



LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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PO Box 729, Pemberton, BC, V0N 2L0
Tel: (604) 698-5753 | www.lmlga.ca

The Work Ahead

LOWER MAINLAND LGA VIRTUAL CONFERENCE & AGM: MAY 12-14, 2021

Speaker Highlights



Bob Joseph

Bob Joseph, founder and President of Indigenous Corporate Training Inc., has provided training on Indigenous relations since 1994. Each year he assists thousands of individuals and organizations in

building Indigenous relations. His Canadian clients include all levels of government, Fortune 500 companies, financial institutions, including the World Bank, small and medium-sized corporate enterprises, and Indigenous Peoples. He has worked internationally for clients in the United States, Guatemala, Peru, and New Caledonia in the South Pacific. In 2006, Bob facilitated a worldwide Indigenous People's round table in Switzerland which included participants from the United Nations, Australia, New Zealand, North, Central and South America, Africa, and the Philippines.

Bob has worked as an associate professor at Royal Roads University and has routinely been a guest lecturer at other academic institutions. Bob is also an author and co-author of a number of books related to working with Indigenous Peoples.

Bob is an Indigenous person, or more specifically a status Indian. He is an initiated member of the Hamatsa Society and has inherited a chief's seat in the Gayaxala (Thunderbird) clan, the first clan of the **Gwawa'enuxw** one of the 18 tribes that make up the **Kwakwaka'wakw**. Bob is anticipating holding his first potlatch as a chief once it is safe to host a large gathering. His chief name is **K'axwsumala'galis**, which, loosely translated, means "whale who emerges itself from the water and presents itself to the world."



Seth Klein

Seth Klein served for 22 years (1996-2018) as the founding British Columbia Director of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, a public policy research institute committed to social, economic and environmental justice.

He is now a freelance researcher, writer, policy consultant and speaker, and serves as the Team Lead for the Climate Emergency Unit (a project of the David Suzuki Institute). He is also an adjunct professor with Simon Fraser University's Urban Studies program.

Seth's book – *A Good War: Mobilizing Canada for the Climate Emergency* – was released in September 2020.

Seth is a founder and served for eight years as co-chair of the *BC Poverty Reduction Coalition*, a network of over 50 community organizations in BC campaigning for a comprehensive poverty reduction plan in BC. He is a founder and served for 10 years on the advisory committee of the *Metro Vancouver Living Wage for Families* campaign (and was co-creator of the methodology for calculating the living family wage, now used in about three dozen Canadian communities). He currently serves on the board of *Dogwood*. He is an advisory board member for the Columbia Institute's *Centre for Civic Governance*. And he is a founder, advisor and instructor for *Next Up*, a leadership program for young people committed to social and environmental justice.

A social activist for over 35 years, Seth lives in East Vancouver with his partner and two children. Seth has been listed by *Vancouver Magazine* as one of the 50 most powerful people in the city, and by *Homemakers Magazine* among the "60 men we love." He does not know how he ended up on either list, but he humbly accepts the latter.



Minister Osborne

Josie Osborne was elected as MLA for Mid Island-Pacific Rim in 2020. She is the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Josie grew up on Vancouver Island and has lived in Tofino for over 20 years, first moving there to work as a fisheries biologist for the Nuw-chah-nulth Tribal Council and later as executive director of an environmental education non-profit organization.

She has significant experience in local government, including serving as Mayor of Tofino from 2013-2020 and as Chair and Vice-Chair for the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District. During her time in local government, Josie chaired the Tofino Housing Corporation and was a strong proponent for active transportation and regional transit. She has served as Chair of the Board for the Island Coastal Economic Trust, and in 2017, she was appointed by the BC Minister of Environment and Climate Change to the BC Clean Growth and Climate Action Advisory Council.

Josie studied marine biology at the University of British Columbia and completed a Master's in resource management at Simon Fraser University. She has worked to advance sustainable development throughout her career in public service.

Josie lives with her husband on 10 acres in Tofino with their dog, three goats, and a coop full of chickens.

Book Club

Join us at the end of the day for an interactive and social session with an author.

MAY 12: Seth Klein-Author of "A Good War-Mobilizing Canada for the Climate Emergency"

MAY 14: Megan Epler-Wood-Author of "Destinations at Risk; the Invisible Burden of Tourism"

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Annual General Meeting/Resolutions Session:

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 13th at 12:50 pm. It will include a robust resolutions session where Lower Mainland LGA Members can speak for or against resolutions via a live phone bridge on our virtual platform.

Lower Mainland LGA 2021/2022 Executive

We are pleased to announce that the following people have been acclaimed to our executive for the 2021/2022 year:



PRESIDENT

Laura Dupont

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 the Tree Fellowship, 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 and her family stay active by biking, hiking and walking Port Coquitlam's numerous parks and trails and beautiful Burke Mountain.



FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Patrick Johnstone

Patrick Johnstone is serving his second term as City Councillor for the City of New Westminster. He serves on the City's Sustainable Transportation and Facilities and Infrastructure Task Forces, and is a Commissioner on

the New Westminster Electrical Utility Board. He is the Chair of the Board for the Community Energy Association, a non-profit that helps Local Governments meet energy and emissions reduction goals, and previously served as the UBCM representative on the Board of Society of Contaminated Sites Approved Professionals of BC. As a Professional Geoscientist, he works to help local governments manage their liability around contaminated sites and environmental assessments. He has been on the Executive of the Lower Mainland LGA for five years, and values the opportunity to work with and learn from colleagues from Hope to Pemberton.



SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Patricia Ross

Patricia Ross has 26 years of leadership experience as a councillor and 22 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.



THIRD VICE PRESIDENT

Paul Albrecht

I have been a councillor in Langley City for the past seven years, Director at Large for LMLGA for the past year, and have been on the UBCM Executive Board as one of two Vancouver Metro Area. 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, land 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 in providing actionable solutions to meet all our communities challenges.

It would be an honour to serve as Third (3rd) Vice President on the strong LMLGA Board Team that we have developed. In these uncertain times, I feel it is vital to develop a strong and respected executive board that will listen to all our 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.



DIRECTOR AT LARGE

Michie Vidal

Throughout her life, Michie has demonstrated a history of community commitment, 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 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 serving her first term as Councillor with 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, Alternate Municipal Director
- Agassiz Harrison Healthy 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.



DIRECTOR AT LARGE

Jennifer McCutcheon

Jen serves as the Director for Metro Vancouver's (MV) only electoral area, which includes approximately 16,000 people on the UBC peninsula, and a number of rural communities and islands across the region. She was

elected in a by-election in 2019, and serves on MV's Finance and Intergovernment, Climate Action, and Mayor's committees, as well as the MV Board. Jen is a member of TransLink's Mayor's Council and the Ocean Watch Action Committee, and also sits on the Board for both EComm and the Fraser Valley Regional District Library.

Prior to entering politics, Jen utilized her doctoral degree in public health to help manage complex health projects in various countries across Africa for ten years, and still consults in public health. In her spare time, Jen volunteers extensively in her community, stays physically active, and spends as much time as she can out in nature with her husband and two children.

Director McCutcheon approaches her decisions from a social and climate justice lens and is passionate about issues such as climate action and environmental protection, affordability and equity. She would be honoured to contribute her energy and expertise on the LMLGA

Board. For more information, visit www.areaajen.ca



DIRECTOR AT LARGE

Kiersten Duncan

Kiersten is a 2 term Councillor at the City of Maple Ridge.



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