



# HIGH GROUND COMMUNITIES FOR ALL

## Agenda



### FRIDAY, MARCH 23

**PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS:** **Cutting Through the Clutter: Skills for Great Communication** (9 am to 11:30 am, Cypress Room)  
**Women in Leadership Dialogue** (11:30 am to 12:30 pm, Seymour Room)

1 – 2:30 pm	<b>CONFERENCE OPENING:</b> Welcome Remarks from Minister Selina Robinson; Plenary: Perspectives on Public Education with Minister Rob Fleming (Ballroom A)			
2:45 – 4 pm	Ballroom B	Grouse Room	Cypress Room	Conoe Room
	Healthy Communities	The Cost of Sprawl	Serving Special Needs Students	Building an Engaging Campaign
4 – 4:30 pm	NETWORKING BREAK (Third Floor Foyer)			
4:30 – 5:45 pm	Ballroom B	Grouse Room	Cypress Room	Conoe Room
	Pathways to Affordable Housing	100% Renewable Cities	Building Community Beyond School Walls	Building an Engaging Campaign – Advanced
6:15 pm	<b>RECEPTION</b> (6:15 pm, Third Floor Foyer) <b>DINNER</b> (7 pm, Ballroom A) <b>Sponsor: Vancity</b>			
8 pm	<b>PECHA KUCHA STYLE!</b> (Ballroom A)			

### SATURDAY, MARCH 24

from 7 am	BREAKFAST BUFFET (Ballroom A) Sponsor: BCGEU			
7:45 am	BREAKFAST DIALOGUE ON ELECTORAL TRANSFORMATION: Inside Projet Montreal Fireside Chat; BC's Voting system Referendum: Why it Matters for Local Government (Ballroom A)			
9:15 – 10:30 am	Ballroom B	Grouse Room	Seymour Room	Conoe Room
	Saving Lives and Ending Homelessness	Tools for Climate Action	Schools and Sustainability Leadership	Using Social Media Effectively
10:30 – 11 am	NETWORKING BREAK (Third Floor Foyer)			
11 – noon	EMERGING ISSUES (Ballroom A)			
noon – 1:30 pm	CLIMATE ACTION LUNCH with Minister George Heyman and Skidegate Band Councillors (Ballroom A) Sponsor: UFCW1518			
1:30 – 2:45 pm	Ballroom B	Grouse Room		Seymour Room
	Design Decisions	A Problem Like Plastics		Making a Difference
2:45 – 3:30 pm	CLOSING PLENARY (Ballroom A)			

MARCH 23 + 24, 2018 | COAST COAL HARBOUR HOTEL, VANCOUVER

# HIGH GROUND: COMMUNITIES FOR ALL

## PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS

### FILM PREMIERE: WOMEN BENDING THE CURVE

Thursday, March 22, 6:30 to 9 pm

On the occasion of High Ground 2018, we are pleased to present the first public screening of the documentary "Women Bending the Curve on Climate Change." Set in the context of the Paris climate change agreements, the new film tells the stories of climate change leaders from Canada's West Coast working in renewable energy, city government, energy conservation, community engagement, sustainable food, finance and indigenous land stewardship. Their inspiring stories explore how climate science, meaningful action and women's collaborative leadership intersect to bend the curve on climate change.

### SQUAMISH SUSTAINABILITY TOUR

Thursday, March 22, 9 am to 5 pm

Join us on a tour that will guide us through the lessons learned as Squamish moves from a forestry-based economy to a diversified one hardwired for adventure. In the end, you'll not only take away inspiring ideas from the story of its economic transformation, but also insight into the planning process that underpinned it.

### CUTTING THROUGH THE CLUTTER – SKILLS FOR GREAT COMMUNICATION / Cypress Room

Friday, March 23, 9 to 11:30 am

Being a good communicator is an essential skill for elected leaders, but how do you cut through the clutter to get your message heard? It takes planning, skills and follow-through to get your message out successfully and repeated accurately. This intensive skills workshop will cover the basics of good communication in both conventional and social media. It will also include on-camera practice and review.

### WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE / Seymour Room

Friday, March 23, 11:30 am to 12:30 pm

Women's voices remain underrepresented in public policy debates, in mainstream media, and at elected tables. Women candidates are still in the minority. Gendered ways of communicating can shape how people hear what women have to say. Women often struggle with self-confidence or shy away from being public experts or leaders. Intersecting oppressions based on race, culture, sexuality, gender identity, body and ability heighten these challenges. When it is about advocating for progressive social change, it gets just that much harder. This is a space for sharing experiences and to help one another to be more confident, visible and effective public communicators.

## OPENING PLENARY Friday 1 – 2:30 pm



With Welcome  
Remarks from  
Selina Robinson, Minister of  
Municipal Affairs and Housing

## Perspectives on Public Education

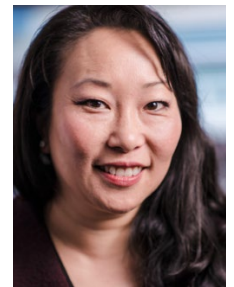
Public education is a powerful force for inclusion, equity and our transitioning economy. A vibrant panel of education partners, including BC's Minister of Education, hold forth on a core topic for communities of all sizes. / Ballroom A



ROB FLEMING,  
Minister of Education



KATHARINE SHIPLEY,  
President, VSTA



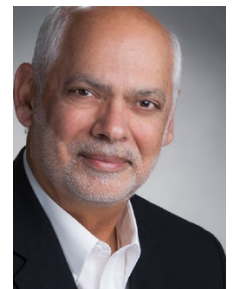
JEN MEZEI,  
President, BCCPAC



STEPHANIE HIGGINSON,  
Vice President, BCSTA



REYNA VILLASIN,  
Fresh Voices



PAUL SHAKER, Moderator,  
Professor Emeritus, SFU

Join the High Ground  
forum conversation  
on Twitter:  
**#HighGround2018**



## FRIDAY WORKSHOPS

### FRIDAY EARLY AFTERNOON 2:45 – 4 pm

#### HEALTHY COMMUNITIES / Ballroom B

“Healthy lifestyles. A vibrant economy. Affordable housing. Protected parks and green space. Accessible community services. Thriving neighbourhoods. Clean air and water. A sustainable environment. Ethnic and cultural diversity. Healthy public policy. Engaged citizens. A healthy community is all of this, and more.” – BC Healthy Communities. **VICTORIA BARR, KERRI WALL, DEAN MURDOCK**  
Moderator: **CHEEYING HO**

#### THE COST OF SPRAWL / Grouse Room

Effective climate action means reviewing land use decision making. The sprawling outward expansion of Canadian cities to provide lower-priced houses to growing populations threatens the financial and environmental future of many local authorities. Some of the costs are obvious and include longer commutes by car, higher risk of road accidents, increased fatigue resulting in reduced productivity for businesses, and impaired quality of life and family time. But the most significant costs are capital spending, and an environment that encourages greenhouse gas emissions. All of us bear the cost of suburban sprawl. **DAVE THOMPSON, CHEEYING HO, GARTH FRIZZELL**  
Moderator: **DEVIN CAUSLEY**

#### SERVING SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS / Cypress Room

In the wake of chronic underfunding, supports for children with special needs in the public education system have eroded. BCCPAC surveyed their members about their child's educational experience and 800 parents replied. Services vary broadly from District to District as school boards have stretched their resources. What data do we need? How do we get it and how do we move forward? What feedback is important for decision makers to have? **TRACY HUMPHREYS, RYAN GROUNDWATER, JEN MEZEI, SAMANTHA HUMPHREYS**  
Moderator: **ANNETTE TOTH**

#### BUILDING AN ENGAGING CAMPAIGN – BEGINNER/REFRESHER / Conoe Room

Figuring out where to start on a campaign can feel overwhelming. This workshop will provide simple, straightforward tools to help you identify the necessary elements of a building your messaging, team and engagement with the public. **DENISE MOFFATT, SIAN MADOC-JONES**  
Moderator: **SUSSANNE SKIDMORE**

### FRIDAY LATE AFTERNOON 4:30 – 5:45 pm

#### PATHWAYS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING / Ballroom B

On February 20, the new Government of BC tabled its first budget that included Homes for B.C. A 30-Point Plan for Housing Affordability. This housing plan comprises numerous strategies aimed at stabilizing prices, encouraging affordability in the market and creating new housing for low and middle income renters and buyers. This session will focus on pathways that partner with municipalities and community groups. Participants will learn about how the newly-created Housing Hub at B.C. Housing will lead these initiatives. **PAUL FINCH, THOM ARMSTRONG**  
Moderator: **RONNA-RAE LEONARD**

#### 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY CITIES / Grouse Room

Around the world, cities are committing to 100% renewable energy in heating and in transportation. The State of Hawaii, San Francisco, Copenhagen, and Frankfurt to name a few. In Canada, Vancouver was first, Oxford County in Ontario, and now Victoria, Saanich and Nelson are on their way too. Could this be a path forward? In this workshop, SFU's Renewable Cities Program will speak about why it matters and share some details about the 100% RE Building Blocks Tool Kit, a practical resource for cities considering this path. You'll hear from one of the new kids on the block about why and how they're committing to this ambitious target and you'll hear from the first Canadian leader – Vancouver – on implementation of the city's Renewable City Strategy which commits the city to sourcing 100% of its energy from renewable sources for buildings and the transportation sector by 2050. **KEANE GRUENDING, MATT HORNE, JESSICA LUNN**  
Moderator: **ANNETTE TOTH**

#### BUILDING COMMUNITY BEYOND SCHOOL WALLS / Cypress Room

A sense of belonging has always been an important part of being healthy. And educators know that healthy children are in a much better position to learn. In today's fragmented world, the scope for school boards and schools in social inclusion and building the broader community is deep and important. Take inspiration from these vibrant case studies. **PETER DUBINSKY, RAVI PARMAR, CLIFF BOLDT**  
Moderator: **KEN MELAMED**

#### BUILDING AN ENGAGING CAMPAIGN – ADVANCED COURSE / Conoe Room

Crafting well thought out strategies for outreach, visibility and fundraising is essential to a successful campaign. With changing rules and emerging technology, it's necessary to have a plan. This course will cover the key features of an effective data driven outreach strategy, how to increase your visibility, and fundraising under the new campaign finance rules. **DENISE MOFFATT, SIAN MADOC-JONES**  
Moderator: **SUSSANNE SKIDMORE**

## PECHA KUCHA!

Friday 8 pm

Innovative leadership showcased in fast-paced Pecha Kucha style presentations.



**JULIETTE CUNNINGHAM** –  
Vernon's Diversity  
and Action Plan



**ELA ESRA GUNAD** –  
Lost Votes



**SARINA GERSHER** –  
Saskatoon's Climate  
Action Plan



**GAETAN ROYER** –  
Human Rights Park



**LORI PRATT AND PEARL DEASEY** – Student Voice



**LINDELL SMITH** –  
Mobilizing Voters



**MICHAEL JANZ** –  
Edmonton's School  
and Solar Panels

**SATURDAY MORNING PLENARY** 7:45 – 9 am / Ballroom A

## Breakfast Dialogue on Electoral Transformation

**CRAIG SAUVÉ** was elected last fall as part of the Projet Montreal team, a grassroots party in Montreal that wasn't supposed to win and then resonated deeply with the people of Montreal, sweeping the city's first female mayor into office in fall 2017. Craig joins us for a breakfast dialogue about Projet Montreal. Afterward, we'll hear from **DENNIS PILON**, Associate Professor at York University, about BC's voting system referendum and why it matters for local government.



**CRAIG SAUVÉ**



**DENNIS PILON**

## SATURDAY WORKSHOPS

**SATURDAY MORNING** 9:15 – 10:30 am

**GETTING TO YES: SAVING LIVES AND ENDING HOMELESSNESS** / Ballroom B

Municipalities are struggling with unprecedented rates of homelessness. Every day of delay in creating much-needed housing projects puts the lives and health of homeless residents at risk. When housing projects are proposed, municipal governments are often called upon to balance critical life-safety issues with expressions of opposition to housing and services for people experiencing homelessness in their community. Public concern, often referred to as "Not in My Backyard" or NIMBY opposition, can lead to delay and even outright cancellation of projects needed to bring people indoors and save lives. This workshop will explore how and when municipalities should conduct public consultations in relation to proposed housing and shelter projects. What would a human rights framework for consultation look like and what would it mean for municipalities? How can cities "stigma audit" their bylaws, processes, and input from community members to ensure the progressive realization of human rights for all. **DJ LARKIN, DARCIE BENNETT, MARIANNE ALTO, JACQUELIN PEGG**

Moderator: **ROSS GENTLEMAN**

**TOOLS FOR CLIMATE ACTION** / Grouse Room

You have a local government GHG community reduction target in the official community plan, but the plans on the books aren't going to get your community there. What can be done? As it turns out, plenty. In this session, you'll hear about climate action project funding and programs that can help your community move forward, including BC's new Step Code. Since the heating and cooling of buildings contributes a significant amount of any community's GHG emissions, this is a key strategy and one to take a look at, if it's not already underway. **DALE LITTLEJOHN, ROBYN WARK**

Moderator: **KEN MELAMED**



## SCHOOLS AND SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP: CASE STUDIES TO INSPIRE / Seymour Room

How did School District 46 find the funds to install solar panels in four schools? Why is the Nature Kindergarten program in School District 62 so popular that the District opened a second one in September 2017? How are school districts in Metro Vancouver reinvigorating underutilized space in school yards as outdoor classroom and working with students to grow good food for all? In the age of children's nature deficit, forward looking school districts are taking climate action by conserving energy and supporting program that connect children to our natural world. This workshop will feature three case studies of sustainability leadership in schools during a time of budget challenges. **MARC SCHUTZBANK, LORI PRATT, RAVI PARMAR**  
Moderator: **KEVIN MILLSIP**

## USING SOCIAL MEDIA EFFECTIVELY / Conoe Room

Social media can be a friend or foe! And interactions with other users are not always productive. From Facebook to Twitter, each platform has its own core demographic, idiosyncrasies and ways to engage users. Learn what it takes to stand out, cultivate your audiences and inspire them to action. **NIKKI HILL**  
Moderator: **CHEEYING HO**

## Emerging Issues Saturday 11 am to noon / Ballroom A

A fast-paced plenary that spotlights the latest trends and issues in our communities.



**IRENE LANZINGER,**  
Minimum Wage  
Exceptions



**KEITH REYNOLDS,**  
Public Owner-  
ship of Public  
Services



**LINDELL SMITH,**  
Public Statues  
and What They  
Say About Us



**SETH KLEIN,**  
Taxes!



**TERESA DOWNS,**  
White Privilege  
Campaign

## CLIMATE ACTION LUNCH Saturday, 12:30 pm / Ballroom A

### We've had Paris, now what?



BC Minister of Environment and Climate Strategy **GEORGE HEYMAN** was in Bonn in November at the United Nations Climate Change Conference [COP23]. From his front row centre seat for climate action, the Minister will speak to the urgency of our climate file, the state of global and local climate action, and the potential in transitioning to a low carbon economy. **SKIDEGATE BAND COUNCILLORS** will take the stage to share their story of how solar installation led to energy efficiency upgrades, to jobs in the community and community renewal, showing us all the potential of decarbonizing through local ownership of energy supply.

## SATURDAY AFTERNOON 1:30 – 2:45 pm

### DESIGN DECISIONS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE / Ballroom B

Picture yourself standing on a city street corner. You are absorbing the sounds of people, traffic and the unfamiliar around you. How do you navigate this space, understand where you are and identify where you want to go? Are there signs with street names? Are they nearby and easy to read? Are they located consistently? Are there maps indicating your location and nearby amenities? Now, imagine that you are one of 50,000 Canadians who experience some form of visual limitation, such as complete blindness, or have a visual limitation, such as limited field, low vision or limited depth perception. Imagine this as a metaphor for the many people our communities do not include by virtue of their mere design. Do you think about social inclusion when you're planning for community growth and development? If yes, what tools are you using to ensure that everyone – all ages, all income brackets, all family sizes, all abilities, etc. – is included, socially, economically and politically? How can communities ensure that "wayfinding" is part of city decision making about community design and city programming?  
**AMY LUBIK, DEVIN CAUSLEY**  
Moderator: **SETH KLEIN**

### A PROBLEM LIKE PLASTICS / Grouse Room

More than eight million tons of plastic is dumped into our oceans every year. Estimates are that around fifty percent of plastic is used just once and thrown away. In 2007, Leaf Rapids, Manitoba became the first town in North America to ban single use plastic bags, but progress has been uneven. Momentum is picking up again. Montreal's plastic bag ban went in to effect January 1 this year and, in Victoria, a new by-law will prevent retailers from giving out single use bags on July 1, 2018. Why is it important and why is it so challenging? Hear the inside scoop from Montreal and Victoria about how they're taking action. **ALEXANDRA LAM, CRAIG SAUVÉ, MARIANNE ALTO**  
Moderator: **SUSANNE SKIDMORE**

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE / Seymour Room

As Margaret Mead memorably said: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." We know that's true. In this workshop, you'll hear stories from the front-line. They'll inspire, offer ideas for your leadership toolkit and make you feel encouraged about what's possible. **PATRICIA HEINTZMAN, GLENN POLLOCK, SILAS WHITE, TERESA DOWNS**  
Moderator: **KEVIN MILLSIP**

## Presenters



**MARIANNE ALTO** is a facilitator by trade, active in her community for 25+ years. With university degrees in law and science, she was Coordinator of Victoria's only women's centre, senior analyst in the BC Premier's office, and remains principal in Azimuth Research and Consulting, a firm specializing in organizational change, strategic planning and project management.

An activist legislator first elected to Victoria City Council in 2010, and the Capital Regional District in 2011, she currently facilitates local government portfolios in First Nations reconciliation and shared governance, harm reduction, social enterprise, transit, active transportation, social enterprise, alternative and affordable housing, and poverty reduction. *Saving Lives and Ending Homelessness; A Problem Like Plastics*



**THOM ARMSTRONG** has more than 30 years of experience in the co-operative housing movement, holding leadership positions in Saskatchewan, Ontario and BC. Armstrong is currently the executive director of the Co-operative Housing Federation of BC, COHO Management Services Society, and three Community Land Trusts, all headquartered in Vancouver, BC. He believes that the community housing sector is

uniquely positioned to work with a wide range of stakeholders in BC to develop and steward affordable housing assets for generations to come. *Pathways to Affordable Housing*



**VICTORIA BARR** brings over 20 years' experience supporting Healthy Communities work, helping communities to develop and implement planning strategies that will enhance health and well-being for all. Her work in this area has involved leadership, project management, partnership development, teaching and research in community, school, and local government settings. Victoria has a wealth of

experience working with health authorities, local governments and a wide range of stakeholders to build healthier communities. Victoria holds a Masters in Health Promotion and a PhD in community planning. Victoria is Program Manager at BC Healthy Communities Society, where she oversees the PlanH program. *Healthy Communities*



**DARCIE BENNETT** first joined the Pivot team as a researcher in 2006. Since then, she has held several positions including child welfare campaigner, coordinator of the Jane Doe Legal Network, and campaigns director. In 2014, Darcie moved to Ecojustice, Canada's only national environmental law charity, to serve as the director of communications and marketing. She re-joined the Pivot team in January 2015 as interim

executive director and currently serves as Pivot's director of strategy. Darcie holds a PhD in sociology from UBC. *Saving Lives and Ending Homelessness*



**CLIFF BOLDT** is a career educator, who traded in his chalk for a seat at the school board table. As an activist and resident of Comox Valley for 20 years, Cliff has a long history of community involvement especially with Community Schools. Currently Mr. Boldt is a school trustee in School District 71, Comox Valley where he continues to advocate on behalf of Commu-

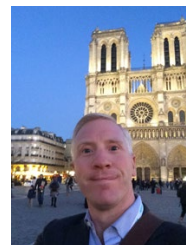
ity Schools. *Building Community Beyond School Walls*



**STUART CARMICHAEL** is the creator of Carbon Caterpillar and a graduate of Systems Design Engineering. Over the past 20 years, he has applied his experience at the intersection of software engineering and aerospace. Stuart has worked on big systems, built large teams and created tools to help people better solve difficult problems. This work extends to ap-

plying his background and knowledge to address climate change in novel ways, such as designing and building an electric wooden cargo bike ridden thousands of kilometers. He is now creating compelling tools for you to track, share and reduce your carbon emissions.

[www.carboncaterpillar.com](http://www.carboncaterpillar.com)



**DEVIN CAUSLEY, RPP** has worked with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities since 2003 where he is responsible for managing and developing programs on climate change, energy and sustainable community planning with the Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program. Devin holds a Master of Applied Environmental Studies in Local Economic

Development and a Bachelor of Environmental Studies in Planning from the University of Waterloo. He has also grown up living with low vision which has given him a deep appreciation for the challenges in navigating environments typically designed for cars. This unique combination of training in planning, exposure to the world and living a life of low vision led to Devin initiating work on designing visually accessible cities in 2014. *Design Decisions*



**JULIETTE CUNNINGHAM** has been a City Councillor in Vernon since 2005. She served as a school trustee from 1995-2005. Currently she is the Vice-chair of the Regional District of the North Okanagan, the Okanagan Basin Water Board and the Columbia Shuswap Regional Hospital District Board. Her focus is social justice and community development particularly

in the area of homelessness, affordable housing and inclusivity. Juliette is a member of the truth and reconciliation journey team and the local Immigration Partnership Council. *Pecha Kucha Style*



**PEARL DEASEY** is currently in her graduating year at Chatelech Secondary in Sechelt, BC. Born and raised on the Sunshine Coast, Pearl is an active participant in her school and community. She has been elected 'Head of Class' by the teachers and students in her graduating year, to the District Student Leadership Team, and as the Student Trustee for School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast). *Pecha Kucha Style*



**TERESA DOWNS** is the Superintendent of Schools for the Gold Trail School District. Teresa completed her practicum in Gold Trail and has stayed in the district since that time. She has been a classroom teacher, Learner Support Teacher, Principal, Director of Instruction and now Superintendent. She is dedicated to the students and families of Gold Trail and to improving the quality of the educational experience for each student with a focus on Indigenous learners for whom the system has disadvantaged. *Emerging Issues, Making a Difference*



**PETER DUBINSKY** has been in the Burnaby School District for 23 years as a teacher, principal and district administrator. He holds a BA from UBC, Education Degree from SFU and an MSc in Educational Leadership from the University of Oregon. Peter's portfolio includes Community Schools, Vulnerable Students, Healthy Communities and Literacy. He is an adjunct staff member at the University of Oregon where he teaches in the Masters of Education program and teaches at SFU in the International Education program. *@pdubinsky Building Community Beyond School Walls*



**PAUL FINCH** was elected Treasurer of the B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union (BCGEU) in May of 2014. The BCGEU is the most diverse labour union in B.C., representing over 74,000 members at 550 different employers and government ministries. As Treasurer, Paul works closely with the President of the BCGEU and serves as the Union's Chief Financial and Administrative Officer. He serves as the Plan Partner for the BCGEU and as a Trustee for the BC Public Service Pension, and as Chair of the Board of Trustees for the BC Target Benefit Pension Plan. *Pathways to Affordable Housing*



**ROB FLEMING** is the Minister of Education. Prior to his election as an MLA, Rob served two terms as a Victoria City Councilor. He chaired the city's finance committee and represented Victoria at the Capital Regional District, the Victoria Regional Transit Commission, the Capital Region Housing Corporation and Tourism Victoria. As a City Councillor, Rob was a leading advocate for public transit and affordable housing. He was instrumental in the creation of the Capital Region's Affordable Housing Trust and the region's transportation plan. *Perspectives on Public Education*



**GARTH FRIZZELL** was elected to Prince George City Council in 2008. He was re-elected in 2011 and 2014. Since being elected, Garth has contributed countless hours, and been elected nine times to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). In 2013, these contributions earned him the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. In June 2017, Garth became the first Councillor from Prince George to be elected 3rd Vice President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). He is currently (2018) serving as FCM's 2nd Vice President. *The Cost of Sprawl*



**SARINA GERSHER** is a Saskatoon City Councillor on Treaty 6 Territory and the Traditional Homeland of the Métis. Sarina can be seen volunteering at a number of events and for a variety of causes. She is a proud University of Saskatchewan graduate and GIS Analyst. Sarina is an avid cyclist, transit user and soccer enthusiast. She brings her enthusiasm and fresh ideas about how Saskatoon can remain inclusive, safe and sustainable for people of all generations and abilities. *Pecha Kucha Style*



**RYAN GROUNDWATER** is finishing up his third term as the President of CUPE 728 Surrey Schools Support Workers, upholding the collective bargaining rights of over 4000 union members. He is currently working for CUPE National on staff as the Local Government Liaison where he assists locals in reaching out and building better relations with their local politicians. Ryan has also served on CUPE Committees at the provincial and national levels. *Serving Special Needs Students*



**KEANE GRUENDING** is the Communications Manager for the Renewable Cities program at the SFU Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue, which envisions cities powered by 100% renewable energy. As part of the founding staff team, Keane is responsible for strategic and operational communications and convening dialogues. Keane has an interest in zero-emissions urban mobility, multimodal transport, people-centred urban design, cycling, and shared mobility. Keane holds a Masters of Science in Environment & International Development from the University of East Anglia. *@keagru 100% Renewable Cities*



**ELA ESRA GUNAD** was born and raised in Turkey and has called Vancouver home since 2012. She is a human rights and social justice advocate who believes the power of people and dedicated for creating space for people to make a positive change. Ela worked as an educator, campaigner, strategic partnership lead locally and internationally. She is an adult ally at Fresh Voices (FV) where racialized immigrant and refugee youth engage in dialogue and action to affect policy changes. Last year, FV launched Lost Votes Campaign: [@elagunad](http://freshvoices.ca/lostvotesyvr) *Pecha Kucha Style*



# HIGH GROUND: COMMUNITIES FOR ALL



**PATRICIA HEINTZMAN** grew up in Montreal and spent her university years at Ontario's McMaster University where she received a BA in History. Patricia continued her studies and graduated from Sheridan College with a diploma in Photo-journalism. She has spent most of her career in the publishing world as a journalist, editor, publisher, photographer, graphic designer

and freelance writer. Patricia took part in the Leadership Sea to Sky program and was instrumental in the Squamish Humanity Village Project. Patricia is the Mayor of the District of Squamish. [@pheintzman](#)  
*Pre-Conference Squamish Sustainability Tour, Making a Difference*



**GEORGE HEYMAN** was elected as the MLA for Vancouver-Fairview in 2013, and re-elected in 2017. He is the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. George was the executive director of Sierra Club BC, one of the province's oldest environmental advocacy and education organizations. He also served three terms as president of the BC Government and

Service Employees' Union (BCGEU). George is a passionate advocate for issues facing his constituents, including education, health care, the arts, child care, workers' rights, transit, affordable housing, environmental responsibility and climate action. He also advocates for a more sustainable, modern and diverse economy. *Climate Action*



**STEPHANIE HIGGINSON** is a trustee in SD68 [Nanaimo/Ladysmith] where she is Vice Chairperson of the Board. Stephanie is excited to bring her love for public education and advocacy to the BCSTA Board of Directors as vice-president. Stephanie is a former high school teacher from Ontario and educational researcher with an MA in Educational Studies. Her areas of interest

in education are vast and broad. They include but are not limited to issues of equity in education, collaborative inquiry in teacher professional development, issues surrounding rural education in BC and nature based education. Stephanie's passion for public education is deeply personal as she is mom to two young school aged children participating BC's public education system. *Perspectives on Public Education*



**NIKKI HILL** is a public engagement and campaign expert with over 20 years of experience in politics, strategic communications and government relations. Currently a Principal at Earncliffe Strategy Group, Nikki's previous roles include Director of Labour Participation at United Way of the Lower Mainland, Executive Director for the Canadian Parks and Wilderness

Society BC Chapter and Director of Organization for the BC NDP. Her interest in public engagement, digital campaigns and organizational management helps her stay up to date on emerging campaign trends. [@hillnikki](#) *Using Social Media Effectively; Women in Leadership Dialogue*



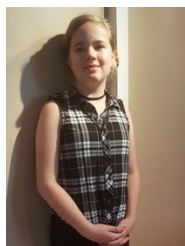
**CHEEYING HO** is the executive director of the Whistler Centre for Sustainability, and has over 20 years of experience in community planning, engagement and sustainability. She provides strategy, creative process design, facilitation and engagement for local governments, private sector clients, and non-profit organizations. She created and launched the Social Venture Challenge program, designed to inspire and

support entrepreneurs with the development of new social enterprises. Prior to her role at the Centre, CheeYing was the Executive Director of Smart Growth BC, the leading province-wide non-governmental organization advancing sustainable land use and development. *The Cost of Sprawl*



**MATT HORNE** is the City of Vancouver's climate policy manager. He is responsible for delivering on the City's commitment to have 100% of the energy used in Vancouver come from renewable sources by 2050. He also advises senior management, and mayor and council on climate change policy issues. Prior to joining the City, Matt worked for the Pembina Institute helping to advance climate change policy in

B.C. and across Canada. He has a Master of Resource Management degree from Simon Fraser University, and a Bachelor of Industrial Engineering degree from Dalhousie University. *100% Renewable Cities*



**SAMANTHA HUMPHREYS** is a student in grade six who looks forward to sharing her experiences as a student with exceptional learning needs. She is interested in art, graphic novels and engineering. Samantha runs the diversity club at her school and she's a big fan of social justice. *Serving Special Needs Students*



**TRACY HUMPHREYS** is founder of BCEdAccess, a grassroots organization of parents of students with special needs from all over the province. She is also the Chief Operating Officer of CareQuadrant, an e-learning company offering continuing professional development around issues such as advocacy and inclusive language. Tracy organizes an annual advocacy conference for parents, and she is a parent to three children with autism. *Serving Special Needs Students*



**MICHAEL JANZ** has served as an elected public school board trustee for public schools in Edmonton for three terms, beginning in 2010. He is also a father of a future EPSB student and has been proud to serve his community in several other capacities, including President of the University of Alberta Students' Union, and Manager with Boys and Girls Club Big Brothers Big Sisters Edmonton. Michael has

a Masters in Education Policy Studies from the University of Alberta and was included in *Avenue Magazine's* "Top 40 Under 40" list. [@michaeljanz](#)  
*Pecha Kucha Style*





**SETH KLEIN** is the BC Director of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, a public policy research institute committed to social, economic and environmental justice. He has been a social activist for over 30 years. Under his direction, CCPA-BC has grown to 14 employees, and publishes regular research reports on topics such as poverty and inequality, taxes, climate justice, and health care. He is a co-founder of Next Up, a leadership training program for young people committed to social and environmental justice. Seth served for eight years as co-chair of the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition, and is on the Advisory Committee of the Metro Vancouver Living Wage for Families campaign. [@SethDKlein](#) *Emerging Issues*



**ALEXANDRA LAM** is the Partnership Lead for the Vancouver chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, a global not-for-profit environmental organization that works to preserve the world's oceans, waves and beaches. A graduate of UBC, Alexandra has marketing experience in executive education, social media, and health and wellness retail. As Partnership Lead for Surfrider Vancouver, Alexandra works with local interest groups as well as businesses and brands to support beach clean-ups and environmental campaigns within Vancouver. *A Problem Like Plastics*



**IRENE LANZINGER** was elected as President of the BC Federation of Labour in 2014. Previous to holding the position of President, Irene served as the Secretary Treasurer from 2010 to 2014. Irene is a long-time union activist and teacher. She began her teaching career in 1978 and taught in Abbotsford and Vancouver. She also traveled overseas and taught in Japan and Saudi

Arabia. Irene was very active in the BC Teachers' Federation serving as President of the Vancouver Secondary Teachers' Association, as a negotiator on provincial bargaining teams and as Vice-President and President of the BCTF. Irene served as an Officer of the BC Federation of Labour from 2007 to 2010. She is the first teacher to assume the top post in a provincial federation of labour. [@ilanzinger](#) *Emerging Issues*



**DJ LARKIN** was drawn to a career in law by her belief in the law's power to build a more just society. DJ has been a litigator with BC Regional Office of the Department of Justice, has worked as a prisoners' rights advocate and lawyer with Prisoners' Legal Services, and is now a staff lawyer and strategic research coordinator with the Pivot Legal Society. At Pivot her practice has

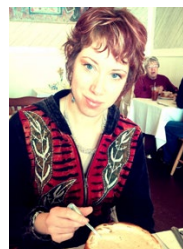
focused on litigating and researching the criminalization of homelessness and poverty, defending the rights of people who are marginally housed, or homeless and living in public spaces. Over the past year she has coordinated Project Inclusion, a strategic research project grounding Pivot's work in communities around BC. *Saving Lives and Ending Homelessness*



**RONNA-RAE LEONARD** has lived in the Comox Valley for 28 years and has been a dedicated advocate for families, seniors and the environment throughout her career. She was a Courtenay councillor from 2005-2014, where she organized and led both the Comox Valley Cycling and Housing Task Forces. She was elected to the Executive of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities, and chaired the Vancouver Island Regional Library Board. She has worked for non-profits as an environmental researcher, educator and project manager. Ronna-Rae was elected as the MLA for Courtenay-Comox in 2017. [@ronna-raeleonard](#) *Pathways to Affordable Housing (moderator)*



**DALE LITTLEJOHN** leads 13 professionals as Executive Director for the Community Energy Association (CEA). Dale is a senior advisor to municipalities developing and implementing plans to save energy, emissions, and money in their operations and communities. Dale anticipates emerging directions then designs the research, education, and outreach to support local governments. Prior to joining the Community Energy Association, Dale was a Senior Manager in the consulting practice of Deloitte where he led strategy, IT and sustainability projects globally. [@bc\\_cea](#) *Tools for Climate Action*



**AMY LUBIK** holds a PhD in cancer research, and works for the BC Centre for Disease Control as an Environmental Health and Knowledge Translation Scientist. Her focus is on how the built environment can influence health and equity, focusing on the mental health impacts of social isolation, as well as municipal resilience to climate change, particularly extreme heat. She is also member for the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, and the Public Health Association of BC. [@amy\\_lubik](#) *Design Decisions*



**HELESIA LUKE** is a public interest communications and strategic planning specialist with over 20 years of experience working with communities on some of the most pressing public interest issues, including climate change, poverty, homelessness and public education. Prior to joining the Columbia team, Helesia ran her own consultancy and before that worked as a consultant at Canada's only not-for-profit communications centre – the Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society (IMPACS). [@helesialuke](#) *Cutting through the Clutter – Skills for Great Communication*



**JESSICA LUNN** served two terms as Councillor for the Village of Slocan before being elected as Mayor in November 2014. She also serves as Director for the Regional District of Central Kootenay. Jessica has strong roots in the Kootenay region, having grown up in the Slocan Valley. She is passionate about working with her beautiful mountain village as it transitions from a single industry town into a healthy,

# HIGH GROUND: COMMUNITIES FOR ALL

diversified and sustainable future. Jessica holds a BA in Communications (SFU) and is working towards a certificate in public administration through the University of Victoria. [@kootenayjess](#) *%100 Renewable Cities*



**SIAN MADOC-JONES** is a proud politically active feminist, fundraiser and community organizer. She has more than a decade of experience in political campaigning for the BC and Federal NDP, as well as with progressive municipal candidates. Sian holds an M.A. in Public Policy from Concordia University and works as a Campaign Manager/Fundraiser for United Way of the Lower Main-

land. She is a lover of bikes, hikes and any nerdy podcast she can get her hands on. [@sianmj](#) *Building an Engaging Campaign – Beginners/Refresher and Advanced*



**SHEILA MALCOLMSON**, the MP for Nanaimo—Ladysmith, is the NDP Critic for Women's Equality and Federal NDP BC Caucus Chair. With a passion for environmental advocacy and a degree in Environmental and Resource Studies, she was previously the elected Chair of the Islands Trust Council and has been a policy analyst for a number of non-governmental organizations.

She has championed the issue of abandoned vessels, gender equality on federally regulated boards and brings together people of different backgrounds to achieve pay equity, universal affordable childcare, and to end violence against women. *Women in Leadership Dialogue*



**JEN MEZEI** is the President of the BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils, the collective voice of parents in the BC public education system. A parent of children with diverse learning needs, Jen is a dedicated advocate for meaningful parent input and equitable access, supports and services for students. Jen has been involved with PAC and DPACs for more than a decade.

She also chaired the Burnaby District Parent Advisory Council for five years. [@jenmezei](#) *Perspectives on Public Education, Serving Special Needs Students*



**DENISE MOFFATT** lives and works in the unceded territory of the Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh and Squamish First Nations, known as East Vancouver. Denise is the Director of Campaigns and Young Workers at the BC Federation of Labour, her areas of responsibility include the Fight for \$15 campaign, the Young Workers' School and the Federation's new Workers' Action Centre project. Denise has

worked on a number of political campaigns for progressive candidates at the municipal, provincial and federal level. Outside of work she enjoys playing tennis, seeing live music, working in her garden and camping. [@denisemoffatt](#) *Building an Engaging Campaign – Beginners/Refresher and Advanced*



**DEAN MURDOCK** manages the Healthy Communities portfolio for the Ministry of Health's Healthy Living and Health Promotion Branch. He's a champion for health-promoting community policies and programs in areas like active transportation, social connectedness and healthy built environments. In addition to his role at the Ministry, Dean is a municipal Councillor for the District of Saanich,

where he's served three terms. Outside of work, you'll find him running, cycling, playing guitar, and visiting local playgrounds with his two children. *Healthy Communities*



**RAVI PARMAR** is an elected School Trustee and Chairperson of the Sooke School District Board of Education. Prior to his election as a Trustee, Ravi was a student activist, advocating for the building of two new high schools in the Westshore, a group of communities close to Victoria, BC. Ravi is currently finishing his undergraduate degree in Political Science and Public Administration at

the University of Victoria. A staunch advocate for the public education system, Ravi remembers what it was like in BC schools and brings this knowledge to his role in the Board of Education. [@rparmarsd62](#) *Building Community Beyond School Walls; Schools and Sustainability Leadership*



**JACQUELIN PEGG** leads OHRC inquiries and researches issues of systemic discrimination in areas such as affordable housing, accessible transit, sexual harassment in employment, poverty and LGBT issues. She has developed public documents and provided advice to governments on human rights, housing, and planning issues, such as zoning, licensing, and municipal processes

around affordable housing. She has an M.A. in cultural anthropology from Northwestern University, and has been with the OHRC since 2003. [@OntHumanRights](#) [@LaCODP](#) *Saving Lives and Ending Homelessness*



**DENNIS PILON** received his Bachelor (Sociology/History) and Masters (History) from Simon Fraser University and his PhD from York University (Politics). In 2005/06 he was the Canada Research Chair Postdoctoral Fellow in Canadian Studies at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario. From 2006 to 2011 he was an Assistant Professor in the Political Science Department at the University of Victoria. In 2011 he was hired as an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at York. *BC's Voting System Referendum: Why it Matters for Local Government*



**GLENN POLLOCK** is probably best known in Port Coquitlam for his many years playing and coaching lacrosse, coaching hockey and supporting local sport. A resident of Port Coquitlam since 1982, Glenn grew up in Trail and developed an interest in broadcast journalism. He later earned a degree



in broadcast journalism from BCIT, but ultimately chose a career with the schedule and stability that suited his roles of dedicated father and community volunteer. After being employed with Safeway for 30+ years in shipping and receiving, he now serves as an aide to a provincial MLA.

*Making a Difference*



**LORI PRATT** was first elected as a trustee to the Board of Education of School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) in 2008 and acclaimed in 2011 and 2014. Lori was elected as Chair of the board in December 2017 and previously served as Vice-Chair for five years. Lori has always felt that it is important to be involved in her children's schooling and hopes that she can encourage more

parents to take an active role in their children's educational journeys.

@LoriAnnPratt *Pecha Kucha Style; Schools and Sustainability Leadership*



**KEITH REYNOLDS** is a policy analyst who has worked at all three levels of government, for two public sector unions and as a private consultant. His work has been deeply focused on municipal services and finance, on broader issues related to privatization and on government transparency. Keith has authored presentations for a wide range of organizations, including fact-finding missions

for the United Nations Economic Commission. Keith was the lead author on Columbia Institute's report "Back In House: Why Local Governments Are Bringing Services Home" and most recently, "Canada Infrastructure Bank and the Public's Right to Know." @kreyolds118 *Emerging Issues*



**SELINA ROBINSON** was elected as the MLA for Coquitlam-Maillardville in 2013 and re-elected in 2017. She is the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Selina served as the Official Opposition spokesperson for mental health and addictions, seniors, local government and sports. As a former city councillor, Selina advocated for the rights of taxpayers, fought to protect the

health of children and families by introducing a local ban on cosmetic pesticides, and worked to improve access for people with disabilities as chair of the Coquitlam Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee.

@selinarobinson *Opening Plenary*



**GAETAN ROYER'S** love of everything urban brought him to hundreds of cities in 30 countries. An urban planner originally from Québec City, he received a Governor General's Medal for his humanitarian work in Sarajevo. During his time as City Manager in Port Moody, the city received numerous awards including the International Livable Communities Award. The author of "Time for Cities," a book about

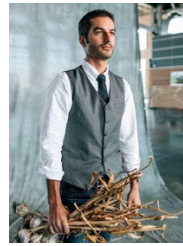
getting a better deal for cities, he is also an Associate with the Columbia Institute who contributed to several reports. He is the CEO of CityState Consulting. @PortMoodyGaetan *Pecha Kucha Style*



**CRAIG SAUVÉ** was first elected as a Montreal city councillor in November 2013 after over a decade of activism in progressive politics and community affairs. Craig was re-elected this past November and was named associate councillor to Montreal's Executive Committee as Councillor responsible for Animal Welfare and Mobility. He was also named Vice-President of Montreal's Public Transit Authority,

la Société de Transport de Montréal. Craig is also Vice-President of the Social Housing committee at the Montreal's Metropolitan Community (CMM).

@CraigSauve *Inside Projet Montreal; A Problem Like Plastics*



**MARC SCHUTZBANK** is the executive director of Fresh Roots, where he works towards Good Food For All by growing educational farms on school grounds. Marc and Fresh Roots has been awarded BC Business' 30 Under 30 and the BC Social Innovation Youth Award. When Marc is not on the farm, you can find him running along the beach or checking out a new recipe. "Give him a carrot, a beet, and a lime; he'll make something so good – it should be a crime!" @freshrootsfarms;

@mhschutzky *Schools and Sustainability Leadership*



**PAUL SHAKER** is a career educator who has served as teacher, teacher educator, and dean in five of the United States, in the Mideast, and in Canada at Simon Fraser University where he is professor emeritus and former dean. Shaker created Friends of Simon, an outreach to immigrant children that provides university students as tutors. He also hosts Your Education Matters a community engagement project supporting BC

education. Shaker is the co-author of *Reclaiming Education for Democracy* and numerous articles. @profpaulshaker *Perspectives on Public Education*



**KATHARINE SHIPLEY** has been teaching in the Vancouver public school system since 2002. Public education is a cornerstone of a pluralistic and democratic society – this is a belief that guides and inspires her union activism and teaching practice. She is currently the President of the Vancouver Secondary Teachers' Association, which, among other things, advocates for a healthy public school system. We

believe that public schools are the place where all children are welcome and from which we can build community. *Perspectives on Public Education*



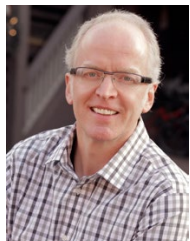
**LINDELL SMITH** is a lifelong resident of North End Halifax. Lindell received the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Education and Community Service and was chosen as one of five Youth Rising Stars for Nova Scotia. He was the first recipient of the Abby Bryant (humanitarian) Award of Excellence, given to a young person who is recognized for outstanding community service, and is a recipient of The Black Business

Initiative's Industry Development Award awarded by the African-Nova Scotian Music Association. In November 2016, Lindell was elected as City



# HIGH GROUND COMMUNITIES FOR ALL

Councillor for District 8 Halifax Peninsula North. @LindellSmithHFX  
*Emerging Issues; Pecha Kucha Style*



**DAVE THOMPSON** is Principal with PolicyLink Research Canada, focusing on environmental and energy issues, and fiscal policy. He has worked for governments, university research institutes, non-profit organizations, businesses and labour organizations. He has degrees in geology, law and economics, and has authored a number of reports on sprawl and urban form, the green economy and green jobs, and just transitions. *The Cost of Sprawl*



**REYNA VILLASIN** migrated to Canada from the Philippines in August 2011. She is currently a third year student at SFU student studying molecular biology and biochemistry with a minor in legal studies and philosophy. She has been a part of Fresh Voices's Youth Advisory Team since 2014 and has facilitated youth migrant programs at ISS of BC and MOSAIC BC since 2014. She has participated as a youth leader from the UNA-Canada Youth as Peacebuilders Forum in 2017 and was one of the young women representing BC for the YWCA Canada Think Big! Lead Now Young Women's National Leadership Program. *Perspectives on Public Education*



**KERRI WALL** is a Community Health Facilitator with Interior Health, working on healthy public policy and planning with local governments and community stakeholders throughout the Kootenay and Boundary regions of the province. Kerri has a Master of Arts in Leadership and Training from Royal Roads University in addition to both mediation and negotiation certificates from JIBC. She is a listed member of both Family Mediation Canada and the International Association of Facilitators. *Healthy Communities*



**ROBYN WARK** is Team Lead of BC Hydro's Sustainable Community program, which runs the Community Energy Manager network in B.C. She sits on numerous boards and committees, including the BC Energy Step Code Council (Vice-Chair), Community Energy Association Board, and QUEST BC (Vice-Chair). Having worked as a consultant, local government planner, and educator, Robyn has a deep understanding of sustainability program design, energy efficiency market trends, and policy and incentive opportunities. *Tools for Climate Action*



**SILAS WHITE** was elected to Gibsons council in 2014 after serving nine years, including six as board chair, at the Sunshine Coast Board of Education. He received his master's degree in public administration from the University of Victoria in 2011 and is a consultant in governance, policy and Indigenous relations at Impact Resolutions. He also publishes and edits books, including *On the Line: A History of the BC Labour Movement* by Rod Mickleburgh, *The Clothesline Swing* by Danny Ramadan and *Surviving City Hall* by Donna Macdonald. @silaswhite *Making a Difference*



**SHERRY YANO** is an engineer with a masters in planning and development. Over the past 20 years, she has worked with private sector and non-governmental organizations in Canada and abroad on diverse cross-sector programs, communications, stakeholder and community engagement, and revenue development – most recently for the Pembina Institute. She is excited to return to the David Suzuki Foundation to lead the Charged Up project in the Science and Policy department. Through Charged Up, the David Suzuki Foundation seeks to work with Canadians across the country to achieve a more equitable, renewable and healthy Canada. *Climate Action*

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