



90TH ANNUAL
AGM & CONVENTION
APRIL 21-23, 2023

KOOTENAY BOUNDARY CONNECTIONS STRONG TOGETHER



MOUNTAINS OF OPPORTUNITY
CRANBROOK

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AKBLG Mission Statement

To assist our members in providing
effective, responsible and
accountable local government
through dialogue, education and
advocacy.

2022 - 2023 AKBLG Executive

President Keith Page - Councillor, City of Nelson
Vice President Kevin McIsaac - Councillor, City of Fernie
Director Keith Baldwin - Councillor, Town of Creston
Director Susan Clovechok - Area F Director,
Regional District of East Kootenay
Director Kyle Hamilton - Councillor, City of Fernie
Director Colleen Jones - Mayor, City of Trail
Director Aidan McLaren-Caux - Councillor, Village of Nakusp

2023 Convention Planning Committee

Colleen Jones, Committee Co-Chair - Mayor, City of Trail
Keith Page, Committee Co-Chair - Councillor, City of Nelson
Susan Clovechok - Area F Director, Regional District of East Kootenay
Keith Baldwin - Councillor, Town of Creston
Linda Tynan - AKBLG Executive Director
Andrea Tubbs - Convention Coordinator

City of Cranbrook

Norma Bissett, Councillor
Chris New, Recreation & Culture Department

Extra Mentions

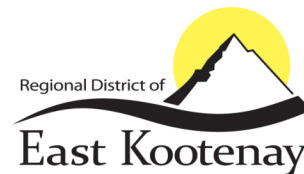
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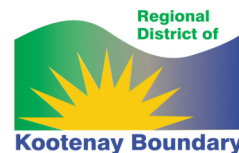
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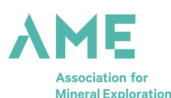
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AKBLG PRESIDENT'S WELCOME



Dear Esteemed Guests,

It is my great honor to extend a warm welcome to the AKBLG 2023 Convention and AGM in Cranbrook. After the recent elections, we are fortunate to have many new faces in the Kootenay Boundary region, bringing with them fresh energy, passion, and determination to

strengthen our communities.

Together with our returning members, this year's convention promises to be an exciting opportunity for learning, understanding, and relationship-building.

Our team has been hard at work to create a program that is both diverse and enriching, with topics that will help deepen your understanding of the challenges facing our rural communities and the opportunities for collaboration to strengthen the Kootenay Boundary. We are confident that the speakers and topics we have lined up will inspire creativity, foster collaboration, and cultivate an appreciation for diverse approaches to community-building.

In addition, during the next few days, you will have the opportunity to visit and share stories with colleagues from across the region. The work of local government officials has never been easy, and in this fast-changing world, the challenges our communities face can come fast and furious. However, through building strong relationships, we can weather any storm and emerge stronger together.

Once again, I extend a warm welcome and look forward to seeing you on the floor.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Page". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Keith Page, Councillor, City of Nelson
AKBLG President

CITY OF CRANBROOK MAYOR'S WELCOME



On behalf of Council, staff, and the City of Cranbrook, I welcome you to the 2023 AKBLG Conference and AGM. The theme of this year's convention is 'Kootenay Boundary Connections - Strong Together.'

This year's theme is very relevant considering the common issues that local governments face in the post-COVID era. Rising inflation, interest rates and social issues are, in some way, impacting our communities. Through our organization, we can come together and support one another while advocating for changes to improve our area and communities. A chance to learn, network and influence.

I want to thank the conference organizing committee, sponsors, and participants. Also, thank you to the current AKBLG executive for your leadership last term and best wishes to the new executive forming the leadership team this year.

Hopefully, you will have time to get out and enjoy the hospitality within our community. Please enjoy your stay.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wayne Price".

Mayor Wayne Price

TOURS

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2023

TOUR A: KTUNAXA NATION CENTRE TOUR

Hear the Ktunaxa Nation Creation Story and discover the ways the Ktunaxa have moved, lived, and crafted on these lands for thousands of years. Learn from a Ktunaxa Elder or Knowledge Holder about the tough past of St. Eugene Mission and the residential schools across Canada through first-hand experience. Watch an emotional documentary containing the personal stories of Ktunaxa students who were forced to leave their families and attend the school. And listen to the inspiring story of how St. Eugene was rebuilt into a resort to benefit the community for years to come.

Tour includes 45-minutes in the Interpretive Centre, a 45-minute guided walking tour of the St. Eugene Mission building, and a 30-minute movie presentation "Red Brick School"

Departs at 8:30am from the Prestige Rocky Mountain Resort

TOUR B: FORT STEELE HERITAGE TOWN TOUR

Step back in time to the late 1800's, and visit the historic settlement of Fort Steele. In the 1860's, gold was found on the Wildhorse River, and the gold rush boom town of Galbraith's Ferry was created. After 1888, following the establishment of a North West Mounted Police post under the watch of Superintendent Samuel B. Steele, the town became known as Fort Steele. This walking tour will highlight some of the 98 buildings on site, along with many colourful stories of Fort Steele's past.

Departs at 9:15am from the Prestige Rocky Mountain Resort

TOURS

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2023

TOUR C: IDLEWILD PARK REVITALIZATION

In 2015, the City of Cranbrook was faced with removing or replacing the historic dam on Idlewild Lake. The lake proves the centerpiece to the crown jewel in the City's Park system. Through innovative funding, grants, partnerships and more, almost \$3.5 million was plunged into a complete overhaul of the entire park.

In addition to preserving the reservoir, other recreation amenities included new paved trails, disc golf, picnic pavilions, playground, ziplines, fishing docks and pier, art installations, marshland development and more. The success story of this initiative is an interesting story in park planning, community engagement, multiple partnerships, all working collaboratively to and end goal that exceeded all expectations.

Join the former Director of Recreation/Culture, Chris New, and Mike Matejka, Director of Engineering and Development Services, for a 90-minute walk throughout the park's 41 acres. While most the tour is on paved pathway, crossing some uphill and uneven terrain should be expected. Wear appropriate walking shoes.

Departs at 9:15am from the Prestige Rocky Mountain Resort

TOURS

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2023

TOUR D: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TOUR

Join Darren Brewer, Economic Development Officer and Craig Campbell, General Manager, Aq'am Community Enterprises, on this bus tour highlighting the exciting projects that have been taking place over the past five years.

These projects have contributed to the record-breaking rise in building permits totaling \$300M, the building of 897 single family dwelling units, and a revitalized downtown. The tour will look at residential, resort, and hospitality success stories in and around the City of Cranbrook.

While visiting the St. Eugene Mission, there will also be a fifteen minute short walk and presentation to "Crying Hill" , which was a very significant ʔaqamnik landmark as it related to the residential school.

The tour is a mix of driving and short walks outside.

Departs at 9:00am from the Prestige Rocky Mountain Resort

TOUR E: TRAIN + MUSEUM TOUR AT THE CRANBROOK HISTORY CENTRE

See how luxurious travel was by train by taking the Trans Canada Tour and museum visit. The Trans-Canada Limited 1929 train carried first-class passengers from Montreal to Vancouver daily through its summer season. Explore the seven restored cars to experience the life of passengers and train workers on the fastest and most luxurious way to cross the continent in the interwar period.

Following the Trans Canada Tour, participants are encouraged to visit the other areas of the museum, including the recently completed paleontological display.

Participants will meet at the Cranbrook History Centre at 10:00 am for check in, with tour starting promptly at 10:15 am. The Trans Canada Tour takes approximately 45 minutes, plus the time you spend in the museum.

Departs at 10:00am from the Cranbrook History Centre.

WELCOME RECEPTION

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2023
6:00 - 7:30PM

ENCORE BREWING



1400 4th Street North, Cranbrook

Join us at Cranbrook's newest hotspot for AKBLG's welcome reception.

Make sure you get there early as there is lots to see and do (and eat and drink). Built around the premise of socializing and moving around, the venue hosts wide open spaces with community seating, retro arcade games, bowling, great eats, and fresh brewed refreshments.

AKBLG has exclusive use of the venue from 6:00 to 7:30pm. Delegates are welcome stay longer and enjoy the venue's many offerings.

BANQUET

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023

CRANBROOK HISTORY CENTRE

Royal Alexandra Hall, 1400 4th Street North, Cranbrook

6:00 pm Cocktails

7:00 pm Buffet Dinner

8:30 pm Cranbrook Night Life - see below for more information

CRANBROOK NIGHTLIFE

CRAFT BREWERIES

Heidout Restaurant/ Fisher Peak Brewing Company - Wide selection of craft beers brewed on site, including the 2018 Canadian Brewing Awards, Gold medal winning Hell Roaring Scottish Ale.

Fire Hall Kitchen and Tap - Located in the heritage designated 1929 Fire Hall #1, the building went through an exciting transformation and in 2018 became a craft beer tap house. 20 BC craft beers are on tap to offer guests a uniquely Kootenay experience.

LOUNGES

Boston Pizza (Sports Lounge) - A separate sports bar with televised sports & sports memorabilia.

Heritage Lounge - (in the Heritage Inn) The lounge features a big screen TV and a wide selection of cold drinks.

BANQUET

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023

CRANBROOK NIGHTLIFE

(continued)

PUBS/Nightclubs

Fenwick and Baker - Public House - Located in the historic Mount Baker Hotel, this is one of the newest pubs in town. Pool tables and big screen tv's complement the heritage feel of the venue.

Don Cherry's Sports Grill - Classic sports bar with interesting memorabilia and lots of big screens to watch your favorite sports.

The Pub - located in the Cranbrook hotel, a great place to grab a drink, watch one of their 15 TVs, play pool, or try the golf simulator.

York Country Bar - Cranbrook's country bar, playing country music all night. Pool table, Nintendo lounge, and dancing all night!

Shotties Nightclub - located in the York Hotel, there is always something fun happening at Shotties! Nightclub setting of dancing, along with pool, darts and other entertainment.

SPEAKER INFORMATION

**THANK YOU
TO ALL THE SPEAKERS!**

Brant Felker
Chris Fields
Christina Benty
Diane Kalen-Sukra
Glen Brown
Helaine Boyd
James Yardley
Jayme Jones
Jean Paul Gladu
Jen Ford
Jen Grebeldinger
Juliet Craig
Leeza Perehudoff
Maya Chorobik
Melanie Fontaine
Mike Prescott
Natalie Hake
Paige Thurston
Sandra Mayo
Stacy Ashton
Wendy Booth

MASTERS OF CEREMONIES

COLLEEN JONES, MAYOR, CITY OF TRAIL



After spending the last four years advocating for and representing the citizens of Trail in her role as City Councillor, Colleen Jones is now ready to serve, as Mayor, the city she's called home for most of her life. No stranger to the political sphere, Jones spent 32 years in a management role for the provincial government, negotiating and bargaining for government employees and management at all levels. Colleen was recently appointed by Council to represent the City of Trail during bargaining with CUPE 2087 Public Works and the Library Board, securing a positive outcome for both groups. Her extensive past experience in labour management and lobbying government at all levels has given her the tools to be a strong team builder and skilled leader.

KEITH PAGE, COUNCILLOR, CITY OF NELSON



Keith has a background in small business, economic development, recreational services, housing, and is Nelson's Director for the Regional District of Central Kootenay.

As a member of the Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Government, Keith has worked to promote the interests of his community and to foster good governance, economic growth and development.

Keith has worked to improve and the rural/urban relationship or shared support of city's parks and recreational facilities. He is committed to providing residents with high-quality recreational options and is always looking for ways to enhance the community's outdoor spaces.

In addition, Keith is an advocate for affordable housing and has worked to improve the availability and affordability of housing in the City of Nelson. He has partnered with organizations and local businesses to develop new housing opportunities and to provide support to those in need.

The Grey Zone: Better Enable Investment in the Convergence of Planning & Economic Development

CHRIS FIELDS, PRINCIPAL, RYNIC



Chris is an informative, entertaining, and insightful strategic humorist with a serious message: dare to be different and reach highest aspiration or join the burgeoning ranks of the unnoticed. Chris' 30 years of award-winning community economic development experience has been dedicated to reconnecting people to the power of community-building. His dry sense of humour and no nonsense, cut-through-clutter style challenges conventions and leaves people with inspiration to "make community-building personal."

Three Emerging Risks Affecting Every Local Government Today

SANDRA MAYO, MANAGER OF RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES, MIABC



Sandra joined the MIABC in March 2020 bringing experience in local government from her previous risk management roles with a large B.C. city and well-established non-profit association. Sandra has several professional designations including the Canadian Risk Management (CRM) and the RIMS-Certified Risk Management Professional (RIMS-CRMP) designations along with Certified Business Continuity Professional (CBCP) designation.

Sandra uses her skills to assist members with a variety of risk management, education, and loss control challenges. She also provides our members with specialized support in the areas of business continuity.

Connecting in Crisis: Improving Local Mental Health Crisis Response

STACY ASHTON, CHAIR OF THE BC CRISIS LINE NETWORK & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CRISIS CENTRE OF BC



Stacy is the Chair of the BC Crisis Line Network and Executive Director of the Crisis Centre of BC. In both capacities, she works to make crisis and suicide prevention helplines like 1-800-SUICIDE and 310-6789 Mental Health accessible, trauma-informed, and part of a mental health and crisis care system that works for people. Stacy started her career in the non-profit sector as a volunteer on the Crisis Lines prior to completing her Masters in Counselling and working in the field as a Suicide Intervention Counsellor.

NATALIE HAKE, DIRECTOR FOR CRISIS SERVICES AND PUBLIC EDUCATION, CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION FOR THE KOOTENAYS



Natalie is the Director for Crisis Services and Public Education for the Canadian Mental Health Association for the Kootenays. Natalie oversees the Crisis Lines that run out of the Cranbrook site and trains Crisis Line Responders and supports them on the lines. Natalie has been employed with this Association since 2007 and has accomplished diverse work experience during this time. Starting at the Kootenay Haven Transition House with supporting women and children fleeing abuse, onto working as a coach in the Bounce Back program for 10 years where she used Cognitive Behavioral Therapy to help participants learn how to manage stress, depression and anxiety. Natalie is passionate about suicide awareness, prevention and education.

KAST: Innovative Opportunities for Rural Entrepreneurship

MELANIE FONTAINE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KOOTENAY ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



Melanie has a passion for collaborating, building relationships and delivering impactful programs and services to our communities. She comes from a scientific background in biochemistry with a Master of Science degree from the University of Alberta. She spent time in East Africa working for a nonprofit hospital in Kenya and for the Provincial Health Services Authority in Vancouver. Melanie has been leading the team at KAST since 2021 and has renewed programs, launched new initiatives and built a team dedicated to growing innovation through science and technology across the Kootenays.

You're Not Alone: How communities can collaborate to implement climate action that meets multiple priorities

JEN GREBELDINGER, COMMUNICATIONS LEAD, COMMUNITY ENERGY ASSOCIATION



Jen has training in strategic dialogue and engagement and brings an understanding of climate communications when designing and facilitating working sessions. Jen has designed and delivered several workshops with elected officials in BC, including the Tell Your EV Story workshop with the cities of Revelstoke and Rossland, Communicating Climate Action session at the Climate Leaders Institute, e-mobility visioning sessions in the East Kootenays, Northern BC, and Vancouver Island. As the Communications Lead at CEA, Jen has also designed dialogue activities for regional peer networks and several public engagement strategies to inform staff and elected official priorities. Being based in Fernie, and working across the Kootenays in support of local and regional climate action, enables Jen to create learning opportunities that are steeped in the unique context of rural communities.

You're Not Alone: How communities can collaborate to implement climate action that meets multiple priorities

**MAYA CHOROBİK, DIRECTOR OF CLIMATE LEADERSHIP,
COMMUNITY ENERGY ASSOCIATION**



Maya leads CEA's Capacity Building and Leadership Development service area. Maya is the facilitator for the BC Municipal Climate Leadership Council (BCMCLC), which provides education, coaching and peer learning to locally elected officials committed to climate action in their communities. Maya also works with local government staff peer networks focused on climate action big moves and is supporting the launch of regional climate collaboration clusters.

Water Supply for Community Climate Adaptation

**PAIGE THURSTON, PROGRAM MANAGER,
LIVING LAKES CANADA**



Paige manages the Columbia Basin Water Monitoring Framework program, bridging scientific needs with community concerns and priorities for water monitoring. She also oversees the Columbia Basin Water Hub open-source database. She is currently pursuing a Master of Natural Resources through the University of Idaho with a focus on Restoration, Ecology and Habitat Management. She brings a background in forestry and wildfire risk assessment, community engagement and environmental stewardship to her work, making connections between climate projections and community needs for adaptation

Water Supply for Community Climate Adaptation

WENDY BOOTH, EAST KOOTENAY LOCAL REFERENCE GROUP COORDINATOR, LIVING LAKES CANADA



A former electoral area Director with the RDEK, Columbia Basin Trust, life member of AKBLG and past president of UBCM, Wendy has extensive experience in board governance, and community development. She currently serves on the following boards, Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program, Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation, Fraser Basin Council and Kootenay Savings Credit Union. In addition, she volunteers as the Chair of the Columbia Valley Community Foundation and Treasurer of Community Futures East Kootenay. She works as a consultant for Living Lakes Canada, as the Local Reference Group Coordinator for the Columbia Valley and the Local Government Liaison for the Columbia Basin. In addition she provides guidance and direction to non-profits and various community development projects.

The Leadership Mindset

CHRISTINA BENTY, LEAD CONSULTANT, STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP SOLUTIONS



Christina Benty, MA is a recovering politician who still loves local government. She only wants to work with leaders and organizations committed to building a culture of excellence in an environment that is kinder, wiser, and more conscious. As a national speaker, facilitator, published author, and a performance coach for governing bodies and senior management teams, she masterfully uses her lived political experience and her educational background to deliver intellectual content with energy and enthusiasm. Christina has developed and facilitated various leadership retreats, educational sessions, and roundtable discussions about sustainable service delivery across Canada.

Canada Community Building Fund Renewal

GLEN BROWN, GENERAL MANAGER, UNION OF BC MUNICIPALITIES (UBCM)



Glen has been a 'sustainability' advocate for the past 20 years, working with the Province and now with the Union of BC Municipalities as General Manager, Victoria Operations. With UBCM, Glen oversees the delivery of various funding programs, including the Canada Community Building Fund and the Asset Management Planning Grant Program. His focus has been on supporting local government in their efforts to deliver services and manage infrastructure sustainably by building awareness, educating and developing tools and resources. Glen is the co-chair of the Local Government Finance Working Group, working under the Provincial/UBCM MOU on Local Government Financial Resiliency. Glen also serves as the Chair of the Asset Management BC Partnership Committee.

BRANT FELKER, CCBF MANAGER, UNION OF BC MUNICIPALITIES (UBCM)



Brant has been involved in delivering government funding programs for over 15 years in both British Columbia and Australia – including his current role in overseeing the delivery of the Canada Community-Building Fund in British Columbia with the Union of BC Municipalities. Brant participates on the national Canada Community-Building Fund working group and is leading discussions with Canada and BC on a new long-term renewed CCBF program in British Columbia.

Courageous Dialogues: Changing the Dance of Polarization

JAYME JONES, RESEARCHER, SELKIRK INNOVATES AT SELKIRK COLLEGE



Jayme is passionate about collaborating to co-create resilient communities. Jayme leads or contributes to several applied research projects including *State of the Basin*, *Bridging Rural Homelessness and Well-being: A Sustainable and Collaborative Regional Response*, and *Courageous Dialogues: Moving Beyond Polarization*. Jayme also has experience in other complex topics, including climate change. Through her through applied research projects she helps build resilience within communities across the Kootenay Boundary region. She also supports students in work-integrated learning, helping to bridge students from their post-secondary learning environment into the local workforce. Jayme has a master's degree in environment and management.

LEEZA PEREHUDOFF, RESEARCH INTERN, SELKIRK INNOVATES AT SELKIRK COLLEGE



Leeza is nearly a life-long resident of Castlegar. She is energized by research on community well-being and sustainable community development, particularly through the lenses of social justice, climate change adaptation and environmental conservation. She is presently a student in the Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies program at Royal Roads University. Leeza contributes to multiple projects at Selkirk College including *State of the Basin*, *Bridging Rural Homelessness and Well-being: A Sustainable and Collaborative Regional Response*, and *Courageous Dialogues: Moving Beyond Polarization*.

Partnerships in the Kootenays

JULIET CRAIG, PROGRAM MANAGER, KOOTENAY CONSERVATION PROGRAM



Juliet is the Program Director of Kootenay Conservation Program, a partnership of 85 stewardship organizations, Indigenous nations, land trusts, agricultural producers, and governments with a focus on private land conservation. Juliet has a broad range of conservation experience including invasive plant management, bat conservation, species at risk planning, and environmental education. This experience has allowed her to focus on the connections between people and the land and the important role of private landowner stewardship in conservation. Juliet has an M.Sc. in ethnobotany and is a Registered Professional Biologist and Professional Agrologist.

Can Homelessness Be Solved?

JAMES YARDLEY, PARTNER, LIDSTONE & COMPANY



James' practice mainly involves litigation and dispute resolution, although he also provides advice on a broad variety of local government matters. James has practised law involving local governments since his call to the Bar in 1991. He was born and raised in Prince George, has a law degree from the University of Toronto, and a Masters degree in Community and Regional Planning from UBC. James has appeared in numerous trials, appeals, petitions, mediations and arbitrations on matters that involve administrative law, judicial review, construction disputes, planning law, expropriation and injurious affection claims, bylaw challenges, bylaw enforcement, constitutional law, claims alleging misfeasance in public office and bad faith, environmental law disputes and prosecutions, contract disputes, insurance coverage disputes, election challenges, human rights complaints, property taxation disputes, and claims involving police forces.

UBCM Address

COUNCILLOR JEN FORD, RESORT MUNICIPALITY OF WHISTLER / PRESIDENT, UBCM



Jen is serving a third term as municipal councillor in Whistler and serving as the Chair for the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District. As a mom, Jen is committed to making life better for all British Columbians, through advocacy for improved access to reliable childcare, primary healthcare, and secure and affordable housing.

Since 2014, Jen has worked with a number of local and regional Non-Profit boards, such as Whistler Community Services Society, the Whistler Healthcare Foundation, as well as the Sea to Sky Primary Care Steering Committee. First elected to the UBCM board in 2018, Jen has built strong relationships with colleagues and partners through this work.

FOSTERING SOCIAL COHESION: A Cornerstone of Civic Leadership

DIANE KALEN-SUKRA, FOUNDER, KALEN ACADEMY



Diane was born with the gift of encouragement and desire for everyone to thrive and meet their potential.

Over the past 25 years, this passion has taken Diane across the country in senior leadership roles in countless communities as CBC television producer, documentary maker, columnist and blogger, entrepreneur, community organizer, national representative of Canada's largest public sector organizations, to multi-award winning municipal Chief Administrative Officer.

Diane is an educator and certified culture transformation consultant with the Barrett Values Centre, certified Emotional Intelligence (EQ-i 2.0 / EQ 360) practitioner, and certified compassionate integrity facilitator with Life University's Centre for Compassion, Integrity & Secular Ethics.

Economic Reconciliation, Canada's Competitive Edge

JEAN PAUL GLADU, PRINCIPAL, MOKWATEH

Jean Paul (JP) Gladu is currently Principal of Mokwateh, and previously served as the President and CEO of the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB) from September 2012 until April 2020. Anishinaabe from Thunder Bay JP is a member of Sand Pont First Nation located on the eastern shores of Lake Nipigon, Ontario. JP completed a forestry technician diploma in 1993, obtained an undergraduate degree in forestry from Northern



Arizona University in 2000, holds an Executive MBA from Queens University and the ICD.D from Rotman School of Management University of Toronto. JP has over 30 years of experience in the natural resource sector. His career path includes work with Indigenous communities and organizations, environmental non-government organizations, industry and governments from across Canada.

Currently, JP serves on the board of Suncor, Institute for Corporate Directors, Broden Mining, First Nations Major Projects Coalition Advisory Centre, Chair of Canadas Forest Trust and the Boreal Leadership Champions as well BHP's International Forum for Corporate Responsibility committee. He previously served on the

Board of Ontario Power Generation, Noront Resources and past Chair of the Mikisew Group of Companies. He is a senior fellow with the Macdonald-Laurier Institute and served as the Chancellor of St. Paul's University College Waterloo from 2017 to 2020. His previous appointments include Canadian Electricity Association Public Advisory Panel, Colleges and Institutes Canada (previously ACCC), the Northern Policy Institute, Canadian Foundation for Economic Education, advisory member to the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, a committee member to the Ontario Provincial Forest Policy Committee. In 2014, he was identified as a Diversity 50 Board Ready Candidate from the Canadian Board Diversity Council and a recipient of the Community Service Award - Transformation Awards from Diversity Magazine.

JP is an accomplished public speaker with countless engagements not only across Canada but internationally as he shares the challenges and successes of Indigenous business and the growing Indigenous economy in Canada today.

As a father to his daughter Chloe, along with a passion for his community, his culture and traditions; JP brings the past, present and future to the table, moving non-Indigenous and Indigenous business toward sustainable partnerships and shared economic prosperity.

Accessibility Committees and Strategies - Part 3 of the Accessible BC Act

HELAINÉ BOYD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DISABILITY ALLIANCE BC



Helaine is the Executive Director of Disability Alliance BC (DABC). Since 1977, DABC has been a cross-disability voice in British Columbia. As a provincial non-profit organization and registered charity, our mission is to support people, with all disabilities, to live with dignity, independence and as equal and full participants in the community. We champion issues impacting the lives of people with disabilities through our direct services, community partnerships, advocacy, research and publications. DABC has been contracted by the BC Government to support prescribed organizations in meeting the three requirements under Part 3 of the Accessible BC Act.

DR. MIKE PRESCOTT, PROJECT MANAGER, ACCESSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS PROJECT, DISABILITY ALLIANCE BC



Dr. Mike Prescott is the Project Manager for the Accessible Organizations Project at Disability Alliance BC. Mike is a manual wheelchair user who has 35 years of lived experience as a person with a disability and has been working to promote accessibility and inclusion at a strategic level for 20 years. He recently completed his post-doctoral research in rehabilitation sciences and geomatics focusing on accessible built and natural environments. In his role as project manager, he is working with organizations to establish committees, develop plans, and create feedback mechanisms.

Friday, April 21st

7:00am - 4:30pm Registration Open - Breakfast on your own

7:30 - 10:00am Set-up for Trade Show

FIELD TOURS - See pages 7 - 9 for details

11:00am - 5:00pm Trade Show

11:45am - 12:30pm Lunch & Trade Show

12:30 - 1:00pm **Convention Opening Ceremony**

1:15 - 2:15pm **Plenary Presentation**

The Grey Zone: Better Enable Investment in the Convergence of Planning and Economic Development

Chris Fields, Principal, Rynic

Let's start with a wild premise that will satisfy few who participate in modern day investment-related development approvals processes: the development industry isn't bad. The municipality isn't bad. Protectionist community interests aren't bad. But Houston we have a problem: we are struggling to find overlap in the productive zone of common interests.

What could Plan B - where we tip over the apple cart of our conventional urban planning perspective and re-imagine it - look like? Can we stitch together an optimist's world where we successfully address some big challenges of the day like ambitious vision setting, missing commercial middles and entrepreneurial ecosystem development, missing housing middles and housing attainability and affordability, asset management, market economics awareness and investment value proposition development, placemaking, development approval process efficiency and effectiveness, and brand and communications with effect?

The answer is yes - well or we should at least try. But to get there, we need to be willing to let go of the past. In the "grey zone," we liberate ourselves to design the future we imagine.

2:15 - 2:30pm Refreshment Break & Trade Show

2:30 - 3:00pm **Concurrent Presentations** *(select one to attend)*

1. Three Emerging Risks Affecting Every Local Government Today

Sandra Mayo, Manager of Risk Management Services, MIABC

Risk management is critical to the accomplishment of the goals and objectives set out in the strategic plans for each community. It is also crucial for effective decision making. In this session, Marina will provide an overview of the three emerging risks affecting every local government and discuss practical and sustainable strategies elected officials should know about to help their local governments successfully plan for, prevent, and manage these risks.

2. Connecting in Crisis: Improving Local Mental Health Crisis Response

*Stacy Ashton, Chair of the BC Crisis Line Network and Executive Director, Crisis Centre of BC
Natalie Hake, Director for Crisis Services and Public Education, Canadian Mental Health Association for the Kootenays*

This interactive session will focus on

- overview of the Mental Health Crisis Care Continuum
- results from our BC-wide survey of local leaders on concerns and preferred solutions for how crisis mental health care management, with a focus on Kootenay & Boundary region responses
- plans to improve access for folks in rural and remote communities in the Kootenays & Boundary regions
- Q&A and small group discussion on opportunities to be stronger together in our approach to crisis mental health care

3:05 – 3:35pm **Concurrent Presentations** *(select one to attend)*

1. KAST: Innovative Opportunities for Rural Entrepreneurship

Melanie Fontaine, Executive Director, Kootenay Association for Science and Technology

Over the last year KAST has focused on renewing energy into the region, delivering exceptional programming focused on inspiring our next generation of innovators, while also supporting our growing and expanding tech entrepreneurs find success in the region. This presentation will outline the collaborative approach taken towards program delivery partnerships and highlight the successful programs of the last year; including the growth of the Venture Accelerator Program, the Kootenay Investment Challenge and the newly launched Youth Entrepreneurship Program.

2. You're Not Alone: How communities can collaborate to implement climate action that meets multiple priorities.

*Jen Grebeldinger, Communications Lead
Maya Chorobik, Director of Climate Leadership
Community Energy Association*

Local governments are already feeling the effects of climate change, and the impacts don't end at local and regional government borders. There is a real opportunity for communities to work together to reduce emissions, prepare for climate impacts, and realize the related social, economic, and environmental benefits. Kootenay regional and municipal governments have a strong track record of successful collaborations that have been replicated and celebrated across BC and other provinces.

This interactive session will apply learnings from existing regional collaborations in the Kootenays and other jurisdictions and demonstrate how to apply them to meet current needs and priorities.

3:35 – 3:50pm Refreshment Break & Trade Show

3:50 – 4:20pm **Concurrent Presentations**

1. Water Supply for Community Climate Adaptation

*Paige Thurston, Program Manager
Wendy Booth, East Kootenay Local Reference Group Coordinator
Living Lakes Canada*

There is a need for increased monitoring of water and climate in our region, to more accurately understand climate impacts, while developing a collective, large-scale effort to prepare communities and industry for change.

(Cont'd) Water Supply for Community Climate Adaptation

This presentation will provide an overview of projected climate impacts in our region; the uncertainties that these impacts pose to local communities, ecosystems, and economies; and the data required for climate adaptation strategies at the local and regional levels.

The Columbia Basin Water Monitoring Framework offers a solution to the need for more information about water resources in our region. This is a collaborative approach that Living Lakes Canada is leading to build a coordinated water monitoring network in the region to track climate impacts on water supply.

The presentation will introduce the information and resources that are available to local decision makers through the Columbia Basin Water Hub open-source database. The process of contributing resources to this database will also be introduced.

2. (SESSION CONTINUED)

You're Not Alone: How communities can collaborate to implement climate action that meets multiple priorities.

*Jen Grebeldinger, Communications Lead
Maya Chorobik, Director of Climate Leadership
Community Energy Association*

4:25 – 5:30pm Plenary Presentation

The Leadership Mindset

Christina Benty, Lead Consultant, Strategic Leadership Solutions

Brave, bold, and whole hearted leaders make better decisions. To build a resilient and sustainable future for our communities, decision-makers should not be driven by a desire to avoid public backlash, but by a commitment to make the right decisions for the community as a whole and future generations. To embody this brave, bold model of decisions making, the world needs politicians with a leadership mindset. What is a leadership mindset and why does it matter? This workshop will explore the difference between a leadership mindset vs a political mindset, and the strategies to move the needle toward a sustainable future.

6:00pm Taxi shuttle service from front of Prestige Rocky Mountain Resort to reception begins

**6:00 - 7:30pm Welcome Reception at Encore Brewing
1400 4th Street North, Cranbrook**

See details on page 10

Saturday, April 22nd

7:00 – 8:00am Breakfast

8:00 – 5:10pm Trade Show

8:00 – 8:30am **AKBLG AGM**

8:30 – 10:30am **AKBLG Business Meeting** Keith Page, President

- Introduction of Executive | AGM Business Meeting | Life Membership Inductees
- Nominations for Executive Accepted
- Resolutions begin

10:30 – 11:00am Refreshment Break & Trade Show

11:00 – 11:50am **Plenary Presentation**

Canada Community Building Fund Renewal

Glen Brown, General Manager, Victoria Operations

Brant Felker, CCBF Manager

Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM)

The current 10-year Canada Community-Building Fund program – which includes the Community Works Fund and Strategic Priorities Fund programs – is set to expire in March 2024. UBCM, as the administrator of the program in BC will be engaging with local governments in advance of renegotiating a long-term renewed agreement with the Government of Canada and the Province of BC. This session will provide delegates with an overview of the CCBF program and provide an update on the current status of renegotiations, including seeking input on elements of future programming that would best serve local communities in BC.

The session will also review a survey UBCM has launched requesting feedback on the CCBF program.

11:50am – 1:00pm Trade Show

11:50am – 1:00pm Buffet lunch

1:00 – 2:10pm **Plenary Presentation**

Courageous Dialogues: Changing the Dance of Polarization

Jayme Jones, Researcher

Leeza Perehudoff, Research Intern

Selkirk Innovates at Selkirk College

Polarization is a complex social dynamic that occurs when issues that involve many different people are reduced to two opposing sides – ‘for or against’ or ‘us versus them.’ Polarization typically involves an over-simplification of complex social and political problems and the divergence and hardening of beliefs. It leads to painful divisions that are hard to overcome. Selkirk College is conducting a three-year applied research project aimed at helping people in our communities build the skills and confidence to work with others in their spheres of influence to reduce polarization. This engaging presentation will share research findings, including what

drives polarization; consequences of polarization; and the capacities, skills, and tools to navigate polarization.

2:15 – 2:55pm Concurrent Presentations *(select one to attend)*

1. Partnerships in the Kootenays

Juliet Craig, Program Manager, Kootenay Conservation Program

Over the last 20 years, KCP has worked with local and provincial governments, Indigenous communities, stewardship organizations, industry groups and land trusts to make strides in the local conservation community. Accomplishments of this collaborative approach include: 1) development and expansion of Local Conservation Funds, supporting over 150 local projects in the Columbia Valley and Kootenay Lake areas; 2) bringing together 32 partners across four wildlife corridors for Kootenay Connect, coordinating projects that help protect 32 federally-listed species at risk and 40 federally-listed species of special concern; 3) promoting voluntary private land stewardship by developing a “Stewardship Solutions Toolkit”; 4) hosting 8 Conservation Action Forums that bring together diverse perspectives to identify high priority conservation actions in subregions of the Kootenays; and 5) working with land trusts to conserve 82,679 hectares of private land (through acquiring 57 properties) across the Kootenays.

This presentation will provide a summary of these milestones and look forward to the next 20 years of conservation and how KCP can continue to work with local governments to support and maintain biodiversity and healthy ecosystems in the Kootenays.

2. Can Homelessness Be Solved?

James Yardley, Partner, Lidstone & Company

Local governments are facing what seems to be a never ending and constantly changing series of challenges in dealing with the impacts of homelessness, addiction and mental illness in their communities. Among the challenges faced are inadequate resources, gaps and uncertainties in jurisdictional responsibility, and a sense that no one either knows how to address these issues or is able to do so. This presentation will discuss approaches available to local governments for addressing these matters, including those areas where limits, liabilities, and opportunities exist.

2:55 – 3:05pm Refreshment Break & Trade Show

3:05 – 3:15pm UBCM President’s Address

Councillor Jen Ford, Resort Municipality of Whistler / President, UBCM

3:15 – 4:30pm Keynote Presentation

FOSTERING SOCIAL COHESION: A Cornerstone of Civic Leadership

Diane Kalen-Sukra, Founder, Kalen Academy

Toxic culture and divisiveness in our communities is eroding our sense of belonging, community and well-being. Our capacity to collaborate and innovate together is also being undermined by the rising incivility. We need each other to address the complex challenges facing our cities and communities. In order to thrive, our local democracies depend on our ability to revive the art of living and working together.

Civic leaders have a vital and unique role to play in fostering community and civic culture that supports good governance and sustainable community building.

4:30 – 5:30pm Trade Show/Free Time

6:00 – 6:30pm Taxi shuttle to Banquet (Cranbrook History Centre, 57 Van Horne St)
5 minute walk/400m distance

6:00 – 7:00pm Cocktail Reception (Cranbrook History Centre, Royal Alexandra Hall)

7:00 – 8:30pm Banquet Dinner (Cranbrook History Centre, Royal Alexandra Hall)

8:30pm Evening Entertainment in the City of Cranbrook
See pages 11 - 12 for details

Sunday, April 23rd

7:45 – 8:45 am Breakfast + Address from the Honourable Anne Kang, MLA, Minister of Municipal Affairs

8:30 – 9:15am **Keynote Presentation**

Economic Reconciliation, Canada's Competitive Edge

Jean Paul (JP) Gladu, Principal, Mokwateh

In his keynote, JP Gladu emphasizes the principle of "Stronger Together" through Economic Reconciliation. With 30 years of experience working across sectors and with Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations globally, he asserts that Economic Reconciliation is critical for maintaining Canada's competitiveness. Gladu highlights the importance of collective action for the benefit of all Canadians and future generations, recognizing the significance of the Indigenous place in the country. He affirms that there is a shared belief in the possibility of a better future and emphasizes the urgency of taking action.

9:20 – 10:05am **Plenary Presentation**

Accessibility Committees and Strategies – Part 3 of the Accessible BC Act

Helaine Boyd, Executive Director

Dr. Mike Prescott, Project Manager, Accessible Organizations Project

Disability Alliance BC

Considering nearly one-quarter of British Columbians have a disability and the Accessibility BC Act requires accessibility committees and plans to be created, it is essential that all elected officials understand the letter and spirit of the law.

The presentation is an opportunity for elected officials to think strategically about accessibility and inclusion in their community and the region as a whole. We will highlight best practices for collaborating with people with disabilities and developing accessibility plans.

10:05 – 10:20am Refreshment Break + Hotel Check Out

10:20am – 12:00pm **AKBLG Business meeting continued**

Speeches – TWO minutes each / Nominees for Executive positions

- AKBLG Elections
- AKBLG Resolutions continued

12:00 – 12:05pm Election Results

12:05 – 12:30pm **Convention Closing**

- Evaluations with clickers
- 2024 Host Community Invite & Showcase
 - Friday, April 19 – Sunday, April 21, 2024
- Keith Page, President AKBLG Closing Remarks
- Conclusion of Convention