



# LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

## NEWSLETTER

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# AGM INFORMATION



## President's Message

We had planned for this newsletter to be distributed at our Annual Conference and AGM which was scheduled to take place from May 6-8, 2020 in Whistler, BC. We had an amazing program planned for our membership under the theme "Social, Natural and Financial Assets: Accounting for the Unaccounted." We also had a record number of registrations and sponsorships for the conference. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we reluctantly had to cancel.

2020 thus far has been challenging to say the least. I have watched all our 33 member municipalities and regional districts shift and adapt and I have been impressed with your agility and forward thinking. Like our amazing members, the Lower Mainland Local Government Association has adapted to our current reality and will be holding our Annual General Meeting virtually on Tuesday, September 29th, 2020. Please sign up through the UBCM Convention registration page or alternatively, if you are not attending UBCM and wish to attend the Lower Mainland LGA AGM, contact our Executive Director, Shannon Story at [ssstory@lmlga.ca](mailto:ssstory@lmlga.ca) to register.

We will also be holding our annual CivX event virtually over three days from November 23-25, 2020 so please save the date! This year's theme is "Re-Imagine Local Government- Resilience, Revolution, Recovery: The Road Ahead."

2019 was a great year for the Lower Mainland LGA. We hired our first Executive Director, Shannon Story. Ms. Story's creativity and leadership has been critical to the success of our organization during this challenging time. We were all concerned about moving away from UBCM administration, but Shannon as our Executive Director has made the transition seamless and provided great confidence that the board made the right decision. Under Ms. Story's new leadership, we launched our new and improved member friendly website and ended the year in a strong financial position. We also launched our advocacy program where we met with Provincial Ministers to lobby on behalf of our membership on issues important to our members.

My two years as your Area Association President is coming to an end. I have had the privilege to serve your interests and have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know many of you. I look forward to taking on the role of Past President this year. We have had a great group of people step forward to run for our executive this year and they all won by acclamation so no election will be held. I feel confident about the future of our organization. Take care!

Mayor Jack Crompton, President

## Annual General Meeting

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Lower Mainland LGA Annual Conference that was scheduled to be held in early May 2020 was cancelled. As a result, the Lower Mainland LGA will be holding our Annual General Meeting (AGM) during the virtual UBCM Convention on Tuesday, September 29th from 2:30 to 3:30 pm. Please register for the event through the UBCM Conference online registration or alternatively, if you are not attending the UBCM Convention, please contact Shannon Story directly at [ssstory@lmlga.ca](mailto:ssstory@lmlga.ca). Login and online voting details will be emailed to you closer to the event.

## Lower Mainland LGA 2020/2021 Executive

We are pleased to announce that the following people have been acclaimed to our executive for the 2020/2021 year:

**Laura Dupont**, President

**Patrick Johnstone**, First Vice President

**Jenna Stoner**, Second Vice President

**Patricia Ross**, Third Vice President

**Trish Mandewo**, Director at Large

**Michie Vidal**, Director at Large

**Paul Albrecht**, Director at Large

## CIVX Event Re-Imagine Local Government

The Lower Mainland Local Government Association and CivicInfo BC will host the 2020 CivX Event online over three days from November 23-25, 2020 from 11:45 am to 2:15 pm each day. This year's theme is Re-Imagine Local Government ~ Resilience, Revolution, Recovery: The Road Ahead.

Speaker details and registration information to come soon!



Thank you to Shaw Communications Inc. for sponsoring this newsletter

# New Executive Bios



## Laura Dupont

### PRESIDENT

Laura is inspired by nature. She is a member of the Burke Mountain Naturalists, and a Director of the Riverview Horticultural Centre Society.

She is a founding member of Poco Heritage Trees, a grassroots group dedicated to educating the community about the importance of nature and the value of trees. She is a member of the Safe Energy Leadership Alliance and Vice Chair of The Tri-City Food Security Group. Laura has been a very engaged member of Metro Vancouver's Climate Action Committee for over 6 years. Laura and her family stay active by biking, hiking and walking Port Coquitlam's numerous parks and trails and beautiful Burke Mountain.



## Patrick Johnstone

### FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Patrick Johnstone is serving his second term on New Westminster Council. Patrick is a Professional Geoscientist who works in environmental

protection and policy. In New Westminster, he Chairs the City's Sustainable Transportation Advisory Committee and the Facilities, Infrastructure and Public Realm Advisory Committee and serves on the Electrical Utility Commission. He is also Chair of the Board of the Community Energy Association, and previously served as UBCM representative on the Board of Society of Contaminated Sites Approved Professionals of BC. Patrick's entry into local government politics was through his keen interest and advocacy for active transportation, sustainable development, and climate action. He has been serving on the Lower Mainland LGA since 2017, the last two years as Second Vice President, and values the opportunity for collaboration with FVRD and SLRD members as we seek to better connect our region.



## Jenna Stoner

### SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

I grew up in the Sea to Sky corridor, have happily called Squamish home since 2014, and was elected as a councillor for the District of Squamish in

2018. I am passionate about stewarding the growth of my community to ensure that Squamish remains livable, resilient, vibrant and inclusive for all. I bring over ten years of experience working at the intersection of business, government, and environmental conservation. I hold a Masters of Marine Management (MMM) from Dalhousie University and a B.Sc. from the University of Victoria.

I was elected to the Lower Mainland LGA Executive in 2019 as third vice-president. Since joining the Executive, I have had the opportunity to learn about the breadth and depth of the organization and see first-hand the important role that collaboration among our membership can play. Each of the Lower Mainland LGA members is unique, but we have shared challenges and cross-boundary issues. I believe that the Lower Mainland LGA can support finding durable solutions to these challenges and issues by being a platform for networking, dialogue, collaboration and joint-advocacy. I look forward to further supporting this organization and its membership through 2020-2021 as second vice-president if given the opportunity.



## Patricia Ross

### THIRD VICE PRESIDENT

Patricia Ross has 25 years of leadership experience as a councillor and

23 years as a Fraser Valley Regional District board member, serving on a wide variety of committees providing her with a good knowledge base representing all sectors. Patricia was chosen to represent Canada in the 5th cohort of Leadership for Environment and Development International, a research and training institute committed to fostering leadership in sustainability worldwide. She graduated from the program in 1996 and has gone on to help train subsequent cohorts. She has used this training to do presentations regarding sustainability all over the world including one on the rewards and challenges of environmental work in local government at the 2004 International Climate Change conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Patricia ran her own recycling business for 14 years and is currently the chair of GrowYourBiz Abbotsford, an advisory and mentoring board for women in business. Patricia has been given many awards for her community work, including several from the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce, the Paul Harris Rotary Club, Soroptimist club, Youth Commission, Queen's Jubilee Award and Woman of the Year in 2009 from the Business and Professional Woman's Club.



## Trish Mandewo

### DIRECTOR AT LARGE

Trish is a multi award-winning serial entrepreneur, Author, Councillor for the City of Coquitlam, Co-Founder of Women's Collaborative Hub Society, Diversity & Inclusion Champion, Entrepreneurship trainer and Mentor. A hardworking and strong believer in community involvement, Trish has a deep-seated commitment and dedication to public service.

She has extensive board experience on private, non-profit and government boards. Her current appointments are:

- Lower Mainland Lower Government Association – Member at large
- Union of BC Municipalities – Vancouver Metro Area representative
- Metro Vancouver – Electoral A committee member
- City of Coquitlam – Chair of Multiculturalism committee
- City of Coquitlam – Chair of Universal Accessibility Advisory Committee
- City of Coquitlam - Vice Chair of the Parcel Tax Review Panel

As we are facing new challenges by the day, Trish believes in advocating for rural and urban communities alike to find new ways to mitigate risks and adapt to climate change. We must plan our cities for the future in order to provide opportunities for agriculture and small to medium businesses to thrive as they are pivotal to our respective communities' success.

As an economic development enthusiast, policy and processes junkie, Trish hopes to serve another year on the LMLGA committee and continue to provide a unique perspective.



## Michie Vidal

### DIRECTOR AT LARGE

Throughout her life, Michie has demonstrated a history of community involvement, leadership and organizational expertise. Ranging from

participating in a monthly "Feed the Homeless" campaign to a Past President of her professional association, her commitment to benefiting the lives of others is evident. Her career as an emergency services 911 dispatcher provided extensive knowledge in local government structure and systems. Following retirement to the Village of Harrison Hot Springs, Michie continued her dedication to the community. She united local residents, businesses and all levels of government towards a common goal related to a significant environmental and economic concern. The culmination of these experiences led her to seek election in 2018 and is currently in her first term of Councillor within the Village of Harrison Hot Springs. She is proud to represent the Village with her portfolio appointments and liaison responsibilities including:

- Fraser Valley Regional District Indigenous Relations Committee
- Fraser Valley Regional District Board, Alternate Municipal Director
- Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District Board, Alternative Municipal Director
- Fraser Valley Regional Library, Alternate Municipal Director
- Agassiz Harrison Health Communities Committee
- Local Community to Community Forums

Smaller communities face unique challenges in governance and Michie strongly supports the benefits of coordinated action through the LMLGA. She welcomes the opportunity to advance these goals as a Director at Large member of the executive team.



## Paul Albrecht

### DIRECTOR AT LARGE

I have been a councillor in Langley City for the past six years and have been on the UBCM Executive Board as one of two Vancouver Metro Area

representatives for the past three years. During that time, I have been able to develop very strong connections and relationships with members of the Provincial government as well as other peers in the province. I bring over thirty years of municipal experience in all areas of infrastructure, servicing, planning, land use, development and economic development that I have used in my elected roles to represent and serve my constituents. My involvement on UBCM's Economic Development and Health and Social Development Committees have been invaluable in highlighting the needs for the Metro region. We in Local Government are facing very uncertain times in so many areas in each of our communities and the value of an experienced executive board with strong relationships with senior orders of government to obtain the required support legislatively and financially for all Local Governments in BC cannot be overstated. Good governance requires the ability to develop strong relationships with many, I have the skills to collaborate, obtain consensus, and help develop the kind of strong team needed for the LMLGA to make a difference for all of our communities.

I am honoured to receive your support for the position of Director at Large on the LMG Board. In these uncertain times, I feel it is vital to develop a strong and respected executive board for all lower mainland communities when dealing with housing, homelessness, mental health, childcare, transit, tax relief, revenue loss, economic recovery, climate change and financial opportunities with other orders of government.

