



Approving Officers Virtual Workshop

April 30 and May 1, 2026

Statutory Approving Officers or the primary person responsible for the evaluation of subdivision applications in their organization are invited to join local government experts and practitioners for two half-day workshops specifically designed to support you in your role. Do you want to improve your skills with practical training and receive the latest legal updates? Take advantage of this opportunity to add new tools to your toolbox and to learn alongside your peers.

The workshop content was designed with the input of experienced local government practitioners.

Workshop Dates: April 30, 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. PDT
May 1, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. PDT

Cost: \$418 + GST LGMA member and \$478.50 + GST Non-member

Registration: Register online by **April 16, 2026**. No refunds will be provided after April 16, 2026.

Registration is reserved for those who work in a BC local government or First Nations jurisdiction, and are the Statutory Approving Officer, Deputy, or the primary person responsible for the evaluation of subdivision applications in their organization. Provincial approving officials are welcome.

Sessions can be used towards Continuous Professional Learning credits.

Digital Release:


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Workshop Schedule

Day 1	Thursday, April 30
8:30 – 8:40 a.m.	<p>Welcome David Block, Director of Development Services/Approving Officer, City of Terrace</p> <p>Opening remarks by Approving Officer Program Advisor David Block</p>
8:40 – 10:10 a.m.	<p>Concurrent breakout sessions for emerging and seasoned Approving Officers</p> <p>Join one of two breakout groups to connect with and learn from your peers. Each group will be facilitated by different subject matter experts.</p> <p>Breakout A: <i>Basics for brand-new AOs</i> Breakout B: <i>Tales from the Trenches for seasoned AOs</i></p> <p><i>Please choose your breakout when you register.</i></p>
10:10 – 10:15 a.m.	<i>Stretch Break</i>
10:15 – 11:50 a.m.	<p>Legal update Guy Patterson, Lawyer, Young Anderson</p> <p>An update on legislation and case law relevant to subdivision approval decision-making.</p> <p><i>Session includes brief stretch break</i></p> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div>
11:50 – 11:55 a.m.	<i>Stretch Break</i>
11:55 a.m. – 12:55 p.m.	<p>Deep Dive: Strata Plan Scenarios with LTSA Lindsay Bealle, Deputy Registrar, Land Title and Survey Authority of BC</p> <p>The Land Title and Survey Authority of BC (LTSA) is pleased to present a session designed to enhance participants' understanding of strata plans. Using a hypothetical case study, the presentation will introduce three potential approaches from an LTSA perspective during the first thirty minutes of the session.</p> <p>Participants will then break into smaller groups to explore these options in greater depth, followed by a plenary discussion to share key insights and ask questions.</p> <p>The session is intended to spark ongoing dialogue and provide Approving Officers with concepts and considerations to carry forward into future strata plan scenarios.</p> <p><i>Bring your lunch and your questions!</i></p>
12:55 – 1:00 p.m.	<p>Wrap up David Block, Director of Development Services/Approving Officer, City of Terrace</p> <p>Closing thoughts on Day 1 of the workshop by Approving Officer Program Advisor David Block</p>

Day 2	Friday, May 1
8:30 – 8:40 a.m.	Welcome & Reflection on Day 1 David Block, Director of Development Services/Approving Officer, City of Terrace Welcome from Approving Officer Program Advisor David Block
8:40 – 9:10 a.m.	Nuts & Bolts - Virtual Café breakout sessions Tap into the hive mind! Connect with your colleagues in facilitated small group discussions around common issues, problems, and the solutions that are working for you.
9:10 – 10:40 a.m.	AO or PAO - What's the difference? Presenters to be confirmed Join members of the Approving Officers advisory committee for a session exploring differences between statutory Approving Officers and provincial Approving Officers and walk away with a better understanding of bringing in other levels of government.
10:40 – 10:50 a.m.	<i>Stretch Break</i>
10:50 a.m.– 12:20 p.m.	Panel discussion - Extra special stratas Panelists: Craig Broderick, Approving Officer, City of Vernon, Claire Negrin, Manager, Subdivision/Deputy Approving Officer, City of Nanaimo, Guy Patterson, Lawyer, Young Anderson, Leah Stohmann, Director of Community Planning and Climate Change, City of Langford Hear from experienced practitioners about interesting and unique strata scenarios that they have encountered in their work, followed by a deeper dive into the Strata Property Act and a panel discussion. The session will then move into an audience Q&A where attendees can submit questions live and upvote questions that were submitted.
12:20 – 12:30 p.m.	Wrap up David Block, Director of Development Services/Approving Officer, City of Terrace Closing thoughts by Approving Officer Program Advisor David Block

Thank you to the Approving Officers Advisory Committee and program contributors!

This program was designed with the input of these experienced local government practitioners:

- David Block, Director of Development Services, City of Terrace & LGMA AO Program Advisor
- Craig Broderick, Approving Officer, City of Vernon
- Bronwyn Denton, General Manager, AllTerra Land Surveying Ltd
- Claire Negrin, Manager, Subdivision/Deputy Approving Officer, City of Nanaimo
- Guy Patterson, Lawyer, Young Anderson
- Cristin Schlossberger, Land Title & Survey Authority of BC
- Leah Stohmann, Director of Community Planning and Climate Change, City of Langford
- Dean Strachan, Chief Administrative Officer/Approving Officer, District of Sicamous
- Audrey Tanguay, Senior Planner, City of Penticton
- Marianne Wade, Director of Development Services, City of Courtenay