share your experiences openly. Let us take this time to foster those meaningful connections that empower us to return home rejuvenated, with fresh perspectives and renewed courage to lead our communities through whatever challenges lie ahead.

Thank you for being here, for your commitment to your communities, and for your willingness to explore the depths of what it means to be resilient. Together, we are not just navigating the complexities of local governance; we are shaping the future of our region, one thoughtful decision at a time.

Looking forward to the productive conversations and invaluable insights we will share over the coming days.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Page". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Keith Page, Councillor, City of Nelson
AKBLG President

VILLAGE OF RADIUM HOT SPRINGS MAYOR'S WELCOME

On behalf of the Village of Radium Hot Springs Council, staff and residents, it is my absolute pleasure to welcome you all to our corner of paradise here in the Village of Radium Hot Springs! The idea that our small Village could manage this conference became a reality with the completion of our award-winning Radium Hot Springs Centre which will be the main venue for the convention.



After some delays in hosting the conference through Covid, it is our pleasure to finally welcome you here in 2024.

The convention committee has endeavored to create a focused program around our theme 'Resilience' balanced with allowing you time to explore and savor some of the joys of village life. You will also find many great establishments and activities ready to serve and delight you - please be sure to discover the village and enjoy yourselves.

Thank you again for being here and enjoy our AKBLG Convention & AGM. I look forward to welcoming you in person.

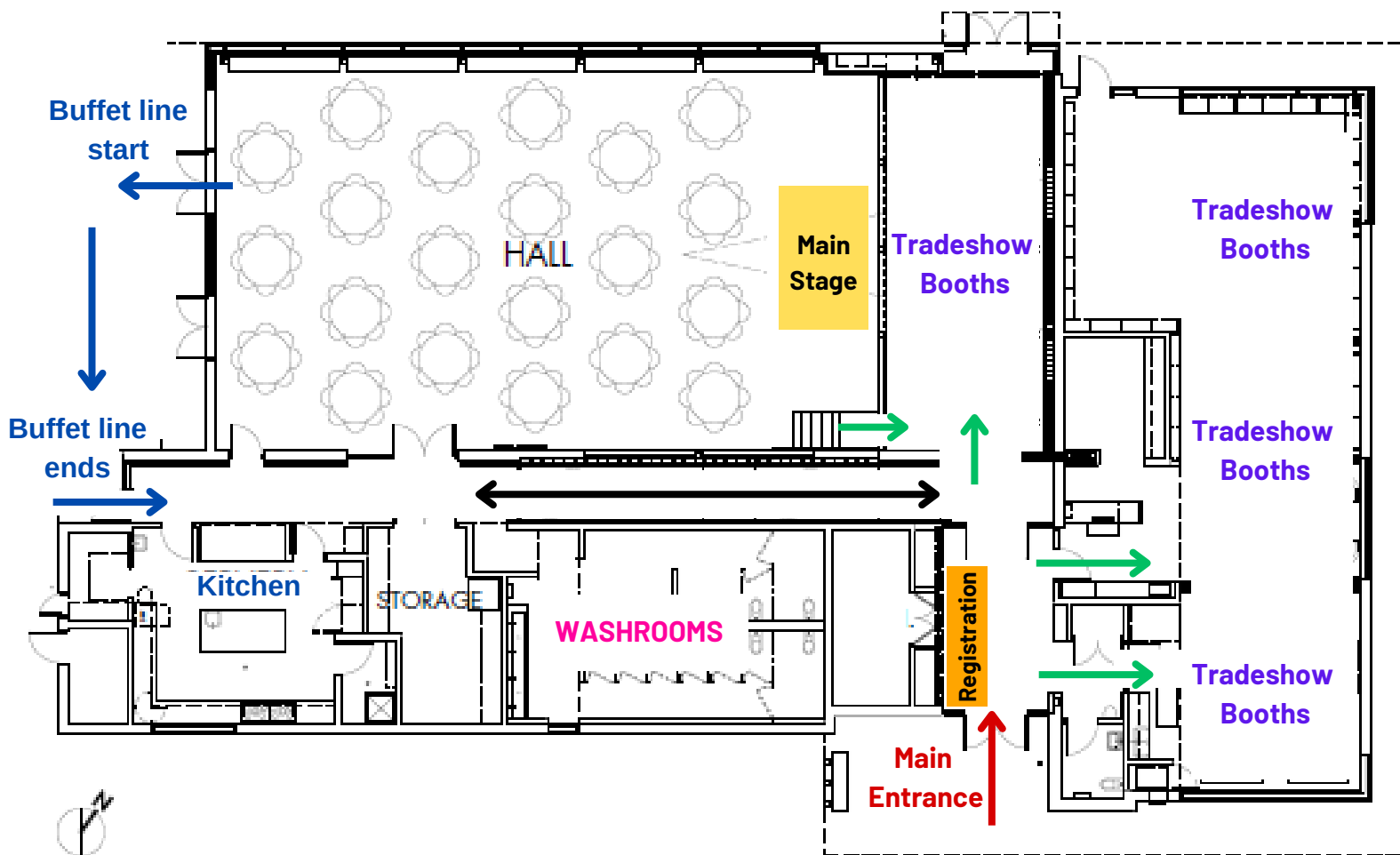
Handwritten signature of Michael Gray in blue ink.

Mayor Mike Gray

FLOORPLAN

RADIUM HOT SPRINGS CENTRE

4863 Stanley Street, Radium Hot Springs



FRIDAY, APRIL 19	Unless otherwise noted all events are at the Radium Hot Springs Centre	
7:30 am – 12:00pm	Shuttle Service from Bighorn Meadows Resort, Prestige Resort & Crystal Springs Motel to Radium Hot Springs Centre	
7:30 am – 4:30pm	Registration Open	
8:15 – 9:15am, 10:00 – 10:45 am, 11:00 – 11:45am	Tour A: Canfor Mill Tour	Carpool from Centre or meet at the Mill
8:15 – 10:00am or 9:45 – 11:30am	Tour B: From Glacier to Groundwater: The Radium water cycle	Depart from Centre by shuttle bus
8:00 – 11:45am	Tour C: Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund Tour	Depart from Centre by shuttle bus
11:00am – 5:30pm	Trade Show Open	Library/Stage
11:45 – 12:30pm	Lunch & Trade Show	
12:30 – 1:30pm	Convention Opening Ceremony	Main Hall
1:30 – 1:40pm	Bio Break	
1:40 – 1:45pm	Sponsor address by FortisBC Energy	Main Hall
1:45 – 2:45 pm	<p>A Changing Economic and Investment Landscape Requires New Thinking to Achieve Great Outcomes <i>Rob Gray, Portfolio Manager, Senior Wealth Advisor, Panorama Advisory Group</i> <i>Andy Nasr, Chief Investment Officer, Scotia Wealth Management</i></p>	Main Hall
2:45 – 2:48pm	Sponsor address by Canfor	Main Hall
2:45 – 3:05pm	Refreshment Break in the Trade Show	
3:15 – 4:15pm	<p>Strategic Reflections: Leveraging Lessons for the Future <i>Christina Benty, MA</i></p>	Main Hall
4:15 – 4:30pm	Refreshment Break in the Trade Show	
4:30 – 5:30pm	<p>Panel: Local Government Flood + Wildfire Planning, Prevention + Response <i>Loree Duczek, Manager Communications, Regional District East Kootneay</i> <i>Christina Carbrey, Protective Services Manager, Regional District East Kootneay</i> <i>Mike Moore, CAO, Town of Creston</i></p>	Main Hall
6:15pm	Shuttle service to reception from Radium Hot Springs Centre, Bighorn Meadows Resort, Prestige Resort & Crystal Springs Motel to reception	
6:30 – 8:00pm	Welcome Reception <i>Radium Hot Springs Pools, 5420 BC-93, Radium Hot Springs, BC</i>	Off Site
7:00 – 8:30pm	Shuttle Service from reception to Radium Hot Springs Centre, Bighorn Meadows Resort, Prestige Resort & Crystal Springs Motel	

SATURDAY, APRIL 20	Unless otherwise noted all events are at the Radium Hot Springs Centre	
7:00 – 9:00am	Shuttle Service from Bighorn Meadows Resort, Prestige Resort & Crystal Springs Motel to Centre	
7:00 – 8:00 am	Buffet Breakfast	Main Hall
8:00 – 5:00pm	Trade Show Open	
8:00 – 8:15am	Daily Opening Remarks	Main Hall
8:15 – 8:45am	AKBLG 91 st AGM	Main Hall
8:45 – 10:45am	AKBLG Business Meeting	Main Hall
10:45 – 11:05am	Refreshment Break in the Trade Show	
11:05 – 11:08am	Sponsor address by ETSI-BC	Main Hall
11:10 – 11:25am	UBCM President’s Address <i>Councillor Trish Mandewo, City of Coquitlam</i>	Main Hall
11:25 – 11:28am	Sponsor address by Municipal Finance Authority	Main Hall
11:30 – 11:55am	A Healthy and Resilient Columbia Basin A look at our collective impact over the past three years; and a look ahead to our new Columbia Basin Management Plan 2024-2034 <i>Johnny Strilaeff, President & CEO, Columbia Basin Trust</i>	Main Hall
12:00 – 12:03pm	Sponsor address by ICBC	Main Hall
12:00 – 1:00pm	Buffet Lunch & Trade Show	
1:00 – 1:45pm	Fireside Chat with Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development, Roly Russell & Past UBCM President, Wendy Booth	Main Hall
1:50 – 2:45 pm	Building Climate Resilience Together: Intersectoral Community Actions to Adapt to a Changing Climate <i>Dr. Sue Pollock, Medical Health Officer, Interior Health</i> <i>Andre Bloemink, Health Emergency Management Specialist, Health Emergency Mgmt BC/Interior Health</i> <i>Julian Mallinson, Director of Strategic Initiatives – Population & Public Health, Interior Health</i> <i>Kady Hunter, Climate Change and Health Lead, Interior Health</i> <i>Mayor Colleen Jones, City of Trail</i> <i>Paris Marshall Smith (she/they) Sustainability Planner Regional District of Central Kootenay</i>	Main Hall
2:45 – 3:00 pm	Refreshment Break in the Tradeshow	
3:00 – 3:45 pm	The Economics of Community Resiliency <i>Dale Wheeldon, President and CEO, BC Economic Development Association</i>	Main Hall
3:50 – 4:50	When Good Decisions aren’t popular <i>Clara Reinhardt, Moderator</i> <i>Wendy Booth, Principle Consultant, Granite River Consulting</i> <i>Kent Waugh, Managing Partner, The W Group</i> <i>Andrew Carricato, Lawyer, Lidstone & Company</i>	Main Hall

4:50 – 5:30pm	Trade Show	
6:15 – 7:00pm	Shuttle service to Banquet from Radium Hot Springs Centre, Bighorn Meadows Resort, Prestige Resort & Crystal Springs Motel	
6:30 – 7:00pm	Cocktails – Bugaboo Lounge	Radium Golf Course, 8100 Golf Course Rd
7:00 – 8:30pm	Banquet Dinner – Palliser Room	
8:30 – 10:30pm	Bugaboo Lounge and bar remain open. Entertainment by Brad Lawrence.	
8:30 – 11:15pm	Shuttle service from Banquet to Radium Hot Springs Centre, Bighorn Meadows Resort, Prestige Resort & Crystal Springs Motel	

Sunday, April 22	Please be sure to check out of your accommodations prior to the start of the day.	
7:45 – 8:30am	Buffet Breakfast	Main Hall
8:30 – 9:15am	AKBLG Business meeting continued	Main Hall
9:15am	Election Results	
9:20 – 9:50am	UNDRIP and Local Governments <i>Marian Ngo, President of Vallar Partners Inc. & Executive Director of the Salish Sea Indigenous Guardians Association</i>	Main Hall
9:55 – 10:45am	Navigating Public Discourse Within the Current Municipal Environment <i>Benjamin Proulx, President, Catalyst Communications</i>	Main Hall
10:45 – 11:00am	Refreshment Break	
11:00 – 11:45am	<u>Keynote</u> Thriving Through Adversity – Embracing Passion and Resilience <i>Alan Tenta, the winner of the 2023 survival reality TV show "Alone"</i>	Main Hall
11:45am – 12:00pm	Convention Closing	Main Hall

TOURS

FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2024

TOUR A: CANFOR MILL TOUR

On this tour you will observe cut to length logs in 14', 16' and 20' lengths of various diameters going through Canfor's three primary breakdown lines in the sawmill being turned into rough green lumber.

The breakdown lines are comprised of scanners to optimize the lumber produced from each log as well as round saws, band saws, chipping heads, chains and conveying systems. Canfor's main line (the Canter) has all of these.

You will then observe the automated lumber sorting process by length and dimension at the back end of the sawmill. From there we will head into the planer where rough dry lumber is turned into smooth, visually appealing as well as strength rated lumber that most are familiar with seeing in hardware stores. You will then observe the automated grading and sorting process that takes place in the core of the planer building. From there we will work our way to the back end of the planer where the final processes of automated stacking and manual wrapping take place in preparation for shipment.

TOUR B: THE RADIUM WATER CYCLE

Join Village of Radium staff on a guided tour of our drinking water and sewage treatment plants.

Originating from six glaciers high in the Purcell mountains, our water flows through wilderness to an intake located 10 kilometers west. From there, our system is gravity fed to the treatment plant where sand filtration beds, ultraviolet light, and chlorination create pristine potable water fully compliant with Interior Health standards. Departing the plant, gravity assumes control again, to pressurize the taps and water closets of the good citizens of Radium. After careful consumption, wastewater is collected to resume its downhill journey to a different kind of treatment plant, where encounters with muffin monsters, high efficiency blowers and moving bed biofilm reactors process and polish the wastewater anew. After resting in the happy duck pond, virtually pure water seeps into the earth to rejoin the ground waters there.

TOURS

FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2024

TOUR C: COLUMBIA VALLEY LOCAL CONSERVATION FUND TOUR

This field tour will take place in the beautiful Columbia Valley and feature Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund projects that showcase how a unique local government service has contributed to both environmental and community resilience through collaborative on-the-ground conservation projects. Participants will learn about Local Conservation Funds, how local projects build environmental and community resiliency, and how unique approaches to conservation are essential for embracing change and looking forward, all well enjoying the breathtaking landscape of the East Kootenay on a local bus tour.

WELCOME RECEPTION

FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2024

6:30 - 8:00PM

RADIUM HOT SPRINGS POOLS

5420 BC-93, Radium Hot Springs

Join us just inside the Kootenay National Park entrance at the iconic Radium Hot Springs Pools for light snacks and a beverage. This unique location is operated by Parks Canada and is steeped in history and natural beauty.

Catch the shuttle between 6:15 - 8:30pm or drive on your own.
The pools are open until 9:00pm.

See the next page for evening options in the Village.

BANQUET

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024

RADIUM GOLF COURSE

8100 Golf Course Road, Radium Hot Springs

6:15 7:00 pm Shuttle service

6:30 pm Cocktails

7:00 pm Buffet Dinner

8:30 pm Shuttle service resumes

8:30 - 10:30pm Lounge and bar remain open

11:00 pm Last shuttle

EVENING OPTIONS IN THE VILLAGE OF RADIUM HOT SPRINGS

- Conrad's Kitchen & Grill open till 11:00 p.m.
- Horsethief Pub open till 10:00 p.m.
- Don Agave Cantina open till 11:00 p.m.
- Radium Brewing open till 9:00 p.m. (no food service)
- Old Salzburg Restaurant open till 9:00 p.m.
- Helna's Stube Restaurant open till 9:00 p.m.
- Backcountry Jack's Restaurant open till 9:00 p.m.



SPEAKER INFORMATION

**THANK YOU
TO THE 2024 SPEAKERS!**

Alan Tenta
Andre Bloemink
Andrew Carricato
Andy Nasr
Benjamin Proulx
Christina Benty
Christina Carbrey
Clara Reinhardt
Colleen Jones
Dale Wheeldon
Johnny Strilaeff
Julian Mallinson
Kady Hunter
Kent Waugh
Loree Duczek
Marian Ng
Mike Moore
Paris Marshall Smith
Rob Gray
Roly Russell
Dr. Sue Pollock
Susan Clovechok
Wendy Booth

MASTERS OF CEREMONIES

SUSAN CLOVECHOK, ELECTORAL AREA F DIRECTOR, REGIONAL DISTRICT EAST KOOTENAY



Susan is currently serving a second term as the Electoral Area F Director in the Regional District of East Kootenay (RDEK) and 4th term at RDEK Vice-Chair.

She has held leadership positions with national corporations and nonprofit organizations across Canada. Susan's career has focused on sales, marketing, communications, leadership development and organizational improvement, always with supporting people to succeed as her primary motivation.

CLARA REINHARDT



Growing up in a farming community in Alberta set me up for successfully living in 2 Territories and 4 Western Provinces! I have been fortunate to live and work in a variety of communities including a fly-in village in Yukon to a vibrant city like Calgary. My work experience has been varied due to transfers with my husband's work, but it allowed me to experience a wide variety of cultures, businesses, and industries. I loved every minute of being a local government Elected Official including being a Councilor, Mayor, RD Director and Vice Chair, Chair of a number of committees, President of AKBLG and member of the UBCM Board. In a previous life I was an educator and facilitator which brings me to this event. Thank you for allowing me to participate!

FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 1:45 - 2:45PM

A Changing Economic and Investment Landscape Requires New Thinking to Achieve Great Outcomes

A fireside chat about inflation, interest rates, supply chain issues, geopolitical tensions, and volatility – and how they are requiring local governments to change their thinking about the management of municipal investments to benefit their constituents. Overarching themes will be domestic and international markets, and the global economy, with specific attention to investments eligible for the local governments in attendance

ROB GRAY, SENIOR WEALTH ADVISOR, PORTFOLIO MANAGER, PANORAMA ADVISORY GROUP



Rob has been in wealth management since 1998 and has split his time living in both Calgary for over 45 years and Panorama for 14 years. With prior work experience in commercial sales management, he learned the value of building long-term relationships and brings that perspective to what he recommends for his clients today. A true believer in total wealth planning and as leader of Panorama Advisory Group, Rob sets the highest level of service for the team. Known for his proactive thinking, sense of urgency and genuine care, Rob specializes in solutions for municipalities, counties, indigenous communities, universities and colleges, sport governing bodies and other institutions along with individuals and families with complex financial situations.

ANDY NASR, CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER, SCOTIA WEALTH MANAGEMENT



Andy Nasr joined Scotia Wealth Management® in 2018 and is a Portfolio Manager with over 20 years of investment management experience. Prior to joining Scotia Wealth Management, Andy was Vice President and Portfolio Manager (Capital Markets) and Investment Strategist. Prior to that he was a Senior Portfolio Manager responsible for managing several global and domestic mandates. Andy brings a great depth of experience across a range of asset classes and sectors including fixed income, equities, real estate, infrastructure, and health care, as well as investment strategy and asset allocation. Andy has also been a recurring guest on BNN and Bloomberg TV.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 3:15 - 4:15PM

Strategic Reflections: Leveraging Lessons for the Future

The AKBLG Board wants to hear from you! We are embarking on a branding exercise to refine and strengthen our brand identity and strategy. As we are in the early stages of information gathering, we want to leverage the wisdom and experience of our members and your input matters. In this dynamic and interactive workshop, we will have the opportunity to delve deep into the contributions and aspirations of the organization. Together, we will explore questions such as:

- .What is the unique contribution that the AKBLG seeks to make?
- .What impact have we had on the political landscape in our region?
- .What does being part of the AKBLG mean to me?

This workshop is about fostering a shared understanding and commitment to the AKBLG's mission, ensuring that every member feels empowered to contribute to its image and future success.

CHRISTINA BENTY, MA



Christina Bentley, MA is a recovering politician who still loves local government. She works with leaders and organizations committed to building a culture of excellence in an environment that is kinder, wiser, and more conscious. As a national speaker, facilitator, published author, and a performance coach for governing bodies and senior management teams, she uses her lived political experience and her educational background to deliver intellectual content with energy and enthusiasm

FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 4:30 - 5:30PM

Local Government Flood + Wildfire Planning, Prevention + Response

The Province has introduced new emergency legislation that is lengthy, complex, and subject to numerous regulations. The panel will discuss the impacts to date on local government policy, capacity, operations and budgets of this new legislation. Delegates will have an opportunity to engage by submitting questions via Slido

LOREE DUCZEK, MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF EAST KOOTENAY



Loree Duczek is the Communications Manager for the Regional District of East Kootenay and the lead Information Officer for the East Kootenay Emergency Management Program. For nearly 25 years, Loree has been involved in supporting East Kootenay communities and residents during a wide range of emergencies including floods and landslides, wildfires, large structure fires, hazardous materials incidents and more. Her experience covers a wide range of response structures, including acting as one member of a four-person team within a municipality to working within more complex combined command regional emergency operations centres and leading large, multi-person information teams. She has a direct, community-based approach to emergency communications and is passionate about educating and sharing her experience with others.

CHRISTINA CARBREY, PROTECTIVE SERVICES MANAGER, REGIONAL DISTRICT OF EAST KOOTENAY



Christina is a seasoned emergency management professional with over 15 years of experience in public safety, and a member of the RDEK's senior leadership team. Armed with a master's degree in Disaster and Emergency Management, she brings a balanced blend of academic knowledge and hands-on expertise to the field. Currently serving as a board director with the BC Association of Emergency Managers, Christina is dedicated to enhancing emergency preparedness, response, and recovery strategies. Her pragmatic approach and leadership have been instrumental in navigating diverse crisis scenarios. With a focus on community well-being, she continues to make valuable contributions to the safety and resilience of the areas she serves.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 4:30 - 5:30PM

Local Government Flood + Wildfire Planning, Prevention + Response

MIKE MOORE, CAO, TOWN OF CRESTON



Mike Moore worked for the Town of Creston for nearly 17 years and in local government for over 30 years, and has served as the CAO for nearly six years. Employed with the Town of Creston since 2007, he served as Deputy Fire Chief, Fire Chief and Director of Protective Services before becoming CAO in 2018. He continues to be an active member of Creston Fire Rescue. Prior to moving to Creston, Mike served as Deputy Fire Chief for the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine in Terrace, and a Community Coroner for the Province of BC.

Mike has graduate certificates in Advanced Fire Administration, Fire Service Administration - Human Resources Management and Fire Service Leadership from Dalhousie University as well as his Masters' Degree in Disaster and Emergency Management from Royal Roads University which he completed in 2020. This Masters' Degree program emphasizes an integrated and holistic approach to disaster and emergency management built on the understanding that disasters are more than hazards, and are products of the inter-relationship and mutual construction of the environmental, social, economic, and political spheres. This approach supports the notion that disaster and emergency management processes and practices can, and should contribute to risk reduction, community resilience and sustainable communities. He is pleased to be here with us today to speak to his experiences with local government flood and wildfire planning, prevention and response.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 11:10 - 11:25AM

UBCM President's Address

TRISH MANDEWO, COUNCILLOR, CITY OF COQUITLAM



Trish Mandewo was elected to the Coquitlam City Council in 2018 and is currently serving her second term. She has an extensive background in policy and governance, coupled with a solid track record of effective leadership. She ardently supports initiatives aimed at fostering sustainable development and improving the quality of life for British Columbians. Trish is unwavering in her commitment to encourage cooperation across all tiers of government, advocate for the diverse needs and interests of local communities, and pioneer innovative solutions to address the challenges faced by both urban and rural areas.

With her diverse background encompassing education in Microbiology, Embryology, and experience as an entrepreneur, Trish finds fulfillment in sharing her knowledge through mentoring, public speaking, writing, and serving as a business consultant through her company.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 11:30 - 11:55AM

**A look at our collective impact over the past three plus years;
and a look ahead to our new Columbia Basin Management Plan
2024-2034**

In its goal to support people and communities in the Columbia Basin, Columbia Basin Trust has released its new Columbia Basin Management Plan 2024-2034. The overall focuses are health and resilience, which will guide the Trust's activities over the coming decade. Johnny will share more about the focus areas and the next steps for putting the plan into action.

With six focus areas and two integrated priorities, the impact of the 2020-2023 strategic priorities has been wide and deep. Johnny will celebrate the impacts of the 2020-2023 strategic plan with some key highlights.

**JOHNNY STRILAEFF, PRESIDENT & CEO,
COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST**



Johnny Strilaeff was born and raised in the Basin region. He joined the Trust in 2005 after working for several years in the financial services sector. He became Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer in 2012, and the Board of Directors promoted him to President and CEO in November 2016. In 2017 Johnny also assumed Acting CEO responsibilities for Columbia Power Corporation, and following a reorganization he continues to have oversight responsibilities for all power project related business.

Johnny attended Selkirk College prior to completing his Bachelor of Commerce degree at the University of Calgary (with a concentration in Finance) and is a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Charterholder

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1:00 -1:45PM

Fireside Chat with Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development, Roly Russell & Past UBCM President, Wendy Booth

Delegates will listen into an informal conversation between these two past local government politicians that they know as Wendy & Roly. The discussion is expected to centre around the variety of new legislation impacting local governments; specifically, the impact on Rural local governments and our shared electorate. Delegates will have an opportunity to engage by submitting questions via Slido.

ROLY RUSSELL, MLA, BOUNDARY-SIMILKAMEEN



Roly Russell was elected MLA for Boundary-Similkameen in the 2020 provincial general election. Roly serves as the Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development to the Minister of Housing.

Before running for provincial office, Roly served as an elected leader with the Kootenay-Boundary Regional District and the Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments, chaired the local credit union board, and was a member of the executive of the Union of BC Municipalities.

When Grand Forks was hit hard by flooding in 2018, Roly helped lead the response in the community by coordinating with emergency operations and between different levels of government to secure needed assistance. Through the flooding response, he helped establish a new model of community-led disaster recovery.

WENDY BOOTH, PRINCIPLE CONSULTANT, GRANITE RIVER CONSULTING



A former elected official with the RDEK for a decade, serving as Vice Chair for 6 years, she has extensive experience in board governance and strategic planning. Having been a Director and Vice Chair of CBT for many years, she has a keen passion for community development and working with communities throughout the region. She served as an Executive Member of the UBCM for several years, concluding as President in Sept 2018. She is an appointed as a Director of the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program for the Columbia Region, Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation and Fraser Basin Council.

She currently works as a consultant, providing guidance and direction to non-profits as well as community development projects. As a former owner of a white-water rafting company combined with a business degree, she has a strong entrepreneurial spirit and enjoys spending her free time outside in the Kootenays whether it be skiing, golfing or on the water.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1:50-2:45PM

Building Climate Resilience Together: Intersectoral Community Actions to Adapt to a Changing Climate

The link between the health and well-being of individuals and communities, and the health and well-being of our environment, has been clearly demonstrated through the climate-related events of recent years. Everyone is impacted by climate change, and only a whole-of-society approach to climate change adaptation will keep communities safe and ensure resilience.

This panel session will reflect on recent climate impacts in the region and explore opportunities to collaborate across health and local government sectors. Local government members from the Regional District of Central Kootenay and the City of Trail will share their efforts, successes, and challenges relating to climate change preparedness and adaptation. Interior Health leads will outline key commitments and initiatives, including recommendations from the 2023 Medical Health Officer Report on Climate Change, Health, and Well-being.

Participants will be encouraged to engage through interactive tools, and panel discussion, with the intent of fostering new partnerships and learning together about innovative, practical solutions to climate change.

DR. SUE POLLOCK, MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICER, INTERIOR HEALTH



Sue Pollock is a Medical Health Officer with Interior Health (IH) and is the co-lead for the population health focused climate change and health program in IH. Sue is also a Clinical Associate Professor with the School of Population and Public Health, UBC, and regularly supervises medical students and residents on public health rotations. Prior to joining IH, Sue worked for the Public Health Agency of Canada, including two years as a Field Epidemiologist (“disease detective”) studying One Health, the intersection of human, animal and environment health. Sue is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and holds a MD from the University of Calgary and a MSc in Epidemiology from the University of Toronto. Sue has a longstanding interest in mitigation and adaptation related to the health impacts of climate change and trained as a Climate Reality Leader with former US Vice President Al Gore.

She currently works as a consultant, providing guidance and direction to non-profits as well as community development projects. As a former owner of a white-water rafting company combined with a business degree, she has a strong entrepreneurial spirit and enjoys spending her free time outside in the Kootenays whether it be skiing, golfing or on the water.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1:50-2:45PM

Building Climate Resilience Together: Intersectoral Community Actions to Adapt to a Changing Climate

ANDRE BLOEMINK, HEALTH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST, HEALTH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC/ INTERIOR HEALTH



Andre has been a member of Health Emergency Management BC (HEMBC) since February 2019. He has been an integral support to the IHA Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and regional IHA Clinical Operations Incident Command (IC) over the past 5 years during BC Wildfire, Heat Dome and Atmospheric River events. He is currently part of the provincial HEMBC Inter & Intra Health Authority Relocation working group. As well, he is the current HEMBC liaison support for IHA's various climate change and sustainability projects.

Andre brings a broad base of emergency management experience through his 25+ years' service as an auxiliary firefighter, search and rescue technician and as a past professional member of the Canadian Avalanche Association. Additionally, Andre is a response team lead and instructor with the international disaster relief charity ShelterBox International having deployed to disasters in Asia, Africa, South America and the Caribbean.

JULIAN MALLINSON, DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC INITIATIVES - POPULATION & PUBLIC HEALTH, INTERIOR HEALTH



In this role, Julian co-leads the implementation of Interior Health's Climate Change & Sustainability Roadmap and supports other planning and projects that advance population health and equity across the region. Julian holds a master's in public health and PhD in ecology and is a Fellow of the UK Faculty of Public Health. He has over 20 years' experience of public health practice, including roles with local and regional government organizations in the UK. Julian is excited about what can be achieved when working together on important public health issues like climate change and community wellbeing. Julian is an uninvited guest on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Syilx Nation, and is privileged to enjoy its beautiful land and waters with his family.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1:50-2:45PM

Building Climate Resilience Together: Intersectoral Community Actions to Adapt to a Changing Climate

KADY HUNTER, CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH LEAD, INTERIOR HEALTH



Kady is the first Climate Change and Health Lead for Interior Health in a newly created position. She works closely with the Medical Health Officer and Population Health teams as well as with colleagues across the other regional health authorities, First Nation Health Authority, BC Centre for Disease Control and Ministry of Health to advance health system climate adaptation and resilience actions. Currently, Kady is co-leading projects with Interior Health to inform and guide future action including developing a Climate Change and Sustainability Roadmap for Interior Health. Kady previously worked closely with local governments on a variety of projects ranging from poverty reduction and affordable housing to active transportation and climate action planning. She is familiar with the scope of work that local governments are responsible for and recognizes opportunities for collaboration.

COLLEEN JONES, MAYOR, CITY OF TRAIL



After spending four years advocating for and representing the citizens of Trail in her role as City Councilor, Colleen Jones now serves, as Mayor, for the city she calls home. No stranger to the political sphere, Jones spent 32 years in a management role for the Provincial government and several years negotiating and bargaining for government employees and management at all levels in her role as Vice-President for the BC Government Employees Union. Colleen was recently the lead on setting up the emergency warming shelter during the extreme weather event in January 2024.

Jones is also very active in her community and enjoys hiking, biking, camping, and snowshoeing in the mountains. She's logged countless hours as a volunteer for various local organizations and events. Her involvement with nonprofit organizations within the community really helps Jones understand the issues and priorities of her town. Working side-by-side with volunteers and other community members has made her appreciate how much their expertise is needed and valued. Being their voice and advocating on their behalf is important to Colleen and she is passionate about representing everyone in her community.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1:50-2:45PM

Building Climate Resilience Together: Intersectoral Community Actions to Adapt to a Changing Climate

PARIS MARSHALL SMITH (SHE/THEY), SUSTAINABILITY PLANNER REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY



Paris joined the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) in 2017 and is focussed on building resilience in the areas of energy, water, food and agriculture and climate action. Paris is a registered planner with a background in system change (particularly interested in changing how we create and sustain the colonial conditions that displace, erase & inflict violence) and a Masters in Community and Regional Planning. Currently she/they live on the Eastshore of Kootenay Lake, a favorite for swimming and watching trees.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 3:00-3:45PM

The Economics of Community Resiliency

Communities all over BC are faced with the risk of fire, flood and government policies that threaten the economic wellbeing of the communities that we serve. Learn in this session things that Local Government politicians and staff can do to make sure that even in the face of circumstances beyond our direct control we can be confident that our local economies will be resilient.

DALE WHEELDON, PRESIDENT AND CEO, BC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION



Dale joined the BCEDA team in 2007. As the President and CEO he is responsible for leading the association through the development of programs and initiatives to support communities and economic development organizations. With over 25 years of economic development experience, Dale has successfully developed several award winning economic development programs, developed strategies and other initiatives in small and large communities. His excellent working relationships with all levels of government and industry associations have helped to ensure that BCEDA is well positioned to provide member services. Dale works extensively with other organizations including the International Economic Development Council as a course instructor, and with other Provincial economic development associations developing partnerships across Canada.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 3:50-4:50PM

When Good Decisions aren't popular

Our responsibility is to make decisions for the communities that will serve the communities for years to come, long after our time in office is over.

Members of the public for any number of reasons may believe that a decision you've made is absolutely wrong. When this happens, it can make you question your decision to run for election and impact future decisions you make - it will affect your personal resilience.

This panel will share their experience and how they have addressed the negative responses from members of the public, colleagues; they will share their insights and tools how you can stay strong in the face of negative public discourse

CLARA REINHARDT - MODERATOR



Growing up in a farming community in Alberta set me up for successfully living in 2 Territories and 4 Western Provinces! I have been fortunate to live and work in a variety of communities including a fly-in village in Yukon to a vibrant city like Calgary. My work experience has been varied due to transfers with my husband's work, but it allowed me to experience a wide variety of cultures, businesses, and industries. I loved every minute of being a local government Elected Official including being a Councilor, Mayor, RD Director and Vice Chair, Chair of a number of committees, President of AKBLG and member of the UBCM Board. In a previous life I was an educator and facilitator which brings me to this event. Thank you for allowing me to participate!

WENDY BOOTH, PRINCIPLE CONSULTANT, GRANITE RIVER CONSULTING



A former elected official with the RDEK for a decade, serving as Vice Chair for 6 years, she has extensive experience in board governance and strategic planning. Having been a Director and Vice Chair of CBT for many years, she has a keen passion for community development and working with communities throughout the region. She served as an Executive Member of the UBCM for several years, concluding as President in Sept 2018. She is an appointed as a Director of the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program for the Columbia Region, Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation and Fraser Basin Council.

She currently works as a consultant, providing guidance and direction to non-profits as well as community development projects. As a former owner of a white-water rafting company combined with a business degree, she has a strong entrepreneurial spirit and enjoys spending her free time outside in the Kootenays whether it be skiing, golfing or on the water.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1:50-2:45PM

When Good Decisions aren't popular

KENT WAUGH, MANAGING PARTNER, THE W GROUP



Kent Waugh has served as a professional marketing strategist and researcher for the past 40 years. He has worked with clients across numerous sectors, including more than four dozen non-profit organizations and government agencies. As Managing Partner of The W Group, Kent now focuses on building fully integrated, holistic programs specifically for local governments that drive the highest levels of customer experience, community engagement and organizational performance.

Kent guides municipal officials on how best to manage the development/design of community surveys, and how best to interpret and present engagement results, including many addressing contentious issues.

ANDREW CARRICATO, LAWYER, LIDSTONE & COMPANY



Andrew is licenced in BC, Alberta and Ontario. He advises and advocates for clients on a wide range of workplace law issues in both unionized and non-unionized environments. Andrew advises clients on recruitment, discipline, terminations, attendance and disability management, accommodations, workplace investigations, human rights, freedom of information and privacy matters, as well as labour relations, the interpretation of collective agreements and grievance arbitrations. Andrew also helps clients navigate various local government issues and litigation before the courts, labour arbitrations, the human rights tribunal, WorkSafe BC, and other administrative tribunals.

Andrew has also developed a particular expertise in advising local government election officials in election related matters. This includes representing clients in judicial recounts and election challenges before both the Provincial and Supreme Courts of B.C.

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 9:20-9:50AM

UNDRIP and Local Governments

Navigating the challenges of UNDRIP and developing proactive approaches for meaningful relationships and the continuity of service and infrastructure delivery.

MARIAN NGO, PRESIDENT OF VALLAR PARTNERS INC. & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SALISH SEA INDIGENOUS GUARDIANS ASSOCIATION



A solutions-driven negotiator and strategic planner, Marian Ngo seeks innovative and progressive approaches in the field of government relations - both Indigenous and non-Indigenous.

Adaptable to constantly changing environments, but never losing track of the objectives, she specializes in problem solving - if the status quo does not allow for needs to be addressed, she works with all parties to develop a partnership and plan that does.

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 9:55-10:45AM

Navigating Public Discourse Within the Current Municipal Environment

The past few years have thrown countless curveballs at municipalities, including the current state of public discourse. Through this session, we will explore communications tools and governance considerations that will help in navigating some of the more difficult behaviours we've encountered. By first assessing the current state and then diving into solutions, we will ensure that participants walk away with actionable strategies to begin implementing in their communities.

BENJAMIN PROULX, PRESIDENT, CATALYST COMMUNICATIONS



Benjamin Proulx is a leader in municipal communications and strategy. With a combined perspective of best practice, lived experience, and innovation, he is working to raise the bar in how municipalities communicate with their community, including in areas of crisis communications/ management, and public engagement.

Having worked with municipalities throughout Canada, Benjamin has also presented at numerous leading local government conventions. He wrote the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators' (CAMA) Leadership Guide to Effective CAO-Council Relations; teaches a course through the University of Alberta's Elected Officials Education Program, titled Council's Role in Public Engagement; has been on the ground, supporting municipalities through various crises and overseeing crisis management and communications; and has worked in areas including Council and Admin training and workshops, public engagement, crisis communications, communications planning, bylaw and policy review, and more.

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 11:00 -11:45AM

Thriving Through Adversity - Embracing Passion and Resilience

Alan Tenta, the winner of the 2023 survival reality TV show "Alone" shares his journey of passion and resilience through stunning visuals and story telling. Surviving in the unforgiving Saskatchewan wilderness, facing isolation, starvation, and freezing temperatures, Alan outlasted his competitors by tapping into his positive mindset and unwavering passion for the outdoors. A Q&A will conclude the session.

ALAN TENTA



At the age of 52, Alan became the oldest winner of the history channel's survival show, alone. Alan overcame significant physical and mental hardships to outlast nine other competitors in the wilderness of northern Saskatchewan.

Growing up in the west Kootenays, Alan was introduced to the outdoors at a young age. Under the guidance of his father, Alan developed a passion for fishing, archery, and bowhunting.

Alan graduated from UBC in 1996 and has been a teacher for 28 years. In 2016, Alan developed and implemented an outdoor education course at the local high school. He shared his passion for the outdoors with his students; it was his outdoor education class who initially encouraged him to apply for the survival television show. Winning alone was Alan's ultimate adventure. He pushed the limits of his physical and mental capabilities; at the same time, used his skills as a bowhunter, fisherman, forager, and bushcrafter to outlast his competitors.

Currently, Alan is a public speaker, teacher, and creates content on his YouTube channel, Tenta outdoors.

