



LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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TACKLING THE BIG ISSUES

LOWER MAINLAND LGA CONFERENCE & AGM, MAY 1-3, 2024, WHISTLER

Presidents Message



The Lower Mainland LGA is looking forward to seeing you soon in Whistler for our 2024 Conference & AGM. The theme of this year's conference is "Tackling the Big Issues".

We have a great pre-conference walking tour planned of Whistler's Tourism Facilities including

Whistler/Blackcomb, the Fairmont Chateau Whistler, the Audain Art Museum and the Gibbons Group.

We are so excited to have Khelsilem, Council Chairperson of Squamish Nation as our opening keynote speaker on Wednesday evening. We will be closing off the conference on Friday with the dynamic duo of all things BC politics: Keith Baldrey and Vaughn Palmer.

Other sessions are on topics such as "Public Safety Challenges in Public Spaces", "The Future of Transportation in the Lower Mainland", "UNDRIP Implementation from the Indigenous Perspective" and a Q & A session with our BC political leaders.

We have received a record number of 61 resolutions from our membership that will be debated at our resolution's session on a variety of topics that are timely and relevant to our region.

As usual, we will have several opportunities for networking and socializing including two receptions and our banquet dinner.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

President Patricia Ross

Closing Keynote Speakers:



Vaughn Palmer:
Hard-Hitting Provincial Political Columnist

Vaughn Palmer's hard-hitting columns have seen him cover the feats and follies of B.C.'s premiers for almost 40 years. An award-winning journalist, Palmer is the Vancouver Sun's

provincial political columnist, based in Victoria. Palmer is a regular commentator on radio station CKNW in Vancouver.

Palmer is the recipient of the Bruce Hutchison Lifetime Achievement Award from the Jack Webster foundation, a co-winner of the Jack Webster award for reporting, and a recipient of the Hyman Solomon award for excellence in public policy journalism from the Canadian Public Policy Forum. Since 1984, Palmer has examined an extensive range of issues, personalities and scandals that have come to define B.C.'s political scene.



Keith Baldrey:
Global BC's Chief Political Correspondent & Legislature Bureau Chief

Keith Baldrey is highly regarded as one of BC's best known political commentators.

He currently serves as the chief political correspondent and legislative bureau chief for Global BC where he provides insightful coverage and analysis on the latest developments in BC's political landscape. In 2021, Baldrey was named Broadcast Performer of the Year by the BC Association of Broadcasters for his coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Baldrey's work is also seen in his weekly syndicated column on B.C. politics for a variety of Lower Mainland papers, including the North Shore News and the Now newspapers, and appears regularly on News Talk 980 CKNW.

He has a long history of understanding and commenting on BC politics – Baldrey joined The Vancouver Sun in 1984 and moved to the The Sun's legislature bureau in 1986, eventually becoming its bureau chief in 1989. In 1995, he joined Global BC where over the course of his career, has covered 10 premiers, 10 provincial elections, and 12 federal elections.

He has covered nine premiers and the 2017 election was the ninth B.C. election campaign he has covered (along with numerous federal campaigns and party leadership races).

2024 CONFERENCE CHARITY: United Way British Columbia (UWBC)



United Way British Columbia supports the development of healthy, caring and inclusive communities by strengthening vital connections that support people in need. In the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley in 2022-2023, UWBC served over 6,000 children and youth, 21,948 seniors and 63,849 individuals experiencing food insecurity, coordinated a network of community partners with 13 food hubs and over 12,000 volunteers, and invested over \$13 million back into the community. Further, UWBC collaborates with key agencies to deliver a variety of programs across the Lower Mainland. We partner with 79 agencies to deliver senior's programming, 60 agencies acting as stewards/spokes for our Regional Community Food Hubs, and 66 agencies for various youth programs. Lastly, our BC211 helpline service is available throughout BC, but in the LM/FV during 2022-2023 UWBC responded to 31,200 calls, providing 87,988 referrals – with the top issues being housing & homelessness, health, income & financial assistance, mental health, basic needs, legal & public safety, and abuse.



Banquet Dinner Entertainment

Ruckus Deluxe is based in Whistler and features Cirque du Soleil lead singer Chad Oliver on acoustic guitar and GRAMMY® nominated violinist Ian Cameron on fiddle, electric guitar and mandolin. They perform over 200 dates a year and cover a massive range of rock, pop and country hits along with their award-winning originals.

Candidates For 2024/2025



Candidate for President: Paul Albrecht

A three-term councillor in Langley City, Paul has been the LMLGA First Vice President for the

past two years and served previously in various other positions on the LMLGA Board. He has also served on the UBCM Executive and is currently a Metro Vancouver Director.

While serving on these various boards Paul has been able to develop very strong connections and relationships with members of the Provincial government as well as other peers in Local Government across the province. As a Civil Engineering Technologist, Paul brings over thirty years of municipal experience in all areas of infrastructure, servicing, planning, land use, land development and economic development that has been valuable in representing and serving his community and the Metro Region.

We in Local Government are facing very uncertain and challenging times in each of our communities. The value of an experienced executive board with strong relationships with senior orders of government cannot be overstated. Good governance requires the ability to develop strong relationships with many, listen to all our member communities, and find solutions. Paul will continue to help develop the kind of strong and supportive team needed for the LMLGA to make a difference in providing actionable solutions to meet all the challenges our communities face.

Together we can strategically amplify our collective voices and build productive relationships with other orders of Government when dealing with housing, homelessness, mental health, childcare, transit, tax relief, revenue loss, economic recovery, climate change, reconciliation and so many other complex issues that we all face daily. Paul is always available for further conversations with anyone at anytime.

It would be an honour and privilege to continue serving the LMLGA as President with the strong LMLGA Executive Team that we have developed. Thank you for your consideration and support!



Candidate for First Vice President: Michie Vidal

Throughout her life, Michie has demonstrated a history of community commitment,

leadership and organizational expertise. Her 25 year 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 her community. She united local residents, businesses and all levels of government towards a common goal related to a significant environmental and economic concern.

Michie has a deep passion for the role of Local Governments and the impact it has on our daily lives. She is especially interested in promoting the principles of reconciliation with First Nations and is actively involved in achieving those goals.

Michie is currently serving her second term as Councillor with the Village of Harrison Hot Springs and Second Vice President with the Lower Mainland Local Government Association. Her Council liaison appointments include Lets'emot Community to Community Forum, Council to Council Committee with Sts'ailes, Community Futures North Fraser, Joint Emergency Planning Committee and Corrections Canada Citizens Advisory Committee.

During her spare time, Michie enjoys, hiking and golfing in the beautiful Fraser Valley.

Lower Mainland LGA Executive Positions:

An eleven-person Executive Board that is elected at the AGM during the Annual Conference governs the ongoing operations and policy direction of the Lower Mainland LGA.

Seven Elected Positions

- President
- First Vice President
- Second Vice President
- Third Vice President
- Director at Large (3 positions)

Non-Elected Positions

Appointed representatives from:

- Fraser Valley Regional District
- Metro Vancouver Regional District
- Squamish Lillooet Regional District

Eleventh Position

- Past President

The Nominations and Elections Process

THURSDAY, MAY 2nd (DURING AGM)

- Nomination Committee Chair, Jack Crompton presents the nominations received
- Nominations from the floor can be received for elected positions
- Candidates speeches, will follow

Nominations Received for the 2024/2025 Lower Mainland LGA Executive

As a result of the call for nominations, the Nominating Committee had received and will be placing the following names forward for consideration:

President:

Councillor Paul Albrecht, Langley City

First Vice President:

Councillor Michie Vidal, Harrison Hot Springs

Second Vice President:

Director Jen McCutcheon, Metro Vancouver Regional District

Third Vice President:

Councillor Chris Pettingill, District of Squamish

Director At Large (three to be elected)

Councillor Ruby Campbell, City of New Westminster

Councillor Jessica McIlroy, City of North Vancouver

Councillor Jeff Murl, Resort Municipality of Whistler

Mayor Sylvia Pranger, District of Kent

2024 Sponsors

BC Assessment

BC Council of Forest Industries

BC General Employees' Union(BCGEU)

BC Hydro

BCLC

CN

CUPE BC

CUPE 8911 Emergency Communications Professionals of BC

Disability Alliance BC

E-Comm 9-1-1

Enbridge

Fortis BC

Gambling Support BC

ICBC

Lidstone & Company Law Corporation

Municipal Finance Authority of BC

Municipal Insurance Association of BC

National Police Federation

Pattison Outdoor Advertising

Rogers Communications TELUS

Trans Mountain

Vancouver Fraser Port Authority

Young Anderson

YMCA BC



Candidate for Second Vice President: **Jen McCutcheon**

Jen serves as the Director for Metro Vancouver's (MV) only electoral area, which includes

approximately 18,000 people on the UBC peninsula and in a number of rural communities and islands across the MV region. She is in her second term of office, and serves on a number of committees as well as the Board of the Metro Vancouver Regional District and Translink's Mayor's Council. Jen brings a unique perspective to the LMLGA executive as a representative of both urban and rural communities.

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 in her community, stays physically active, and spends as much time as she can out in nature with her husband and two children.



Candidate for Third Vice President: **Chris Pettingill**

Chris Pettingill is a Councillor with the District of Squamish on the traditional and unceded

Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh territory. Chris also serves as a Director for the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Board, and as an active member of the Climate Caucus. Everyone deserves a bright future so Chris brings thoughtful consideration of equity and climate change to these roles.

Chris has served on the boards for Tourism Squamish and the Squamish Arts Council, and as the chair of the BC Green Party Provincial Council and Squamish Chamber of Commerce respectively.

Chris' professional career has focused on software development, and he is a senior technical lead and founding member of an exciting Squamish tech startup.

Chris also stays busy as a long-standing volunteer for Squamish's "Amped in the Park" music program. Through this involvement, Chris is able to enjoy his passion for music while supporting others as they learn to be performers and leaders.



Candidate for Director at Large: **Ruby Campbell**

Ruby is serving her first term as New Westminster City Councillor. Prior to being elected, Ruby

spent the majority of her career managing fundraising and community engagement programs to create and improve public amenities, community spaces, social programs and strengthen community partnerships between various sectors.

Ruby was employed in the civic sector in a leadership position managing intergovernmental relations and worked with project teams to develop and implement complex funding strategies for projects resulting in awards of up to \$24 million. She has also worked in leadership positions for a variety of not for profit organizations such as the BC Lung Association, Royal Columbian Hospital Foundation, Simon Fraser University and provided fundraising and governance consultation services for various other organizations.

Ruby has also served on the boards of Arts Council of New Westminster, Massey Theatre Society, Fraserside Community Service, New Westminster Chamber and the New Westminster Police Board.

She currently serves on the following City of New Westminster Committees:

- Arts Culture Economic Development Advisory Committee (Chair)
- Massey Theatre Working Group (Chair)
- Community Heritage Commission (Council Representative)
- Downtown Business Improvement Association (Council Representative)
- Land Use Planning Committee (Alternate Council Representative)



Candidate for Director at Large: **Jessica McIlroy**

Jessica is currently in her second term on Council in the City of North Vancouver,

being first elected in 2018, and currently sits on the City's Integrated Transportation Committee and as the Council representative on the Lonsdale Energy Corporation Board of Directors. Jessica previously sat on the LMLGA Executive as a Director-at-Large from 2022 to 2023.

Over the past twenty years, Jessica McIlroy has provided leadership on clean energy development and climate action policy with for-purpose organizations, and currently works with a clean energy think tank focusing on the decarbonizing and climate resiliency of our built environment.

Jessica also works with Climate Caucus, a non-profit network of local government elected officials leading the transformation needed for communities to thrive within planetary boundaries. She is passionate about advancing climate policy and action within local governments and currently sits on the B.C. Municipal Climate Leaders Council Steering Committee and the Climate Caucus Board of Directors.

When not working or in the community, Jessica takes every opportunity to be in the forest and mountains with her family and two dogs.



Candidate for Director at Large: **Jeff Murl**

Jeff's professional career started in with degree in Finance from UBC, leading to work in

the investment industry. That evolved to owning restaurants in North Vancouver, and after receiving his Chartered Professional Accountant designation (CPA), into opening his own accounting practice. Throughout that time, he also worked as a ski instructor, first at Cypress, and for the last 20 years at Whistler.

Jeff is serving his first term as a Councillor in Whistler, where he's bringing his skillset and perspective as a CPA to various committees: Audit and Finance, Smart Tourism, Transportation Management, and the Advisory Design Panel. He also currently sits on the boards of the Whistler Development Corp., the Whistler Institute, and the Whistler Museum.

Prior to joining council, Jeff volunteered on boards across a wide spectrum of activities: The Beaumont, Vancouver Urban Farming Society, Arts Whistler, Whistler Public Library and the Whistler Board of Variance. His first experience with local politics was sitting on a Citizens committee of North Shore residents.

Jeff's spare time is spent with his wife and two young boys, who are always entertained by his stories of council meetings, policy work and advocacy to other levels of government.



Candidate for Director at Large: **Sylvia Pranger**

Hello everyone, my name is Sylvia Pranger, and I am pleased to have my name stand as

Director at Large for LMLGA. I have lived in the District of Kent in the beautiful Fraser Valley for 62 years and consider myself a long-term resident!

I bring a wealth of experience in providing service at both, local and provincial government levels. In 1990, I was first elected as Councillor for the District of Kent and then elected as Mayor in 2000 until 2006. During this time, I was on the Board of the Fraser Valley Regional District, and elected Chair of the Union Board of Health, which was the governing body for Public Health and Vice-Chair of the Provincial Union Board of Health. When I was not on Kent Council, I served as Chair of the South Coast Panel of the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) for several years. I was re-elected to the Kent Council in 2014 and became Mayor by acclamation for the past two terms. I also serve as a Director for the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) and Chair of the Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District Board.

The LMLGA provides a valuable avenue to voice our regional concerns with our colleagues at the UBCM as well as the provincial and federal governments. Over my years of service as an elected official, I continually see the benefit of learning from one another to serve our main purpose of better serving our communities. I believe that my experiences can bring value to the Executive as we work together to be an effective local government association.

