

EXCHANGE



EXCHANGE is a quarterly magazine published by the **Local Government Management Association (LGMA)** of British Columbia. It's about sharing information, exchanging ideas on best practices, enhancing professional development and building networks. Reach us at lgma.ca.

Summer 2023

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Climate Change Readiness: Local Actions for Local Impacts

P8



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Case of Interest

Learn about the increased risks of liability faced by local governments if they don't appropriately plan and take action if climate damage is foreseeable.



EXCHANGE

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Wildfire smoke over the Fraser River in the upper Fraser Canyon, north of Lillooet B.C.

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Climate Change Readiness: Local Actions for Local Impacts

As extreme weather events increase across the province, find out how local governments are using innovation and collaboration to mitigate and adapt to climate change.



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Case Studies: Innovative Solutions for Combatting Climate Change

Read about how three local governments in B.C. are working to make their communities safer, more comfortable for residents and adaptable to future extreme weather events.



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Meet the New Board

Welcome the LGMA's 2023-2024 Board of Directors and congratulate the recipients of the 2023 LGMA Member Awards presented at this year's Annual Conference.



Across B.C., communities of different sizes are working together and building positive relationships as they adapt and change to prepare communities for the realities of climate change.

July 2023 is the hottest month ever recorded on Earth. By the first week of the month, we witnessed the hottest day on the planet, and according to a study from Leipzig University in Germany, there were 23 consecutive days of record-breaking hot days that month across the world. It's not only British Columbians who are experiencing high temperatures and the very real impacts of extreme weather, this is the story everywhere: wildfires raging for weeks, serious drought, water restrictions, flooding, pollution, and climate refugees.

We are in a climate crisis.

Over the years, I've travelled to cities where pollution and climate change impacts have been felt in acute ways for a long time, and the reality is, we don't often take action until we're impacted in our own backyard. So the choking, stifling air quality I experienced in 2016 and 2019 in New Delhi is now a yearly reality here in B.C. during wildfire season. The climate crisis is no longer something that may happen or is being felt in another part of the world. The actions of industries, governments and people everywhere are impacting our abilities to breathe, drink clean water, stay safe, keep our homes, and care for the most vulnerable in our communities.

So is it too late to change, to reverse and alter our path?

There is hope. As a climate expert shared with me, the history of the world is centuries old and the negative actions that brought about climate change have mostly taken place over the last hundred years. We can reverse this and change the outcome, there is still time. Local governments need to plan and adapt in creative and sustainable ways.

Across B.C., communities of different sizes are working together and building positive relationships as they adapt and change to prepare communities for the realities of climate change. In this issue, and my inaugural issue as the new Editor of *Exchange*, we look at what different levels of government are doing to respond to climate change, and highlight real-life B.C. examples of communities working together.

I've taken great inspiration from the stories shared in this issue of *Exchange*, where communities across B.C. take local actions to make local impacts, and the results are timely and encouraging. This includes responding to short-term extreme weather events and planning for the long-term effects of climate change by building and maintaining infrastructure, developing public policy and bylaws, and responsive community planning. Examples of innovation include a number of small communities collaborating together to create an electric vehicle charging network across Northern B.C.; an urban city and First Nation working together to understand the impacts of extreme heat on vulnerable populations; and multiple cities and First Nations collaborating on a living dike, a nature-based approach to flood protection.

I hope you take inspiration from the creative approaches to climate mitigation and adaptation shared in the pages of this issue, and that the resources and tools provide guidance on your government's journey.

If you have feedback or ideas for a subject that you would like to see highlighted in a future issue, please reach out to me at editor@lgma.ca.

Manjot Bains
Editor

I write on the traditional and unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tseil-Waututh) nations, and am committed to solidarity with First Nations and actively pushing for change through my work and art.



With local governments navigating capacity challenges amidst climate change, inflation and more, we are proud to continue to support local government capacity building with the MATI® and other important programs.

Greetings from Burns Lake and the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako, which conducts its work on the traditional territories of the Dakelh, Nedut'en and Wet'suwet'en peoples. It is my honour to write this welcome in my new role as President of the Local Government Management Association of B.C., humbly following the legacy of other strong local government leaders before me.

As I step into this role, I thank Corie Griffiths for her previous term in leading the Association and for her support in onboarding me to this role. At the LGMA's Annual Conference, I noted that I have been involved with the organization for the majority of my career as a participant in programming, a volunteer and as a representative at both the Chapter and provincial governance level. I come to this role with over 20 years' experience in local government, including the past 11 years as a CAO and prior to that as Director of Finance.

In addition to volunteering with the LGMA, I have supported local government capacity building as an LGLA Board member, a UBCM Working Group member, a former School Board Trustee, and as a volunteer with the FCM International - Sustainable and Inclusive Communities in Latin America project.

As President, I look forward to leading the Association to meet its strategic objectives. I look forward to broadening my understanding of diversity, equity and inclusion, and building my skills to better support truth, healing and reconciliation.

At our recent Annual Conference, we were fortunate to hear Waneek Horn-Miller's keynote address on her experience as the first Mohawk woman to compete in the Olympic games while also navigating PTSD from an assault during a protest defending traditional Mohawk lands.

We celebrated the accomplishments and contributions of the 2023 LGMA Award Winners and honoured 2022-2023 LGMA volunteers at our first ever Volunteer's Appreciation Breakfast. Additionally, we enjoyed attending peer-led sessions on top-of-mind topics such as reconciliation, well-being, technological safety, capital planning, affordable housing, equity in local government, and more. Thank you to all of the local government attendees, speakers, sponsors, and volunteers who helped make this conference a success.

Looking at the year ahead, the Board of Directors is focused on several significant priorities, including the new Responsible Conduct Resource Administration Project. As announced at our Annual General Meeting, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs has provided the LGMA with one-time funding of \$250,000 to provide financial support to empower senior local government staff to engage external consultation support for local governments navigating conduct issues at the elected and/or elected-staff level. Given there is a finite amount of funds, the LGMA identified the need to create a committee to provide direction on the funding and create peer-established criteria to prioritize local governments with the greatest need. As I oversee the rollout of this important project, I hope to see more efforts supporting local governments struggling amidst responsible conduct issues.

I look forward to connecting with all of you in my new role and hope to see you over the next year at one of the many LGMA programs. With local governments navigating capacity challenges amidst climate change, inflation and more, we are proud to continue to support local government capacity building with the MATI® and other important programs.

Curtis Helgesen
President



We are working hard to prepare for the fall term where several HR, technical and signature programs are on the menu. We greatly appreciate the thoughtful contributions of LGMA members to ensure we stay responsive to LGMA membership needs.

Hello! I am honoured to write this column from the traditional territories of the ɫəᕕʷəŋən (Lekwungen) Peoples, also known as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations. I write this shortly after the LGMA 2023 Annual Conference where the LGMA team and I were fortunate to connect with participants, learn from skilled speakers, and celebrate the talent and dedication of many local government leaders. At the same time, several members were unable to attend because they were working hard to keep their communities safe from wildfires. As much as we enjoyed gathering with members from across the province, our thoughts were with those navigating emergency operations. We commend you for your efforts in protecting your communities and we hope you continue to stay safe.

In June, we hosted our 2023 Annual Conference on the traditional territories of the Snuneymuxw people, with the incredible support of the great folks at both the City of Nanaimo and the Regional District of Nanaimo. I am incredibly grateful for the hard work of our staff, our volunteers, our incredible Board, and most of all our membership. We are extremely appreciative of the support of our sponsors, trade show exhibitors, and to the staff at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre for helping us make this event a success.

This year's conference included two incredible keynote speakers, a robust blend of informative sessions and networking opportunities, our Annual General Meeting and board elections, and more. At our first-ever Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast, we celebrated the incredible work of our volunteers, and took a moment to honour the legacy of two very important leaders in the public sector who passed away, Gary Paget and Moray Stewart.

We also honoured the 2023 Member Award winners for their extraordinary accomplishments and dedicated service to the local government profession, and were excited to launch the "Ask a Mentor" feature where seasoned local government leaders shared their time and wisdom with attendees. We heard great feedback about this feature and hope to continue this effort in the future as we know how important it is to have access to mentorship. Additionally, thank you to our "celebrity" volunteers who were willing to be filmed for the next LGMA video, we look forward to launching this and other videos in the future.

We are working hard to prepare for the fall term where several HR, technical and signature programs are on the menu. We are excited to bring back both the Administrative Professionals Conference and the MATT® School for Statutory Approving Officers for the first time in over three years. In addition to the upcoming programs, we will be busy preparing for the Responsible Conduct Resource Administration project, our upcoming Education Needs Survey, and looking ahead to plan for the next local election. We look forward to working with you on these and other initiatives, and greatly appreciate the thoughtful contributions of LGMA members to ensure we stay responsive to LGMA membership needs.

I hope you find this edition of *Exchange* a timely resource. Thank you to all the individuals who shared their time and expertise on this important topic. I hope you all get some well-deserved time to rest and recharge this summer, whatever that might look like for you.

Candace Witkowsky
Executive Director



By Don Lidstone
Lidstone & Company

CASE of INTEREST

Plan for Climate Change to Reduce Liability Risk

Local governments face increased risks of liability in both negligence and nuisance if they don't take adaptive measures and if climate damage is foreseeable. They can become targets of litigation for property damage and injury, partly due to the "deep pockets" of insurance, reserves and taxation powers, but also partly due to their own activities or omissions.

A local government may be liable in negligence if reasonably foreseeable actions/omissions could cause harm. Climate change models and recent events indicate whether an event is reasonably foreseeable. Negligence may arise after events like floods or wildfires for failing to take reasonable care in inspecting, maintaining and building infrastructure such as drainage, dikes, berms or interface zones; failing to respond to complaints, reports or warnings; failing to adhere to policies; and causing or contributing to losses in the response to emergencies.

In *Lissack v. Toronto*, the plaintiffs succeeded in a negligence claim against the city after a storm sewer backup flooded their basement. Described as once-in-a-century, a significant storm in August 2005 resulted in the flooding of many basements, so the city set up a work plan to alleviate backups. In 2006, before the plan was implemented, the plaintiffs' basement flooded again. The court awarded compensation for this second flood, concluding the city failed to implement its plan quickly enough.

In *Mostertman v. Abbotsford*, the plaintiffs initiated a class action suit against the City of Abbotsford and Fraser Valley, claiming the local governments knew the weather would cause a river to overflow and a dike to fail, harming residents behind the dike. The governments should have warned the residents and farmers, according to the suit.

A municipality can also be ordered to pay for damage beyond its control to prevent environmental damage to municipal or other land, as in the Kawartha Lakes oil spill in Ontario.

Local governments should focus on adaptation actions that address the biggest risks in their communities while also reducing emissions and centering equity. As an example, extreme heat can be addressed in part by helping vulnerable populations access rebates and supportive tools to install cooling fixtures such as heat pumps. Planting numerous trees for shade is a best practice, and across Europe, countries have created a myriad of cooling centres to prevent heat dome deaths and strokes.

Many communities are looking to natural solutions for flood mitigation, such as preservation of wetland ecosystems. It also makes sense to move people from floodplains and restrict new developments there, despite local political forces.

Other best practices include setting up early warning systems, based on the legal duty to warn when the government knows of a hazard; modernizing backflow prevention on pipes; increasing permeable surfaces on public and private property, such as gravel driveways and bioswales; investing in flood prevention infrastructure such as culverts, storm drains and drainage courses; designing new infrastructure according to climate model predictions; and relying on expert opinions of hydrological experts.

Local governments can control the amount of wildfire fuel present in urban interface zones, or the area where wilderness borders developed land, through proactive fuel mitigation work. Official plans, zoning, environment bylaws, and covenants can restrict land use that is subject to hazardous conditions and prescribe requirements for vegetation in interface zones. With provincial approval under the *Building Act*, a building bylaw can address wildfire risks for buildings.

Risk mitigation can be achieved in many ways, including inspection and maintenance of existing infrastructure according to environmental policies, adopting reasonable written policies to increase the likelihood of a policy defence, and ensuring timely response to complaints.

Climate action also directly intersects with social justice issues like poverty, homelessness, reconciliation and accessibility, and marginalized groups are often most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Many climate actions and initiatives are not accessible, and there is an increasing need for understanding the social impacts of climate change and acting towards transformative climate justice policies at the municipal level. Taking climate action without considering the impacts on the most vulnerable can cause more damage. For example, although communities are working to increase housing expeditiously, they should consider where housing is located to ensure residents can commute easily using public transportation rather than personal vehicles. Affordable housing should be built sustainably, keeping costs low while also constructing for low energy.

Local governments looking to protect themselves from future climate-related litigation will benefit from mitigation and adaptation efforts now that help prepare for and protect communities in the face of extreme weather events.

CLIMATE CHANGE READINESS

Local Actions for Local Impacts

Wildfire smoke creates a haze over the Fraser River in the upper Fraser Canyon, north of Lillooet B.C.

A Quarterly Publication of the LGMA
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At times, it felt like 2021 was apocalyptic in British Columbia.

A devastating early summer heat dome left over 600 people dead within five days and wildfires burned across the province, destroying the Town of Lytton the day after it experienced the highest temperature ever recorded in the country. Months later, atmospheric rivers and never-before-seen flooding in the Fraser Valley and Southern B.C. closed highways and railways, and impacted the transport of food and goods into and out of the province. It was a year like no other, and the idea that climate change exists could no longer be ignored.

Climate change is altering how local governments work. Infrastructure, community planning, flood response, asset management as well as relationships with neighbouring municipalities, First Nations and regional governments are all implicated as extreme weather events increase. Local governments across B.C. are being innovative in how they meet the challenges of climate change. Some of it is experimentation, some of it is based on successful models from other parts of the country and the world. What's consistent is the understanding that an effort must be made to mitigate the impacts of climate change for the health, safety and well-being of our communities. And now is the time to adapt.

It can be overwhelming trying to decide where to begin, so it's important to ask: where can your local government make the most impact? Each community has different capacities, budgets and staffing, so there isn't one blueprint that will work for everyone. What we do know is that the impacts of climate change are being experienced in a very real, catastrophic and dangerous way. This year is the worst wildfire season B.C. and Canada have seen, with over 1.2 million hectares of land burning across B.C. before August, and lives lost while fighting fires.

With these heavy and very real realities taking place outside our homes, what can we do to mitigate the effects of climate change in our communities?

WHAT THE FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS ARE DOING

Climate change mitigation refers to efforts to reduce or prevent greenhouse gases. The goal is to stop contributing to the overall problem through solutions at the corporate and community level. Adaptation involves planning for climate change and how communities will be impacted. It involves developing strategies and tactics to deal with and manage issues like extreme heat, wildfires, flooding and drought.

It can be overwhelming trying to decide where to begin, so it's important to ask: where can your local government make the most impact?

The federal government plan for climate adaptation is called Canada's *National Adaptation Strategy: Building Resilient Communities and a Strong Economy* (NAS) and notes that "by 2025 Canada will experience annual losses of \$25 billion as a result of climate change. This is equal to 50 percent of projected 2025 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth." Meant as a companion piece to the strategy, the Government of Canada Adaptation Action Plan (GOCAAP) provides a policy and program framework to achieve the targets laid out in NAS, and includes collaboration with provinces, territories, Indigenous Peoples and the private sector.

Relevant highlights from the plan include:

- A top-up of \$489 million over 10 years to the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund to help municipalities and townships build new infrastructure,
- A Natural Infrastructure Fund to support and accelerate the uptake of nature-based solutions,
- Expanding the Green Municipal Fund by up to \$530 million to support community-based adaptation initiatives, in collaboration with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and
- Up to \$50 million over five years to enhance existing programs in Indigenous and northern communities.

In 2007, the B.C. government created the B.C. Climate Action Charter, which most local governments across the province have signed. By becoming voluntary signatories, municipalities commit to becoming carbon neutral in their corporate operations, as well as measuring and reporting their community's greenhouse gas emissions, and creating more energy efficient communities.

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Through the *Local Government (Green Communities) Statutes Amendment Act*, the provincial government also requires local governments to set emissions-reduction targets and supporting policies and actions in their official community plans and regional growth strategies, although the exact numbers have not been specified.

The province regularly updates their emissions targets based on the latest science and modelling. By 2025, the province, through CleanBC, has set a target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 16 per cent below 2007 levels. These levels are expected to be at 40 per cent of 2007 levels by 2030, 60 per cent by 2040 and 80 per cent by 2050. The expectation is that local governments will help contribute to these goals by reducing emissions, developing energy efficient communities, and becoming carbon neutral in operations.

These may seem like challenging targets to meet, particularly when many smaller communities struggle with limited budgets and staffing, but there are creative ways that local governments can contribute to mitigating climate change.

START SMALL: WHERE CAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT MAKE THE MOST IMPACT?

As communities across B.C. wrestle with the year-round impacts of climate change, local governments need to plan and adapt in inventive and sustainable ways.

“We really need to take a positive approach to dealing with climate change. It can’t all be focused on bad, bad, bad,” says Rob van Adrichem, Director of External Relations at Community Energy Association (CEA), a B.C.-based non-profit that supports local governments and First Nations in taking action on climate and energy.

Where can a smaller community make the most impact? “I think one of the biggest places they can make an impact is demonstrating leadership,” shares Tami Rothery, Director of Built Environment Initiatives at CEA.

Rothery notes that climate leadership doesn’t necessarily have to include investing millions of dollars building LEED buildings and electric vehicle (EV) chargers, but that local governments with smaller budgets can be more subtle with their influence.

“Leadership can mean different things, like updating their own fleet and buildings and using them as best practice examples of what can be done,” adds Rothery. “Or they can promote the work of other organizations or declare a climate emergency to signal to their communities that this is a priority.”

For CEA and Rothery, taking a holistic approach to climate mitigation and adaptation is connected with respecting the complicated interplay between the environment, social and economic benefits, and challenges within a community.

“We are interested in seeing local governments succeed, so we’re not saying reduce your greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change no matter what, at the sacrifice of your local economy and the health of your citizens,” says Rothery.

“We are interested in seeing local governments succeed, so we’re not saying reduce your greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change no matter what, at the expense of your local economy and the health of your citizens.”

CEA offers a Quickstart Action Plan to help local governments looking to start their climate mitigation and adaptation plan, as well as peer-to-peer networks to learn from others and find out what similar size communities have done.

One example of how different sectors are networking and collaborating is the Northern Climate Action Network hosted by CEA, which includes representatives from local governments, industry and academia. (Read more about this project on page 21.)

For local governments with limited resources, building or planning infrastructure that isn’t future-proof is setting yourself up for failure. Rothery notes, “if you only have time to engineer this bridge once, you should engineer it with the future climate in mind because if it falls down, it’s going to take a lot more time and effort to rebuild. Be efficient with the resources you have plus think about and prioritize the safety of community members.”

In recent years, there have been bridges in North America and Europe that collapsed due to the impacts of extreme weather events and abnormal temperatures, emphasizing the need to prioritize future climate projections in planning.

CLIMATE MITIGATION: REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Across B.C., municipalities and First Nations are looking at how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in ways that support their communities with added economic benefits.

The largest municipal-owned solar farm in the province is located at the District of Hudson’s Hope, and it’s inspired residents to invest in their own solar power systems to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and get to net zero electricity use.



Tami Rothery

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Hudson's Hope demonstrates how local governments can provide climate leadership to their communities in sustainability and in mitigation efforts.

Grid-tied solar arrays, or a grouping of solar panels, run nine municipal facilities in Hudson's Hope, with roof-mounted grid-tied solar arrays located on seven government buildings and two ground-mounted solar arrays at the sewage treatment lagoon and district swimming pool. These systems will save the municipality millions of dollars over the coming decades and help mitigate climate change.

Further south, the T̓silhqot̓'in Nation adapted a former sawmill site into one of the largest solar farms in B.C. More than 1,500 megawatt hours of clean energy are sold to B.C. Hydro each year through a long-term energy purchase agreement, and the farm can be expanded by building on top of the existing structures. Select members from all six T̓silhqot̓'in communities received training and learning on the job to complete the project, and can take those skills into their communities.

Beyond solar power generation, the City of Prince George is one of a few municipal district energy systems in Canada that uses a renewable resource as its primary source of energy.

The Prince George Downtown Renewable Energy System (DRES) is a district energy system that distributes heat to nearly a dozen downtown buildings using wood waste from sawmills to heat water. This fuel source is local, renewable and carbon-neutral, and generates new non-tax revenue.

The benefits of a district energy system are numerous. For Prince George, DRES has helped reduce carbon tax payments and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 1,868 tonnes per year, in addition to supporting sustainability and local forestry.

"A criticism of renewable energy is that it takes so much energy and emissions to make that solar panel and this much more to recycle it," says Rothery.

The District of Squamish and Squamish First Nation recently collaborated on an Embodied Emissions Guide, which helps local governments and Indigenous communities understand and calculate the life cycle emissions associated with the different decisions they may take.

Continued on page 13

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“There’s good reason to invest in sustainable forestry. Sometimes it’s a matter of shifting our mindset slightly about the things we’re already doing day-to-day and asking slightly different questions when we’re making these choices.”

“The Embodied Emissions Guide helps to tell the whole story of the emissions of different materials and helps local governments make better decisions about the materials they choose based on the entire life cycle – their production, use and disposal,” adds Rothery.

The B.C. Building Code requires 20 per cent better energy efficiency for most new buildings throughout the province, and the Zero Carbon Step Code provides tools for local governments to lower emissions from buildings across the province until all new buildings are zero carbon by 2030. There are several examples of large building projects using mass timber, including the RCMP Detachment in Prince George and the University of British Columbia’s Brock Commons Tallwood House. Both structures use wood for sustainability and durability, and the RCMP detachment is one of the first buildings to use Prince George’s carbon-neutral district energy system.

“When you look at the entire life cycle emissions of something like mass timber or wood, you see that it’s a climate-positive building material,” says Rothery. “There’s a good reason for us to invest in sustainable forestry. Sometimes it’s a matter of shifting our mindset slightly about the things we’re already doing day-to-day and asking slightly different questions when we’re making these choices.”

Elsewhere, municipalities are looking at their fleet and replacing older vehicles with electric and hybrid models. City of Richmond added two electric cargo vans to their fleet last year, which already included 80 electric, hybrid or alternative fuel vehicles. They also installed a number of EV charging stations, including a solar-powered EV charger in Garry Point Park.

At the City of Vancouver, the adoption of hybrid, electric and alternative fuel vehicles contributed to the city exceeding their target of a 30 per cent reduction below 2007 levels in 2020, with a 43 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. B.C. municipalities and businesses can access rebates and supports for building an EV fleet and charging infrastructure through CleanBC’s Go Electric programs.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION: LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

“Moving forward, we need to look at the future climate, not the past climate when we’re making decisions about how to plan and build our communities,” says Rothery. There are a number of projects completed and underway in B.C. that focus on climate adaptation.

For the First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS), fire fuel management and prescribed burnings before wildfire season begins are an integral part of protecting First Nations families and communities that border forests. The work includes bringing in a registered forester, developing a plan, clearing the forest floor of debris, trimming the bottoms of trees that grow close to the ground, and spacing out the trees.

“Thinning the forest makes it more healthy and more resilient to fire,” explains Wayne Schnitzler, Executive Director at FNESS and former fire chief for the Municipality of West Kelowna from 1996 to 2015.

Continued on page 15

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“There’s a real art to planning fuel management projects, and it’s expensive because you’re taking logs and trees out.”

Local governments and First Nations can benefit from adding fuel management to their adaptation strategy and working with a registered forester. Schnitzler notes: “It’s a great mitigation piece that can make a forest fire less violent. We had examples in 2021 where a couple of First Nations communities did a lot of mitigation work and the fires went right through there and the communities were safe, demonstrating that the practice of fuel management really does work.”

As the wildfire season becomes longer and more dangerous, FNESS continues to actively train firefighters in First Nations communities and explore cultural and traditional burning practices. “We can see a real interest in projects where First Nations communities are getting back to the traditional ways of protecting the lands,” says Schnitzler.

Schnitzler also suggests that municipalities and First Nations in the same area apply for joint funding to do this type of mitigation work to build resilience in the forest.

“We’re seeing some communities and municipalities looking at how we use that practice of prescribed burnings to lower the risk,” says Schnitzler. “All of these are preparedness pieces, and I would love to see a lot more funding and value given to these kinds of programs. We need to build plans appropriately to ensure community members are safe and understand the effects of not being prepared.”

Fostering community support and relationships is key to developing a strong program. “The traditional knowledge that the elders have within their own community and the history of what they’ve dealt with in the past are really key items in moving a program forward, so if you don’t listen to the community’s needs and what they’ve experienced in the past, then you’re not going to be developing something representative at the community level,” notes Schnitzler.

The First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan: 20 Urgent Calls for Climate Action highlights many key priorities that all local governments should review.

As many local governments explore how to uphold their Truth and Reconciliation commitments, climate adaptation strategy provides an opportunity to, “strengthen the incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge in climate change initiatives. Ensure engagement with Elders and/or Knowledge Holders in all state-led climate discussions and response initiatives, support and facilitate intergenerational knowledge sharing with First Nations youth, and support the creation of Nation-specific climate glossaries inclusive of traditional language(s) and teachings.”



Wayne Schnitzler

“We can see a real interest in projects where First Nations are getting back to the traditional ways of protecting the lands.”

It’s also important to build authentic relationships with First Nations before tackling climate projects. Sean McGill, City Manager for Delta shares, “I think one of the key things is having a good relationship, and being open, honest and communicating. Develop the relationship, and develop the relationship early. If you’re trying to develop it during an emergency, it’s certainly more challenging. We have regular staff meetings and regular council to council meetings.” (McGill shares more insights into fostering authentic relationships with First Nations in the case study starting on page 17.)

An example of a collaborative project between local governments and First Nations is the living dike project at Mud Bay. With funding from the Government of Canada’s Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund, the pilot project is a partnership between City of Surrey, City of Delta and Semiahmoo First Nation and tests a nature-based approach to flood mitigation with a living dike. Much of the coast and islands are vulnerable to rising sea and groundwater levels, salt marshes, shoreline erosion, and the risk of existing dikes breaching during extreme flooding. A living dike uses nature to support flood protection by creating a raised slope to help natural marshes grow and adapt as sea levels rise.

After extensive community consultation, Surrey established a Coastal Flood Adaptation Strategy (CFAS) to support building resilience to coastal flooding.

The Mud Bay Nature-based Foreshore Enhancements Project is a recommendation from CFAS that will help protect farms, highways, a railway, power and sewer lines, and wildlife habitats from rising sea levels by creating 790 metres of a living dike.

“The idea is that it mitigates the impacts of storms and waves on the actual dikes,” says McGill. “It’s a way of breaking down the waves and reducing the impacts before they hit the dikes, and we’ll know in the next couple of years how it’s impacting and the benefits it’s serving.”

Another promising B.C. climate adaptation project is the Restore Joseph Creek initiative in the City of Cranbrook. Over the past several decades, Cranbrook, like many communities across B.C., was developed without consideration for the local creek ecosystem.

Continued on page 16

Evan Berry, Environment and Energy Specialist at the City of Cranbrook, notes: “Developments would dig a trench around wherever the development was and then bypass the river through that trench and fill the old riverbed and build on top of it. Years later, the City realized the importance of Joseph Creek because it’s where a lot of the stormwater goes.” Unfortunately, the developments along with invasive and non-native plants and trees had a negative impact on the ecosystem. “If we’re expecting more flooding, and we are, we really need to be protecting this creek.”

Cranbrook is now working with Columbia Outdoor School on rehabilitation of the creek. Together, they created a plan on how to manage the creek that includes a public engagement strategy and performing the actual restoration work. “It’s a really long project, like 50 years or more, but there’s definitely been progress made already,” says Berry. “I think that restoring the Creek is a better solution than just building more engineered things around it.” (Read more about Cranbrook’s work on page 19.)

PLANNING AHEAD IS KEY

It costs considerably more to rebuild than to invest in good infrastructure and plans today. In some cases, communities aren’t able to rebuild due to the overwhelming cost after an extreme weather event. Planning now will save lives and money when extreme weather events and disaster strikes.

“The better we plan and prepare with technology to make long-term predictions about what things could look like in the future, the better equipped we’ll be to respond to crises,” says Schnitzler. “Use that information for your advance planning; everyone should be looking at not just emergency plans but planning for the climate changes impacts happening in your community.”

Local governments need to consider how to reduce or manage the risks associated with extreme weather events and climate change. See *Tips & Tactics* on page 23 for resources on planning, grants and tools to help your community adapt for climate change.



COLUMBIA OUTDOOR SCHOOL PHOTO

The City of Cranbrook has been working with Columbia Outdoor School to rehabilitate Joseph Creek.

A key consideration for making climate-related change at the local government level is getting the Council/Board to advocate for and endorse climate action work. In addition, communications around mitigation and adaptation should reflect the makeup of your communities, including translations to multiple languages.

It can feel like a hopeless endeavour, and that climate change is an inevitability. Psychologists are talking about climate grief, the anxiety and sadness associated with the devastation and future impacts of climate change. But to make change, we must try and be optimistic.

“We can affect the future the same way we affected the past, and that gives me a lot of hope,” says Rothery. “We as people are very much in control of policy and these are not systems that have been in place for millennia, these have been in place for maybe 100 or 150 years of history. It’s been a couple of generations and we made a hard left pretty fast and we can make a hard right just as fast if we want to. We have the power to make change and that change can happen quickly.”

Read more about some of the innovative strategies being employed across B.C. starting on page 17, and see Tips & Tactics on page 23 for climate action resources.



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Innovative Solutions for Combatting Climate Change

By Manjot Bains

As we continue to feel the very real impacts of climate change this summer, local governments across B.C. are collaborating on innovative solutions to mitigate extreme weather effects and adapt for the future. Some actions may seem small, but collectively they have the ability to slow down and even reverse the negative impacts of climate change.

While many communities are planning and adapting for the future, three local governments provide us with a look into their strategies, plans, actions and goals for making their communities safer, more comfortable for residents, and adaptable to future extreme weather events.

City of Delta is currently working on an Extreme Heat Map in collaboration with the Tsawwassen First Nation, which will identify areas where higher temperatures will impact vulnerable populations. Corporate climate action is guiding the work in the City of Cranbrook, where the city provides leadership on climate change mitigation and adaptation to their residents and municipalities across the province. Farther up north, the Northern Climate Action Network and Charge North provide blueprints for how regional districts, First Nations, cities and towns, businesses and academia can work together to find real, tangible solutions to the challenges of climate change.

PROTECTING COMMUNITIES AND PREPARING FOR EXTREME HEAT

Before 2021, the term “heat dome” hadn’t been heard by most British Columbians, but it’s now an event that many of us will never forget. From June 25 to July 1, over 600 people across the province passed away from extreme heat-related illness, and according to Health Canada, it was the deadliest weather event in Canadian history.

It’s a painful, traumatic lesson in how extreme weather events can upend and devastate communities in a very short period of time. Since that summer, many levels of government and organizations have considered and discussed how to prepare and protect communities from future climate-related events.

“Local communities and all levels of government realised that we had to do more,” says Sean McGill, City Manager for Delta. “We need to be prepared. We’ve always had to deal with things like flooding, we have river-based flooding and the ocean, but the heat dome is newer to us, so we need to understand it’s an issue and be prepared for it.”

“We’ve always had to deal with things like flooding, but the heat dome is newer to us, so we need to be prepared for it.”



Sean McGill

For the City of Delta, this includes considering how different vulnerable populations were impacted by the heat dome and could be impacted by extreme heat in the future.

“Delta is unique because of our unique geographic areas, and we want to understand the impacts on different groups as a city to help them,” says McGill. “Ladner, Tsawwassen and North Delta are quite distinct communities, and they experience temperatures differently. Closer to the water, there are lower temperatures, and in North Delta a bit higher.” As temperatures rise, different parts of the city will experience heat in different ways. Added to these complexities are that Delta includes riverways, borders the ocean, has vast farmland, and a critical ecological habitat and park at Burns Bog. They also have a diversity of vulnerable populations including a high level of seniors, those without permanent housing, new immigrants, and outdoor workers.

Close by, the Tsawwassen First Nation (TFN) also faces challenges in understanding how their vulnerable populations will be impacted by future extreme heat events and how the risks could continue to change in future years. Together, the City of Delta and TFN collaborated on a provincial grant to assess the extreme heat risks and impacts in their communities and develop an Extreme Heat Risk Map.

An external consultant was brought in to lead the project, including public engagement and the creation of the map, which is expected to be ready in late summer this year. The final map will help both governments better strategize and develop plans to provide support and keep their communities safe during future extreme heat events. McGill adds, “because the project is both TFN and Delta, it helps both of us to be better informed on how we can help our residents, especially the most vulnerable.”

Continued on page 18

TFN and Delta are asking critical questions and seeking creative solutions to inform their heat response plans. McGill says, “things we’ve always taken for granted: people living alone, people without access to vehicles, without access to air conditioning. What do we put in place to help those populations?” They may not have all the answers yet, but asking the important questions is a critical part of planning for climate change and adaptation for the future.

The final heat map will exist as a digital map that shows areas with higher heat, the intensity and different temperature levels. Using the map, bylaw officers will have the ability to focus on areas that have higher temperatures or maintain higher temperatures.

“We do know where some of our more vulnerable populations live or tend to be around, so we can target the areas with higher heat based on the map and work with residents,” shares McGill. “We have seniors centres, for example, and with our higher senior populations, we spend more time in that area making sure we have bus services.” The map will help focus and direct responses to higher risk areas, and help the city develop plans and solutions to help residents.

“If we are working with people without permanent housing or homeless populations, we will know the areas that the heat will impact more, so staff can actually focus on these areas where our help is needed.”

McGill shares that working with TFN was a natural extension of their already strong working relationship. “When you’re talking about an event like climate change, it doesn’t stop at geographic borders, it doesn’t stop at Tsawwassen First Nation, it doesn’t stop at Delta. The impacts at TFN are very similar to the impacts to Delta.” Both communities work collaboratively at a government-to-government and a staff-to-staff level, and have invested time and energy into building authentic, lasting relationships.

“We’re neighbours. Anything we do that may benefit or have an impact to TFN, we’ll reach out,” says McGill. “It helps our relationship, and helps people in general.” Delta and TFN have many shared services, and historically, the First Nation has been invited to the city’s emergency preparedness meetings.

Continued on page 19



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Complimentary to the extreme heat map is Delta's Heat Response Plan, which came out of the heat dome. The living document is updated when required, and includes different trigger levels depending on the temperature. Currently, the city has misting centres, outdoor pools, and air conditioned facilities where residents can come indoors, cool off and drink cold water. The city has a map outlining where open facilities and pools are located, and at a certain heat trigger level, facilities will be opened in the evening and staffed. The city also owns seniors buses, which they can engage to bring seniors and other vulnerable people to the centres, if needed.

The Extreme Heat Map Project is now in its final stages, and once ready, the City of Delta and TFN will look at using it to inform updates to their Extreme Heat Response and Emergency Plans.

Learn more about Delta's climate action work at bit.ly/deltaclimateaction.

CORPORATE CLIMATE LEADERSHIP

"Climate change doesn't affect every region in the world the same, so to be prepared for the future, we have to know what to expect in Cranbrook," says Evan Berry, Environment and Energy Specialist at the City of Cranbrook. To learn how to best prepare, the city participated in a study with Selkirk College and Columbia Basin Trust on the expected local effects of climate change. The findings provided Cranbrook with guidance on what the city can expect in the future, and the different contours climate change will take.

The predictions include more hot days and less total rain in the summer, with an expected average annual temperature increase of 2.2 C. "Both of those are going to contribute to more wildfires, and in Cranbrook, that's a pretty significant threat," notes Berry. "Precipitation is going to increase in the winter, and that means more snow."

The heavier amount of snow is substantial enough that overall precipitation will actually increase in Cranbrook, despite the decrease in summer rain, contributing to a greater likelihood of spring flooding. With warmer, drier summers and increased snow and precipitation in the winter, Cranbrook, which already experiences wildfires and flooding seasonally and is battling the St. Mary's River Wildfire this summer, will need to prepare and adapt even more for the future.

Cranbrook has existing corporate energy and community water conservation programs, but the study updates and expands on what the city needs to plan and build capacity for, including a natural asset inventory with risk assessment and watershed modelling.

The joint study also determined that there will be a longer growing season, however, the increase in heat and heavier rainfall will also bring new problems typically associated with a warming climate, such as the growth of more invasive species, including plants and animals.

"Climate change doesn't affect every region in the world the same, so to be prepared for the future, we have to know what to expect in Cranbrook."

To help put findings from the study into action, the City of Cranbrook worked with Community Energy Association (CEA) on a comprehensive Community Climate Action Plan. The new plan is an update on the city's 2013 Community Energy & Emissions Plan, and was developed through a community engagement process that included community stakeholders. The Community Climate Action Plan was adopted in 2021 and set a target for the reduction of emissions to align with provincial targets: 40 per cent by 2030 and 80 per cent by 2050, with the reduction relative to 2007 levels.



Evan Berry

Cranbrook has five areas of action for the community climate plan: low carbon homes and buildings, zero emissions and low carbon transportation, active and accessible transportation, waste diversion, and municipal leadership.

"One of the things we're doing is the active transportation master plan," says Berry. "Active transportation is essentially human powered transportation like walking, cycling or skateboarding." Incorporating human powered transportation into master active transportation plans helps contribute to reducing emissions from vehicles while having the added benefit of encouraging a healthy lifestyle for residents.

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“Municipal leadership is part of our corporate climate action plan. If we show that the city is using heat pumps, the community will see that we’re using heat pumps and they work in Cranbrook.”



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Last year, Cranbrook also adopted the Corporate Climate Action Plan, which provides strategies for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in corporate operations, including the city fleet and city-owned buildings. “Community emissions encompass everything in Cranbrook, so that would be everyone’s houses and vehicles and other sources of emissions,” adds Berry. “Corporate emissions come from things that the city owns.”

Another way that Cranbrook is reducing corporate emissions is through the installation of new heat pumps at city-owned buildings, such as the Cranbrook Senior’s Centre and the City Hall Council Chambers renovation. “Our facilities are responsible for 61 per cent of our corporate emissions, and almost 95 per cent of that is from natural gas,” shares Berry. “The only way to substantially reduce the emissions in our buildings is to switch from gas to electricity.” The emissions associated with hydroelectric power are considerably low compared to natural gas, and although electric heat is more expensive than natural gas, heat pumps have lower operating costs and are more efficient.

Berry adds, “municipal leadership is part of our corporate climate action plan. If we show that the city is using heat pumps, the community will see that we’re using heat pumps and they work in Cranbrook.” Public communication is a key piece to promoting new technologies like heat pumps, which previously did not work well in colder climates. Fortunately, the technology has improved dramatically, making it a reliable, energy efficient option for municipalities and homes.

For Cranbrook, the study on the local effects of climate change guided the city in centering the need to reduce the city’s emissions, but also offered a more sobering realization on the need for adaptation. “Even if we reduce our emissions, climate change is probably going to continue and we need to be prepared for what’s going to happen. There are some things that are going to be taxing on city infrastructure.” With lives at stake, the cost of not planning has the potential to be much riskier and more costly than preparing for the future of extreme weather events.

Berry also has advice for communities that are still in the early stages of developing plans for climate change mitigation and adaptation. “We weren’t really an early adopter of some of this climate change work and we’re definitely not at the front of the pack. But I think one thing that we’ve done well is from where we are at, we’ve really gone through a lot of things quickly.”

Continued on page 21

Learning from Cranbrook's recent climate mitigation and adaptation work, actions that local governments can take include partnering with a local college or university on a research study about how specific climate change issues will impact your community and region; planning and budgeting for yearly forest fuel mitigation to help protect your community against forest fires; and looking into ecological rehabilitation and natural ways to rebuild waterways and shorelines to offer natural protection against flooding.

Communities looking for support on developing their own climate action plan can consider contacting a consultant and other municipalities for guidance.

LEAD WITH LOCAL: A REGIONAL COLLABORATION FOR THE NORTH

For many local government staff working in smaller communities, having access to resources, funding and time to work on climate mitigation and adaptation can feel like an insurmountable challenge. But with provincial and federal government requirements for reducing and offsetting greenhouse gas emissions, all local governments need to think of practical ways to consider the adverse effects and opportunities of climate on their communities.

It wasn't long after Rob van Adrichem began working as Director of External Relations at Community Energy Association (CEA) that he noticed how widespread the gap was between how communities in the north were responding to climate change compared to southern communities. "A big part of the reason is there is very little capacity for this kind of work in local governments that are generally small and remote, and dealing with winter climates, than in the south," van Adrichem shared.



Rob van Adrichem

Based in Prince George, he began talking to former and current mayors and councillors, First Nations, educators, and businesses to discuss what the regional problems were and what supports were needed. It became clear that people weren't connecting and sharing their issues, concerns and ideas. A solution? The Northern Climate Action Network. Created in April 2022 by CEA, the network brings together people from local governments, First Nations, businesses and academia to connect and collaborate on climate action.

"We formed the network so people could come together and share individual Northern success stories," says van Adrichem. "I was finding that people who worked in one municipality had no idea what was going on in another town. And even in the same community but different sectors, people often weren't aware of what others were doing, so we took these individual stories of success and learning in Northern communities and shared them across the whole North."



NORTHERN CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK PHOTO

Lhiedli T'enneh elder Darlene McIntosh provides welcoming remarks at the Northern Climate Action Network gathering with local governments, First Nations, businesses and academia.

Offering a supportive, cross-industry space to learn, partner and grow has the potential to help smaller governments find solutions to climate change that work for their capacity restraints. Instead of creating a plan or action from the ground up, adapting a strategy from a similar community can help save time and resources.

Over the past year, the group has met virtually and during the spring, in-person for the first time. The diverse group has discussed energy efficient buildings, EV charging infrastructure, heat pumps, solar, and working with First Nations communities. "We bring people together," says van Adrichem. "The capacity is there, but it is often in small pockets, so we're trying to connect these pockets of capacity across this huge region."

While the network is new, it provides peer-to-peer support where previously disconnected communities can reach out, ask questions, learn and provide feedback. Van Adrichem has heard from a number of local government staff who now feel comfortable calling up people in other local governments who they met through the network to discuss ideas. "That's music to my ears," he says. "It's easy to feel alone and unsupported up here in the north. It's not because northerners are anti-climate or anything, we are already feeling the effects of climate change: the mountain pine beetle infestation and recent wildfires are just two examples."

Many governments in the north and other parts of the province don't have the resources to think about and tackle climate mitigation on their own, which is where a peer-to-peer network or a cross-industry network like this one brings support.

Continued on page 22

“If we start thinking that climate is an opportunity and not a pain, I think it will be amazing what we can do here, how we can improve our economic situation, enhance our quality of life, how we can be a place where other people look to around the world.”

“These governments are lucky to have one person involved in this topic, let alone dedicated teams, so anything that brings this community together across a region where they share climate issues and the foundations of the economy are similar, that’s the seed that can germinate and become a tree,” says van Adrichem.

The group focuses on people looking to implement local solutions around climate change, and that’s most often local government. In addition to the public sector, education and healthcare also play key roles when taking a holistic look at the impacts of climate change on entire communities. CEA also heard recommendations from civic leaders that businesses should be included in the network. “This is about the public and the private sectors working together,” says van Adrichem.

He also emphasizes the need to approach climate change with optimism. “If we start thinking that climate is an opportunity and not a pain, I think it will be amazing what we can do here, how we can improve our economic situation, enhance our quality of life, and how we can be a place where other people look to around the world. Let’s do it in a way that involves First Nations, that is sustainable, and includes the products and know-how of our resource industries. This is a generational responsibility and opportunity.”

Another initiative facilitated by CEA in the north is Charge North, an electric vehicle charging network linking communities across the expansive region. It’s a project that can be used as a template for how regional districts, smaller local governments and First Nations can all work together on climate mitigation efforts that also support the economy.

Started in 2018, Charge North is an electric vehicle (EV) charging network facilitated by CEA. The project originally began as a feasibility study to see if it was possible to have electric vehicles in Northern B.C.. Six regional districts including Fraser-Fort George, Cariboo, North Coast, Thompson-Nicola, Kitimat-Stikine, and Bulkley-Nechako provided funding for the study, and a subsequent funding opportunity led to the creation of the Charge North group.

When the project began, many felt that electric vehicles wouldn’t work in the north. The provincial government and BC Hydro had yet to install EV stations in the region, and car dealerships didn’t feel the need to bring these cars to the area because the charging infrastructure wasn’t there to support them. Yet supporting opportunities for EV adoption is critical in northern and rural areas, where transportation often accounts for nearly two-thirds of local greenhouse gas emissions.

An additional driver for installing these stations is the potential economic benefit for partner communities. Charge North installed Level 2 stations which provide a charge of 30-40 kilometres per hour, with a typical charge taking two to four hours. During this time, locals and visitors to the area can stop in a community, shop, eat, visit a museum, and sightsee.

Overall, 53 charging ports were installed on properties owned by 26 local government and First Nations partners across the north, and many have dual ports to allow for ease of maintenance. The stations also come with a five year warranty, and further maintenance and repairs are the responsibility of the local government.

Including First Nations in this collaborative network was an important part of the plan.

“We are very excited to see this initiative extend into First Nations communities so that benefits of this program can be fully realized by all who live in the north,” says Blaine Harasimiuk, Manager of Inspection Services and Sustainability Practices from Regional District of Fraser-Fort George. “When you’re looking at a project this large, you want to be all-inclusive of everybody that’s up here.”

To date, five charging ports have been installed in the Nass Valley in conjunction with the Nisga’a Lisims Government and the Nisga’a Village Governments. An additional port was installed on the territory of the Stellat’en First Nation.

In addition to the Charge North charging stations, the provincial government has installed fast charging stations at select rest stops, and private companies have also installed ports along highways.

Harasimiuk adds that the key to an effective cross government collaboration and networking is being available to answer a call and give advice. “Reach out to other local governments, try to work collaboratively with as many people as you can, and most importantly, make time for your peers.”



Blaine Harasimiuk

tips & tactics

Climate Action Resources for Local Government

Government and First Nations Strategies

- Clean BC Roadmap to 2030: bit.ly/BC2030roadmap
- BC Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy: bit.ly/bcadaptationstrategy
- BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan: bit.ly/FNactionplan
- 20 Urgent Calls from BC First Nations Climate Strategy and Action Plan: bit.ly/urgentclimatecalls
- Canada's National Adaptation Strategy: Building Resilient Communities and a Strong Economy (NAS): bit.ly/CanadaNAS
- Government of Canada Adaptation Action Plan: bit.ly/CanadaActionPlan

Research and Grants

- Columbia Basin Climate Source shares future modelling data: basinclimatesource.ca/about-data
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change: ipcc.ch
- Climate adaptation case studies from Ontario: bit.ly/ICLEIstudy
- B.C. research and case studies from the Action on Climate Team at Simon Fraser University: sfu.ca/act/projects.html
- Grant: Community Emergency Preparedness Fund: ubcm.ca/cepf
- Grant: BC Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP): bit.ly/LGcapfund

Planning Tools

- Climate action planning tool developed by Simon Fraser University for local governments, with case studies and low carbon resilience resources to help mainstream climate action in all municipal decisions and practices: bit.ly/SFULCRTool

- BC Climate Action Workbook - helping local governments understand how to be carbon neutral in their operations: bit.ly/carbonneutraltoolkit
- Guide on measuring greenhouse gas emissions: bit.ly/BCmeasureghg
- BC Climate Leaders Playbook with planning, engagement and measurement strategies for local government leaders: bcclimateleaders.ca/playbook/
- CEA Interactive Emissions Planning tool: communityenergy.ca/climate-action-planner/

Further Learning

- Climate Atlas of Canada combines climate science, mapping, and storytelling together with Indigenous Knowledges and community-based research and video to inspire awareness and action: climateatlas.ca
- Local Governments for Sustainability online resources, webinars and workshops: icleicanada.org/resources/
- Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program from ICLEI and FCM with five-step Milestone Framework to guide reducing emissions in your municipality: pcp-ppc.ca/about
- Climate mitigation and adaptation resources from Engineers and Geoscientists of B.C.: bit.ly/egbcportal
- FCM Guide for Integrating Climate Change Considerations into Municipal Asset Management: bit.ly/fcmassetmanagement
- Climate Change and Asset Management Guide developed by Asset Management BC, UBCM and BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing: bit.ly/climateassetmanagement
- Fraser Basin Council webinar with information and tools tailored to B.C. local governments: bit.ly/retoolingclimate
- B.C. Municipal Safety Association's Firefighter's Mental Wellness Toolkit: bcmsa.ca/firefighters-mental-health-wellness-toolkit/

Meet the 2023-2024 LGMA Board

Join us in welcoming the new LGMA Board of Directors for the 2023-2024 term led by President Curtis Helgesen. Thank you to Corie Griffiths for serving as the 2022-2023 President, and to all Board Directors who serve LGMA members and local government in this capacity.



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Bryan Teasdale



Vancouver Island LGMA
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Rocky Mountain LGMA
Jon Wilsgard

Lower Mainland LGMA: Vacant

2023 LGMA Member Award Recipients

Congratulations to the recipients of our 2023 LGMA awards, presented at the Annual Conference in July.

Professional Award for Volunteer Service

- **Jim Martin**, CAO, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George
- **Mark Andison**, CAO, Kootenay Boundary Regional District
- **Stuart Horn**, CAO, Central Kootenay Regional District
- **David Stuart**, CAO, District of North Vancouver

Professional Service Award for Leadership

- **Angila Bains**, Director, Legislative & Protective Services/ Corporate Officer, District of Saanich
- **Tammy Robertson**, Indigenous and External Relations Manager, City of Kamloops

Distinguished Member Award

- **Brian Reardon**, CAO, Regional District of Central Okanagan

Distinguished Partner Award

- **Don Schaffer**, Local Government Locum
- **Lisa Zwarn**, Professional Registered Parliamentarian, Instructor

Life Membership Award

- **Corie Griffiths**, LGMA Past President
- **Dr. Raeleen Manjak**, recently retired, City of Vernon

President's Award

- **Ryan Smith**, Divisional Director of Planning and Development Services, City of Kelowna



Incoming President Curtis Helgesen presents the Life Membership Award to Past President Corie Griffiths.

IN MEMORIAM

We honour and remember two incredible local government colleagues, Gary Paget and Moray Stewart, who recently passed on. Please visit LGMA's memorial page for additional details, and to leave a comment in memory: bit.ly/pagetstewart.

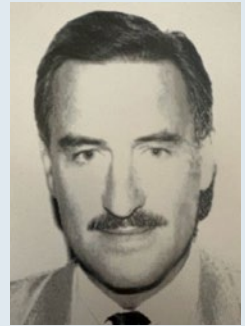
GARY PAGET

Gary Paget joined the B.C. Ministry of Municipal Affairs in 1977, and worked for four decades helping to design policy mechanisms to address pressure points identified by local governments. His expertise, passion and commitment made a significant impact on his profession and the communities he served. He received a joint Legacy Premier's Award with Brian Walisser in 2010 and was inducted into the British Columbia Public Service Hall of Excellence in 2014. He was also presented with a UBCM Life Membership award in 2018. Gary was an integral part of the community and will be profoundly missed by all who knew him.



MORAY STEWART

Moray Stewart worked for the Peace River Regional District for 32 years, including 28 of those years as the Chief Administrative Officer. In 1999, Moray received the LGMA's Professional Award for Innovative Management. In 2009, he contributed to *40 Years: A Regional District Perspective*, a resource that has been used by many to highlight ongoing issues, conditions, and the local, intergenerational stories of regional districts. Moray made many contributions to the local government profession and his loss will be deeply felt by those who had the privilege of knowing and working with him.



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Board of Examiners

Certification Programs

Four local government employees have been recognized for their education and work experience while working in local government, and are being awarded a Certificate by the Board of Examiners.

Certificate in Local Government Service Delivery

- **Sheldon McKinlay**, Senior Engineering Technologist, City of Chilliwack
- **Dustin Pridham**, Manager, Recreation Operations, City of Vernon
- **Sarah Holloway**, Deputy Corporate Officer, Township of Esquimalt

Certificate in Local Government Administration

- **Christopher Garrish**, Manager of Planning, Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

Certificate in Local Government Statutory Administration

- **Paige MacWilliam**, Director of Corporate Services, City of Duncan

Scholarship Program Update

Effective June 21, 2023, the Board of Examiners has increased the Scholarship Programs' tuition award from \$500 to \$650 for individuals taking for-credit courses, and from \$700 to \$1,000 for individuals taking eligible Municipal Administration Training Institute® (MATI®) courses. The Board continues to provide travel assistance to local government employees taking courses that lead to certification and/or to upgrade their professional skills.

For more information, including eligibility, please visit bit.ly/BOEscholarships or email the Administrator at BCBoardofExaminers@gov.bc.ca.

MEMBER MOVEMENT

Brian M. Woodward, Chief Administrative Officer, District of Tumbler Ridge (formerly Senior Administrative Officer, ʔakisq̓nuk First Nation)

Laurie Mercer, Chief Administrative Officer, Haisla Nation Council (formerly Chief Administrative Officer, Kitselas First Nation)

Murray Daly, Chief Administrative Officer, Cariboo Regional District (formerly Chief Administrative Officer, Village of Clinton)

Raul Allueva, City Manager, City of Coquitlam (formerly Deputy City Manager, City of Coquitlam)

Jasmine Bulbrook, Legislative Clerk, Village of Daajing Giids (formerly Natural Resources Authorizations Officer for Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development)

Trevor Seibel, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, City of West Kelowna (formerly Chief Administrative Officer, District of Coldstream)

RETIREMENTS

Sandra Brown, Legislative Clerk, Village of Daajing Giids

Jake Rudolph, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Nanaimo

2023 LGMA PROGRAMS & EVENTS

August 31 - December 7
Foundations in Local Government Learning Series
Online

September 15
Webinar: Indigenous Awareness Training

September 21
CAO Breakfast
Marriott Pinnacle Hotel, Vancouver

September 20
Corporate Officer Connect Lunch Series
Online

September 22
Webinar: Indigenous Relations Training for Local Government

October 4-6
Corporate Officer Forum
Vancouver Island Convention Centre, Nanaimo

October 6, 13, 20, 27, November 3, 17
Project Management Fundamentals
Online

October 15-20
MATI® Leadership in Local Government
The Bayside Resort, Parksville

October 18, 25, November 1
Online Course: Performance Management

October 23, 24, 31, November 7
Effective Report Writing
Online Course

October 22-27
MATI® School for Statutory Approving Officers
Bayside Resort, Parksville

October 25-27
Admin Professionals' Conference
Westin Wall Centre, Richmond

November 14, 21, 28
Online Course: Minute Taking

November 16, 23, 30
Online Course: Change Management

November 17
CAO Lunch Connect Series
Online

November 26 - December 1
MATI® Community Planning
Harbour House, Salt Spring Island

2023-2024 PARTNER PROGRAMS & EVENTS

September 18-22
Union of BC Municipalities
Annual Convention
Vancouver

September 26-27
BC Municipal Safety Association & Public Works Association of BC Joint Annual Conference
Penticton

September 30 - October 4
International City/County Management Association (ICMA)
Austin/Travis County, Texas

October 9-11
Association of Records Managers and Administrators International Conference
Detroit, Michigan

October 29 - November 1
Canadian Association of Government Finance Officers
Hybrid Conference

January 31 - February 2, 2024
LGLA Annual Forum
Radisson Hotel Vancouver Airport, Richmond

Dates may change. Confirm at lgma.ca/programs-training.

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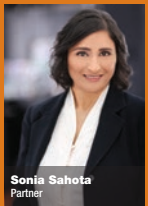
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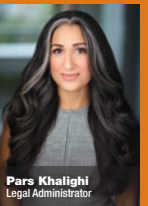
Sonia Sahota
Partner



Pam Jefcoat
Partner



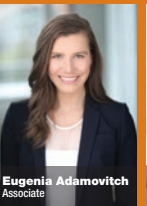
Michael Moll
Partner



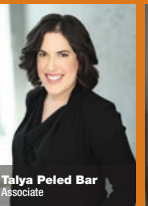
Pars Khalighi
Legal Administrator



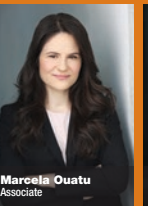
Sara Gray
Associate



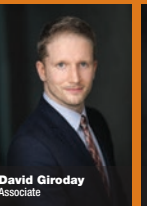
Eugenia Adamovitch
Associate



Talya Peled Bar
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Marcela Ouatu
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Associate



Kai Hsieh
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