



# LOWER MAINLAND

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

### 2026 Conference Program

#### *Continuity and Change in Local Leadership*

**The Westin Resort & Spa Whistler**  
**4090 Whistler Way, Whistler, BC**

**Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>**

Time	Item	Location
2:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.	<b>Registration Opens</b> <i>Registration table sponsored by BC Hydro</i> <i>Name badges sponsored by BCLC</i> <i>Conference App sponsored by ICBC</i> <i>Tradeshow Room Sponsored by Enbridge</i>	Emerald Foyer in front of Ballroom (lower floor of Westin)
2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.	<b>Pre-Conference Tour</b> <b>Beer Farmers Educational Tour</b>  Join us for an authentic Beer Farmers experience where agriculture meets brewing. This guided tour and educational session tells the story of how a fourth-generation family evolved from cattle and potato farming into successful craft beer brewers. Discover how tradition, innovation and a deep connection to the land shaped their journey into brewing and agritourism. Learn about the challenges and milestones along the way, and how sustainable practices continue to guide their operation. Comes with a well-earned pint of Beer Farmer beer, brewed on-site and inspired by generations of farming heritage.	Meet outside the front entrance of the Westin Whistler by valet station at 1:50 pm
7:00 p.m.	<b>Official Opening</b>  -Welcome – Councillor Paul Albrecht, Lower Mainland LGA President -First Nations Welcome-Squamish Lil’wat Cultural Centre Cultural Ambassadors -National Anthem – Councillor Leo Facio, Village of Harrison Hot Springs -Host Community Welcome – Mayor Jack Crompton, Resort Municipality of Whistler  <b>Opening Keynote:</b> The Honourable Janet Austin, former Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia and Chair of the Fraser Basin Council  <i>Sponsored by: CUPE BC</i>	Emerald A/B

To Follow	<b>Welcome Reception &amp; Networking Event</b> <i>Sponsored by: Terrion</i>	Emerald C
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## Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>

Time	Item	Location
7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m.	<b>Breakfast</b>	Emerald A/B/C
8:30 a.m.-8:45 a.m.	<b>UBCM Address</b> Councillor Cori Ramsay, UBCM President	Emerald A/B
8:45 a.m.-9:30 a.m.	<b>UBCM Board Governance Review</b>  <b>Description:</b> Update and engagement on the UBCM governance review process, which responds to recent requests from the membership through resolutions and direct correspondence. The governance review focuses on representation of the range of UBCM members as reflected in the composition of the UBCM Executive board and the name of the organization.  <b>Presenters:</b> - Gary MacIsaac, Executive Director, UBCM - Alan Neilson, Consultant  <b>Session Moderator:</b> Ruby Campbell, Director at Large and Councillor at the City of New Westminster  <i>Thursday Morning Sponsored by: Pattison Outdoor Advertising LP</i>	Emerald A/B
9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.	<b>Session: Lessons Learned from Municipal Council Conflict</b>  <b>Description:</b> In this session, we will hear from leaders that have been immersed in council conflict. The panelists have conducted investigations and helped guide a dysfunctional Council back to functionality. The panelists will share their experiences and lessons learned.  <b>Panelists:</b> - Henry Braun, Former Mayor of Abbotsford and Special Advisor - Sara Dubinsky, Partner, Lidstone & Company - Stephen Fleming, Municipal Government Consultant  <b>Session Moderator:</b> Nathan Pachal, Metro Vancouver Rep and Mayor of Langley City	Emerald A/B
10:30 a.m. to 10:50 a.m.	<b>Coffee Break</b>	Emerald A/B
10:50 a.m.-11:50 a.m.	<b>Session: Strength in Difference: Advancing Diversity in Local Government</b>	Emerald A/B

	<p><b>Description:</b> This session will discuss how to build and sustain an inclusive government. How do we attract a diverse representation of our residents to run for office and how do we keep them there?</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kelli Paddon, Owner of Equiiti and former MLA</li> <li>- Nadine Nakagawa, Councillor, City of New Westminster</li> <li>- Jason and Jerry Song, Twintalk Politics</li> <li>- Jordan Simmons, Co-Founder &amp; CEO at Nominee</li> </ul> <p><b>Session Moderator:</b> Michie Vidal, First Vice President and Councillor at the Village of Harrison Hot Springs</p>	
11:50 am to 12:30 p.m.	<p><b>Understanding Voter Sentiments for the 2026 BC Municipal Election</b></p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Steve Mossop, Executive Vice-President, Western Canada of Leger, one of North America's fastest-growing market research companies.</p> <p><b>Session Moderator:</b> Armand Hurford, SLRD Rep and Mayor at the District of Squamish</p>	Emerald A/B
12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.	<p><b>Delegates Lunch</b></p> <p><i>Sponsored by: E-Comm 9-1-1</i></p>	Emerald A/B/C
1:30 p.m.	<p><b>Annual General Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-President's Report</li> <li>-Minutes of 2025 AGM</li> <li>-Nominating Report</li> <li>-2025 Financial Statements</li> <li>-2026 Budget</li> </ul> <p><i>Thursday Afternoon Session sponsored by: Veolia</i></p> <p><b>Session Moderator:</b> Paul Albrecht, President and Councillor at Langley City and Patricia Ross, Past President and Chair of the FVRD and Councillor at the City of Abbotsford.</p>	Emerald A/B
To follow until 4:30 p.m.	<p><b>Resolutions Session</b></p> <p><b>Session Moderator:</b> Jack Crompton, Mayor of Whistler and former Lower Mainland LGA President</p>	Emerald A/B
2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.	<p><b>Afternoon Coffee Station</b></p>	Emerald Foyer
4:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.	<p><b>Elections</b> (if necessary)</p>	Emerald Foyer
6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.	<p><b>Networking Reception</b></p> <p><i>Sponsored by: Fortis BC</i></p>	Emerald C

7:30 p.m.-8:45 p.m.	<p><b>Networking Dinner</b></p> <p><i>Wine Co-Sponsored by: Municipal Insurance Association of BC and Young Anderson</i></p> <p><b>*Please note that this is ticketed event that is not included in the general conference registration.</b></p>	Emerald A/B
8:45 p.m. -10:00 p.m.	<p><b>Entertainment: Laugh Out LIVE! Improv team</b></p> <p>Born in the mountains of Whistler, Laugh Out LIVE! is a comedy institution blending the best of improv, sketch and stand-up comedy into live shows dedicated to bring the laughter.</p>	Emerald A/B

## Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>

Time	Item	Location
7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m.	<p><b>Breakfast</b></p> <p><b>Start of Day Announcements</b></p> <p><i>Friday Morning Sessions sponsored by the Municipal Finance Authority</i></p>	Emerald A, B, C
8:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m.	<p><b>Q &amp; A Session with the Honourable Brittny Anderson, Minister of State for Local Governments and Rural Communities</b></p> <p><b>Session Moderator:</b> Paul Horn, Director at Large and Mayor of the City of Mission</p>	Emerald A/B
9:00 a.m. -10:00 a.m.	<p><b>Session: Strengthening Public Participation from the Inside Out</b></p> <p><b>Description:</b> Public engagement is increasingly being recognized as a pillar of local governance that helps increase the effectiveness of policies and programs and fosters public trust. However, poor-quality engagement processes can cause more harm than good-eroding trust, increasing polarization or over-representing the loudest voices in the room.</p> <p>This workshop introduces the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue’s new Maturity Model for Public Participation, a developmental evaluation tool designed to support governments in enhancing their organizational capacity to engage the public effectively. Through hands-on exercises, this workshop will demonstrate how municipalities can leverage this tool to evaluate and strengthen policies, practices, and internal mechanisms that maximize the impact of public input.</p> <p><b>Presenters:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nicole Armos, Associate Director of Knowledge &amp; Practice</li> <li>- Michelle Bested, Engagement and Social Enterprise Associate Director</li> </ul> <p><b>Session Moderator:</b> Patricia Driessen, FVRD Rep and Councillor at the City of Abbotsford</p>	Emerald A/B
10:00 a.m.- 10:20 a.m.	<b>Morning Coffee Station</b>	Emerald Foyer

10:20 a.m. -11:20 a.m.	<p><b>Media Panel</b></p> <p><b>Panelists:</b>          -Justin McElroy, Municipal Affairs Reporter, CBC Vancouver          -Dan Fumano, City Columnist, The Vancouver Sun and The Province</p> <p><b>Session Moderator:</b> Chris Pettingill, Third Vice President and Councillor at the District of Squamish</p> <p><i>Sponsored by: Lidstone &amp; Company</i></p>	Emerald A/B
11:20 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.	<b>Conference Charity Cheque Presentation, Wrap Up &amp; Door Prizes Announced</b>	Emerald A/B

**2026 Sponsors**

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**2026 Conference Charity**

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