

## CIVIC GOVERNANCE PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Friday, March 27, Pre-Conference Workshops (separate registration)				
8:30 – 11:15 am	<b>Refocusing from reconciliation to decolonization: Gaining truth and trust for reconciliation</b>			
11:30 am – 12:45 pm	<b>How to be an ally</b>			
11:30 am – 12:45 pm	<b>Women in leadership dialogue</b>			
Friday, March 27, Civic Governance Conference				
1:00 – 1:30 pm	<b>INDIGENOUS OPENING AND WELCOME</b> Rhiannon Bennett, David Levi, Sussanne Skidmore			
1:30 – 2:15 pm	<b>PLENARY</b> <b>UNDRIP - From Universal Declaration to Provincial Action</b> Khelsilem Tl'akwasik'ān (Squamish Nation Councillor)			
2:30 – 3:10 pm	<b>IN CONVERSATION</b> Minister Shane Simpson, Social Development and Poverty Reduction			
3:10 – 3:30 pm	<b>COFFEE/TEA BREAK</b>			
	Social & Economic	Social & Economic	Education	Skills
3:30 – 4:45 pm	<b>Tackling anti-poor stigma in your community</b> Viveca Ellis, Phyllis Joseph, Meenakshi Manoe	<b>Cooperative economies</b> Elvy Del Bianco, Jonny Sopotiuik, Ramona Faust, Yvette Wu, Kim Novak	<b>We painted our rainbow crosswalk, now what?</b> Scout Gray, Trevena Spilchen, Donna Sargent, Tiffany Muller Myrdahl	<b>Mobilizing in the digital age with Stratcom</b> Matt Smith, Stephanie Lynn
	Social & Economic	Climate & Enviro	Education	Skills
4:45 – 6:00 pm	<b>Equity, diversity, &amp; inclusion: How to turn a commitment into a reality?</b> Sharmarke Dubow, Elodie Jacquet, TBA	<b>Communities making a commitment to zero waste</b> Ben Geselbracht, Sue Maxwell, TBA	<b>What we're learning on the job</b> Elsie McMurphy, Patti Bacchus, Moyra Baxter, Victoria Martin, Jennifer Reddy (video)	<b>When it comes to governance, how can we make change happen?</b> Paul Finch, Gaetan Royer, TBA
6:00 – 7:00 pm	<b>NETWORKING RECEPTION</b>			
7:00 pm	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>In Conversation with Minister Judy Darcy, Mental Health and Addictions Dinner &amp; Pecha Kucha! Focus on Climate Action (5 max)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderated by Kevin Millsip, Executive Director, BC Libraries Cooperatives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Climate action and youth: students working to save a warming world (Rebecca Hamilton and Lilah Williamson of Sustainabiliteens)</li> <li>2. Collaborative approach to climate action (Kamloops Councillor Arjun Singh)</li> <li>3. Why municipalities need to act on climate (Summerland Mayor Toni Boot)</li> <li>4. Taking a different approach to fighting climate change begins with reducing inequality (Victoria Councillor Sharmarke Dubow)</li> <li>5. TBA</li> </ol>			

## CIVIC GOVERNANCE PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Saturday, March 28, Civic Governance Conference				
7:00 – 8:30 am	<b>BREAKFAST</b>			
8:00 – 9:00 am	<b>PLENARY</b> Public Education (K-12) and Privatization with Sam Abrams (moderated by Paul Shaker)			
9:00 – 9:40 am	<b>IN CONVERSATION</b> Minister Selina Robinson, Municipal Affairs and Housing			
	Social & Economic	Climate & Enviro	Education	Skills
9:40 – 10:55 am	<b>Can we house our residents?</b> Mike Hurley, Christine Boyle, Marika Albert, TBA	<b>Climate change and its impact on health: 101</b> Amy Lubik, Val Avery, TBA	<b>Big lessons from the world's best public school systems (Finland &amp; Sweden)</b> Sam Abrams	<b>How to navigate UBCM/FCM/LMLGA</b> Sav Dhaliwal, Laura Dupont, Raymond Louie
10:55 – 11:15 am	<b>COFFEE/TEA BREAK</b>			
11:15 am – 12:30 pm	<b>PLENARY: Emerging Issues</b> 1. Childcare: what's next in growing the public system across the province (Sharon Gregson) 2. We don't discriminate against disabled people, do we? (Tracy Humphreys & Gabrielle Peters) 3. Finding the tools to spot and fight intolerance in our schools (Jennifer Reddy via video) 4. Vaping: what's going on and what can we do? (Bonita Zarillo) 5. Harm Prevention Model (Dr. Christy Sutherland) 6. How we talk about China in our communities... (Kevin Huang)			
12:30 – 1:30 pm	<b>LUNCH</b> <b>IN CONVERSATION (12:50 to 1:30pm)</b> Minister Scott Fraser, Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation			
1:30 – 3:00 pm	<b>PLENARY: So your community declared a climate emergency, now what?</b> Remarks from George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (TBC) Panel with Cheeying Ho, Christine Boyle, Karen Elliott, Rik Logtenberg, Nadine Nakagawa			
	Social and Economic	Climate & Environment	Skills Building	
3:00 – 4:15 pm	<b>Menstrual equity</b> Anita Ansari, Bonita Zarrillo, Madeleine Shaw, Nikki Hill, TBA	<b>Working session on climate emergency implementation</b> Panelists from above plenary, Seth Klein, Dale Littlejohn	<b>How these electeds pulled it off</b> Megan Dykeman, Mary Lynne Rimer, Gaetan Royer, Arjun Singh	
4:15 – 4:30 pm	<b>CLOSING REMARKS</b>			

**Friday, March 27, 8:30am to 12:30pm**

## PROGRAM THEMES

The themes below will interweave throughout High Ground:

- Moving toward implementation: many key issues in this year's program have politics and policy and are either moving toward implementation and/or mid-way.
- Bridging the urban and rural divide and ensuring that we have representation beyond the Lower Mainland and Victoria corridor in our discussions. Also, moderators can seek to understand how to bridge the divide and work in solidarity on particular issues.
- EDI – the lens through which we view the program at large, each topic, and each session.

## PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

### **Refocusing from Reconciliation to decolonization: gaining truth and trust for reconciliation**

This pre-conference workshop is designed to take participants on a personal journey of decolonization leading to Reconciliation. Learning the true history of these lands, gaining a place-based understanding, and looking at history through an Indigenous lens will allow for self-reflection and a deeper understanding of the ongoing trauma and harm from colonization. By the end, participants will be better able to demonstrate cultural literacy and discover ways to better serve the populations with whom they work. Participants should bring with them an open mind and an open heart to get the most out of what is sure to be an enlightening experience.

*Facilitated by Rhiannon Bennett and Andrea Hilder of Hummingbirds Consulting (confirmed) (\$100 fee, should cover coffee and light breakfast/snacks)*

### **[Good shape, need to advertise] NEW: How to be an Ally**

How can individuals who do not identify as women learn to be better allies for women? (\$10 fee for light lunch)

- Ryan Stewart (SR wrote), Trustee, Burnaby School District (confirmed)

### **Women and leadership**

In the past few years, women have made great progress in electoral politics, being elected to lead their communities, represented in public policy discussions, and balanced in terms of gender representation on councils, in board rooms, and elsewhere. Still, there is a long way to true equality. Now in its fourth year, this workshop will celebrate women's leadership achievements and shed light on the work that still needs to be done. It also offers a space for sharing experiences and providing support. (Last year's description. Needs updating.) (\$10 fee for light lunch)

- Lead: Sussanne Skidmore (confirmed)
- Co-lead: Ela Esra Gunad (confirmed)

## WELCOME

Please call Acknowledgment Indigenous Opening

### IN CONVERSATION

Shane Simpson, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (**confirmed**)

We've developed a poverty reduction plan and put out an RFP. Now what? Now that the deadline for proposals for TogetherBC has passed, what can municipalities do to address income inequality in BC?

Minister Judy Darcy, Mental Health and Addictions (Interviewed by Charley Beresford)

Minister George Heyman, Environment and Climate Change Strategy (Interviewed by Cheeying Ho)

Minister Selina Robinson, Municipal Affairs and Housing

Minister Scott Fraser, Indigenous Relations

### PECHA KUCHA

- Lead: Kevin Millsip
- Presentations
  1. Climate action and youth – students working to save a warming world – Sustainabilityteens (**confirmed**)
  2. Collaborative approach to climate action (Arjun Singh) (**confirmed**)
  3. Why municipalities need to act on climate (Mayor Toni Boot) (**confirmed**)
  4. Taking a different approach to fighting climate change begins with reducing inequality (Climate justice and economic justice (can't have climate justice without recognizing and addressing impact of climate on everyone) (Sharmarke Dubow) (**confirmed**))
  5. Indigenous action around climate (Sharon approached Rhiannon for advice on a speaker.)
  6. Bowinn Ma
  7. ~~Climate action and libraries (case study on engaging different sectors/communities/institutions in climate action – the non-experts and climate activists)~~(~~Kevin Millsip may identify someone~~)

### PLENARIES

- **[GOOD SHAPE] Climate Emergency: So your community declared a climate emergency, now what?** *Now that municipalities across Canada have declared a climate emergency, what does it mean when it comes to actual planning and implementation. In our closing plenary, you'll hear from different communities in British Columbia about how climate emergency is being tackled in real time.*

Opening Remarks from George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

- Minister George Heyman (opening address)
- Moderator: **Cheeying Ho** (**confirmed**)
- Speakers:

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- (1) **Christine Boyle** (Vancouver) (**confirmed**)
  - (2) **Nadine Nakagawa** (7 bold steps they're moving forward with, New West has a taskforce, supports and aligns with reconciliation efforts, Climate Caucus, Equity) from New West and Trustee, have been instrumental in their declarations (both city and district) (**confirmed**)
  - (3) **Karen Elliott Squamish** ([kelliott@squamish.ca](mailto:kelliott@squamish.ca)), (**confirmed**. **Contact her colleague Terry.**)
  - (4) **Rik Logtenberg** ([rlogtenberg@nelson.ca](mailto:rlogtenberg@nelson.ca)) (**confirmed**) from Nelson has started the Climate Caucus, which is a network of elected folks and NGOs working together on climate issues, particularly to share information and push for best practices;
- Criteria is that they passed a resolution and are doing things – 130 communities have passed the resolution, but we want to hear from leaders who have jumped on it and are doing things.
  - Potential question: What about climate leadership for the rest of us? In other words, what can elected be doing to engage people and institutions (e.g. libraries, schools, etc.) in climate action, rather than just the experts and climate activists? What are they bringing in?
  - Victoria Declaration at the Livable Cities conference (what can be done locally). What can be done locally? Statement on Climate Emergency. Incorporates quote from David Foster Wallace.
  - Tom Green of DSF is working on the resource guide, the Citizen's Guide to Municipal Climate Action. The working title for this resource is "So your city declared a climate emergency, now what?" And the goal is to help residents gain a greater understanding of the highest-impact ways that their community can reduce their GHG emissions, and encourages them to work with their elected officials to bring down those emissions together in meaningful ways.
  - If the climate emergency plenary discussion with Cheeying Ho takes place, I think Dale Littlejohn (BC CEA) and Tom (DSF) would make great expert additions to the panel of elected officials. Dale can speak to their fabulous Playbook that helps provide information to elected officials in BC on high-impact ways to reduce emissions, and Tom can speak to DSF's citizen's guide (or resident's guide as you and Christine have kindly flagged) that helps to get residents on the same page and able to collaborate more effectively with their climate-progressive elected officials on municipal climate solutions.
  - Let people know that those resources are there for them. Dale and May could flag the playbook and DSF (3 minutes), national in focus for citizens and residents to act with elected officials. Rik

### 1. **[NOT SO GOOD SHAPE] Reconciliation / UNDRIP**

Now that UNDRIP has been enacted and that Canada has done XXX, what does it mean when it comes to planning and implementation for municipalities. In this plenary, we'll hear from those who are taking the lead in making it happen.

In November, British Columbia became the first province in Canada to pass legislation to uphold the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Hear from Indigenous leaders about what this means when it comes to planning implementation, particularly when it comes to addressing the climate crisis, Indigenous rights, and social and economic inequities.

- Lead: Rhiannon Bennett (**confirmed**)

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- Potential speakers: Minister Scott Fraser (*invited*) or Assistant Deputy Minister (Jessica Wood), Khelsilem (*Confirmed*), Rhiannon Bennett (moderator) (*confirmed*), a young person (*per Ela*)
- Whitney Morrison (Recommended by Sussanne Skidmore) [whitneymorrison@gmail.com](mailto:whitneymorrison@gmail.com)  
(SR wrote her. SS gave her wrong address. Thinking of just having Khelsilem)
- or Doug White, [dougwhite@gmail.com](mailto:dougwhite@gmail.com)

Be careful with this session. Stick to the topic, don't make it so proud that we lose sight of what we're here to talk about – UNDRIP. Big difference in opinions and both sides have legitimate concerns. Don't go too much to one side. Add Nathan Cullen (we thought it would be interesting to have you on the panel, former MP. Laird Cronk could be a great facilitator. Speak with Sussanne.

### 2. **[Good shape] Public Education and Privatization**

Featured address with Sam Abrams (<https://www.tc.columbia.edu/faculty/sa307/>), (*confirmed*)

Sam Abrams of Columbia University's Teacher's College will speak about how the rise of market forces and a commercial mindset in public education (K-12) threatens our values. He'll also speak about what can be done to deal with this challenge and lessons we can adopt from other areas of the world.

### 3. **[FULL] Emerging Issues (6 max, 5 so that there can be Q & A)**

**Moderator: Seth Klein** (*confirmed*)

1. Childcare: what's next in growing the public system (Sharon Gregson) (*confirmed*)
2. We don't discriminate against disabled people...do we? (Tracy Humphreys with Gabrielle Peters) (*confirmed*)
3. Finding the tools to spot and fight intolerance in our schools (Trustee Jennifer Reddy via video) (*confirmed*)
4. Vaping: what's going on and what can we do? Bonita Zarillo (*confirmed*)
5. Opioids: Harm reduction model (Dr. Christine Sutherland of the Portland Hotel Society Health) (*She wants to come*)
6. Talking about China (Kevin Huang, Hua Foundation) Addressing historical racism and moving forward (Hua Foundation) (*confirmed*)
5. Check in with Tracy about Prevalence Model in late February

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC

### **[OK GOOD SHAPE] Tackling Anti-Poor Stigma In Your Community**

Almost two years before High Ground 2019, BC's first poverty reduction strategy, TogetherBC, was released, outlining programs and initiatives that will help reduce overall poverty in the province by 25%, and cut child poverty in half, over the next five years. Now that the deadline for submitting proposals for TogetherBC has passed, what can municipalities do?

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The discussion could cover stigma and municipal bylaws around [poverty, addictions, homelessness/tent cities/vagrancy/drug use] and NIMBYism, alongside the discussion about impactful municipal upstream poverty reduction strategies and pilot projects under the new funding stream

- Lead: Viveca Ellis (**confirmed**)
- Speakers: Shane Simpson (**not sure**), Pivot Society (**confirmed**), **BC Poverty Reduction Coalition** (BCPRC) rep. (**confirmed**) Other?

Pivot Society

A link to the full Project Inclusion report is below, but the most relevant part regarding something very tangible for municipalities and electeds (the report is 160 pages long) is at the back starting on page 120. [http://www.pivotlegal.org/project\\_inclusion\\_full](http://www.pivotlegal.org/project_inclusion_full) The topic they could speak to is this very powerful idea around 'stigma auditing' which they are in the process of developing materials for at this point. Part 3 of the report 'Why a Stigma-Auditing Process Matters for BC' is the most worthy of reading to get a sense of it, it isn't that long. The BCPRC would work with Pivot to develop our presentation as 'in concert' with the Pivot one on the panel.

### 1. **[GOOD SHAPE] Can we house our residents? Ideas to address our housing crisis**

- Lead: Christine Boyle offered to make suggestions and give input.
- Speakers: Mike Hurley, Christine Boyle, Marika Albert, TBA
- Others: Paul Finch (**interested**), Jaimie McEvoy, Concert Properties, Squamish Nation Housing Authority

**Marika Albert, CEO of BCNPHA** (**confirmed**)

How can non-profit housing ease affordability crisis  
Social housing

**Mike Hurley (Mayor of Burnaby, Chair of Metro Van Housing Committee)**  
(**confirmed**)

Protecting rental stock, providing more affordable housing options, slowing the demolition of low-rise apartment buildings and the eviction of their residents in the Metrotown area

Three-point plan to address affordability, including setting up a task force that came back with 18 recommendations, which were then included in a new housing strategy. While the task force did its work and the strategy was developed, there was a pause on development and, by extension, demovictions.

**Christine Boyle (Councillor in Vancouver)** (**confirmed, she may moderate**)

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Land Value Tax offers the City the opportunity to raise funds to pay for social and non-profit housing, community services, and more transit investments  
New secure rental that displaces existing secure & affordable rental.  
New secure rental that replaces private detached market housing.  
Non-market, nonprofit, coop, & social housing (& TMH) everywhere.

### **Tofino Housing Corporation (SR wrote)**

Josie Osborne (Josie is interested but has personal matters to address and will get back to us in beginning of February.)

## 2. **[OK SHAPE] EDI + Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion – What can we do to turn a commitment into a reality?**

- Moderator: UFCW 1518 representative or Sussanne or Sussanne's recommendation
  - Speakers: Ericka Cox, King Country, Seattle (confirmed); Sharmarke Dubow (confirmed), UFCW (SR to speak to person); Engaging diverse voices in decision-making processes (A set of Principles for Inclusion and Equity in Public Engagement)(Wosk)
  - Other: Tracy Humphries, Sadie Kuehn (first black VSB trustee), Jackie Wong (Hua Foundation), Case Study?
  - ~~Climate policy development and social equity (Lisa Brideau, SR wrote, said no)~~
  - Per Lisa and Stephanie – I met with **Stephanie Allen** this morning. Stephanie is a VP at BC Housing and is doing a lot of work around equity and inclusion. She would be a great addition to Higher Ground.
  - Other: Cicely Blaine from SFU Leadership Institute
- For the past year, the Wosk Centre has been conducting extensive research to deepen our understanding of how best to engage diverse voices in decision-making processes. We have developed a set of Principles for Inclusion and Equity in Public Engagement, which have been designed to offer guidance while taking in to consideration the real-world constraints of decision-makers and engagement practitioners. We will be launching our findings in Spring 2020

## ENVIRONMENT / CLIMATE

### 1. **[BAD SHAPE] Climate Change and the Impact on Health**

We want to put together a workshop on climate change and the impact on health (short- and long-term issues) and the role municipalities can play on this issue. We would like to bring in someone from Fort McMurray or Kamloops or another areas that can speak about their own experience – what worked, what didn't, what they would do differently, etc.?

Questions:

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- What role do municipalities play?
- What role does the province play?
- How can a health and social equity lens help the most vulnerable while also nurture sustainable, equitable and inclusive communities? Hospitals overflowing due to forest fires. How are we going to take care of people during the emergencies/crisis?

### Speakers

- Amy Lubik
- Val Avery
- Kamloops
- Fort McMurray
- Minister

*The BC Interior fires of 2017-18 exposed many issues: hospital occupancy surges particularly with people who have chronic respiratory and heart problems who don't tolerate the smoke in the air. Health care workers who have been forced to evacuate their homes have to look at where can they live so that it's still feasible for them to continue working – I had members in 2017 who were living in their car and still going to work at hospital. Some workers simply weren't able to work so we had to relocate health care workers from other areas of the province to assist – the provincial gov't has now created a standing registry of doctors, nurses and health science professionals who work in the public health care system who are willing to go to these impacted areas and support the stressed local workers.*

*Those are some of the short term issues that impact communities being able to provide care for people during climate emergencies. In the long term, I think we have to consider the impact of chronic health problems, both physical and psychological from living through these events. There are significant shortages of health care workers provincially, nationally and worldwide. There is little in the way of health human resources strategies to address the everyday needs of our public system never mind the additional strains that climate change will place on it.*

*What is the role of municipalities on this issue? Some will have more experience with this than others so education and sharing experience to understand the impacts and how to support health care when their community is in crisis, and a willingness to lobby provincial and federal governments for the resources that are needed.*

## 2. **[OK SHAPE] Communities making a commitment to zero waste** -

These communities are going waste-free, and have already taken important steps in the process.

Achieving a “zero waste” society is an important goal, and the growing number of communities that have carried out plans to reduce overall waste volumes and increase recycling rates should be commended. Still, the volume of waste that continues to be generated by Canadians each year – do we have a number – means that even with a global commitment to waste reduction, we need to start local.

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Part individual lifestyle change, part systemic policy change, zero waste is a topic we're all going to need to look at, sooner rather than later. From the design of our communities to the repurposing of discarded materials, it means re-thinking our ways so that we fit within the tangible physical limits of our planet. More and more communities are stepping up to explore and experiment with what zero waste solutions could work for them. In this workshop you'll hear from municipal zero waste pioneers and consider some provocative policy ideas for zero waste solutions.

Moving towards zero waste (removing waste from landfills); Nanaimo has dropped from 600kg/person to 350kg/person, aiming for 109kg/person--case study with positive, quantifiable results; lobbying provincial government and private industries to develop EPR programs. Involving different community/cultural groups in getting to zero waste--Kevin can offer best practices around food security issues.

- Speakers: Ben Geselbracht (**confirmed**)(Nanaimo), Sue Maxwell (**confirmed**), **Other?**
- Potential: Lee Brain? (Mayor, Prince Rupert--revitalizing economies through sustainability lens), (coordinator, CCSPI), Josie Osborne? (Mayor, Tofino), Kevin Huang (**interested**) (Hua Foundation), Think Thrice About Your Clothes (Metro Van campaign)

- Ben Geselbracht (Nanaimo) has great case study and can identify local communities who have successfully lowered annual waste per person. He can likely help put this session together with multiple examples from Vancouver Island and throughout BC (identified Prince Rupert as an area that has had success—could invite Mayor, Lee Brain).
- Session should focus on not only what has worked, but how communities can work together (this is often a regional issue).
- Waste management can be costly, which is a barrier for small municipalities. We need to have someone speak on what rural areas can do to reduce their footprint.
- Also option of incorporating racial lens—how does this affect historically marginalized communities? (From Kevin Huang)
- Potential speakers:

**Innovation in new/renewable energy sources at a municipal level: what are people doing that could be applicable in other areas.** New energy vehicles that people are creating. Sewage at Olympic Village. Toronto cooling businesses. - What is and can be done on a municipal level?

### **[GOOD SHAPE] CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING SESSION**

Moderator/lead: Seth Klein (**confirmed**)

*In this 'roll up your sleeves' breakout, we hope you'll share what's going on in your own community when it comes to 'operationalizing' climate emergency.*

1. DSF (Tom Green) is launching a citizen guide in 2020 – “So your citizens declared a climate emergency, so now what?” Rik knows about it and they are doing it in partnership with the Climate Caucus. The goal is to help residents gain a greater understanding of the highest-impact ways that their community can reduce their GHG emissions, and encourages them to work with their elected officials to bring down those emissions together in meaningful ways.

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2. Dale Littlejohn (BC CEA) and Tom (DSF) would make great expert additions to the panel of elected officials. Dale can speak to their Playbook that helps provide information to elected officials in BC on high-impact ways to reduce emissions, and Tom can speak to DSF's citizen's guide. (Confirmed)

## ECONOMICS

1. **[GOOD SHAPE] Cooperative Economies Breakout Workshop** – This workshop will be held Friday from 3:30 to 4:45pm. It will zoom in on how to support and advance local economic development by using local resources to address local issues. For example, cooperative ride-sharing for women and seniors. Discussion will address circular economies and take steps to ensure rural inclusion or other areas, such as Nelson area. Elvy's opening primer will mention the difference between working coops and retail coops.
  - Elvy Del Bianco, Ride Sharing app for women and seniors (confirmed)
  - Jonny Sopotniuk (Vancouver Artists Labour Cooperative ([VALU Co-op](#)) (confirmed)
  - Ramona Faust
  - Moderator: Kim Noland, UFCW 1518 (confirmed)
  -

## EDUCATION

1. **[GOOD SHAPE] We painted our rainbow crosswalk, now what?** 98% of schools have SOGI policies at this point, but some are still in progress and many are still working to implement them, even if they are written and passed. What steps can be taken to ensure they move past works on paper into realities on the ground. What role can trustees play in this process? (The Vancouver Parks Board is planning on trans inclusion.)
  - Lead: Scout Gray (Confirmed) Arc Foundation
  - Speakers: Scout Gray Confirmed, Trevana Spilchen Confirmed, Donna Sargeant Confirmed, Tiffany Muller Myrdahl (moderator) Confirmed
  - -Trevana Spilchen (pronoun They) who teaches in Delta. Trevana can be reached at [spillious@gmail.com](mailto:spillious@gmail.com). We are also waiting to hear back from Chanelle Tye, who is a Vancouver teacher. I believe worked directly for the SOGI project at one point as well. Both are very good speakers, and would be able to talk about the importance of SOGI from a teacher point of view, and from the point of view of leading in this area in their districts.
3. **[GOOD SHAPE] Menstrual Equity:** In the past year, BC has emerged as a national leader in the campaign to address period poverty and menstrual equity with the Period Promise campaign. The panelists for this session have all played a direct role in creating local change which has influenced these large-scale policy initiatives. As the movement has grown rapidly in the past year, collaborative partnerships are forwarding new policy discussions around the importance of sustainable product supplies to zero waste goals and creating long term, meaningful change for vulnerable people in our communities. Period Promise is an important example of a campaign that has grown and changed to address a highly stigmatized issue which provides both a peer learning example and a model for inclusivity and successful advocacy efforts.

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- Lead: Nikki Hill (confirmed)
- Speakers: Bonita Zarillo, Councillor, City of Coquitlam (confirmed), Anita Ansari, New Westminster School Trustee \*Anita available Saturday (works Friday) (confirmed), Madeleine Shaw, Lunapads (confirmed), PS Mitzi Dean, MLA for Esquimalt Metchosin, Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity, Nikki Hill, Co-Chair, United Way Period Promise campaign (moderator) (all confirmed except PS.)
- Questions: How can civic leaders advance menstrual equity while addressing policy priorities such as poverty and sustainability goals

### 2. [GOOD SHAPE] The Finnish and Swedish Finland and Education with Prof. Sam Abrams (confirmed)

*In this breakout session, we'll take a deep comparative dive into the Swedish and Finnish public education models. We'll talk about what works and what doesn't work and there will plenty of opportunities to discuss lessons learned. While we might idealize the Scandinavian systems, the Finnish model has been running out of gas the last few years. We'll try to figure out what happened.*

*While we might idealize the Scandinavian public education systems, the Finnish and Swedish models has been running out of gas the last few years. We'll talk about what happened, what works, and what doesn't work, and we'll highlight some key lessons learned along the way.*

### 3. [Good shape] What we're learning on the job (role of trustees)

Being a trustee really isn't that simple. On the one hand, they make critical decisions that reflect the Ministry of Education's education direction, priorities and budgets. On the other, they're elected and, thereby, accountable to the citizens who elected them. But, when it comes to actual practice there seems to be something else going on that makes a trustee's role and responsibilities even more challenging:

How progressive trustees can fulfill their role and responsibilities. In this workshop, we'll hear from former and current trustees and school board chairs about the strategies they've used to address challenges along the way. Topics for exploration in this discussion include:

- How to ensure your voice is heard, along with other alternative voices (Who can speak and who can ask questions)
- Where might conflicts of interest arise?
- What should be on and off camera?
- What about confidentiality?
- What about fiduciary responsibility?
- How do we deal with this in large urban settings and in smaller communities?

Speakers: Elsie McMurphy (moderator), Patti Bacchus (former VSB Chair), Moyra Baxter, Chair of the Central Okanagan School District, Victoria Martin (former Saanich School Board Chair)

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Jennifer Reddy (current VSB Chair) cannot join us at this year's High Ground, however, she is sending a video into our Emerging Issues panel on Finding the tools to spot and fight intolerance in our schools (via video).

This session is an important one for Jennifer and she asked if she could also contribute a short video to the session. I was thinking that we could invite her to participate in the conference call, even though she won't be at High Ground.

Also, I plan to reach out to Terri to let her know that we are inviting her to share the first response to all the presentations/discussion when the floor opens up to everyone.

Please let me know your thoughts.

We would like to organize a call with this amazing panel shortly.

### Participants

- Elsie McMurphy, moderator (confirmed)
- Patty Bacchus (panelist) (Vancouver) (Vancouver School Board's longest serving chair)(confirmed)
- Moyra Baxter (Central Okanagan) (Longtime and current Chairwoman of the Central Okanagan School District with schools in Kelowna, West Kelowna, Lake Country and Peachland) (confirmed)
- Victoria Martin, panelist, Saanich School board chair, new) (confirmed)
- Other: Maya Russel (panelist. If she can't make it, can she suggest someone else?) (New Westminster)(Second-term trustee)
- Note: BCTF President will try to attend. She should be a respondent, not a panelist as discussion is about and by trustees. She will have an opportunity to give a 5 minute response after the presentations.
- Other possibilities include Ruth Hermann – One City, Carmella Allevito – Lawyer, VSB trustee, Jane Bee , COPE trustee, VSB, Maya Russel or Mark Gifford from New West, 100 Mile House, Kamloops, Other, Michael Yuen
- Prevalence based funding in the BC school system is imminent and it is opposed by some progressives. Education is not my subject area, but this may be a topical and relevant subject. The funding relates to the inclusion of students with disabilities.
- Implementation of the new BC Curriculum is now underway. Again, education is not my subject area, but this may be a topical and relevant subject. It does include a reconciliation component.

### SR to speak with Tracy about:

- Research from Tracy and CUPE on disabilities in education
- Public education and infrastructure session

## SKILLS BUILDING

## CIVIC GOVERNANCE PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

### [GOOD SHAPE] How these electeds pulled it off

In this breakout session, you'll hear from electeds (current and past school trustees and councillors) who have had to struggle and fight for policies and practices. What kind of strategy did they use? How did they end up winning?"

#### Speakers

- Megan Dykeman (current Chair of Langley Board of Education, former Trustee), Mary Lynne Rimer (former Saanich trustee), Arjun Singh (Kamloops Councillor) Moderator: Gaetan Royer (all confirmed)
- Other Possibilities include Coquitlam city councillor Gloria Levi, Bonita Zarillo, Laura Dupont, Former MP Fin Donnelly, Marilyn Belak (former Dawson Creek city councillor), ~~Kelly Greene (current Richmond Councillor)~~

Langley Board of Education got through an inclusive policy on expression identity – 2015-2016 – they got their right-wing Christian conservation to make this happen. Former trustee **Meghan Dykeman** Come and talk about their district. What was the policy and how did they pass it? Current school board

Maple Ridge – Lisa Beare was elected. **Corleen Carrarus** is a board chair (he transformed their board and they work. She is at BCGEU. How did he make it happen).

Examples of where they have changed the minds of their community and school boards. How do you elect a progressive board where there wasn't one to begin with?

### [GOOD SHAPE] Navigating UBCM, FCM and LMLGA

Speakers: Sav Dhaliwal, Raymond Louie, and Laura Dupont (all confirmed)

~~Arjun Singh (interested), Sav Dhaliwal?, Wendy Booth (East Kootenay), Chuck Puchmayr~~

CB: Don't think I am the right person for the UBCM session. We are not doing the analyzing and co-ordinating role at Columbia for UBCM or FCM that we were previously resourced to do - and that's a key part of what people are missing and what I previously brought as a contributor.... they need to self organize. I think it could be useful for people to hear from peers who have held leadership roles in FCM and FCM and the regional Muni organizations such as LMLGA. those would include Arjun Singh and Sav Dhaliwal and Chuck Puchmayr who has chaired the LMLGA

Help them understand how it works; don't expect it to move quickly; understand processes; role of committees.

### **[NOT SO GOOD SHAPE] When it comes to governance how can we make change happen**

#### **Revisiting city protocols, relationship with the Province, and integrating cities to into the Constitution (Giving municipalities more powers)**

- Tools that municipalities need from the province to be more productive
  - Sadhu Johnston mentioned Vancouver's ability to dictate energy restrictions for new buildings—many others can't. What other examples are there and what tools are needed by municipalities?
- What would it look like to revise the Community Charter
- Distribution of powers among levels of government
- How do we get Canadian Municipalities to be recognized in the Constitution
- **Paul Finch, LVC, Rent freeze**

Several countries provide more powers and broader self-governance tools to cities.

Under the current legislation where cities are children of the Province,

- The Ontario Govt changed the rules of municipal elections during an election
- Victoria's plastic bag ban was quashed
- Municipalities have to beg for grants

What would it take for the **Civic Governance Forum** to ask Canada to provide **broader Civic Governance powers**?

- Lead: Gaetan Royer (**confirmed**)
- Potential speakers: Paul Finch is interested in a presentation on the powers of municipalities around zoning. He says that there are many misconceptions around this and that it is actually possible to change zoning laws and charters, but most councillors do not know this. He wants to speak to this and bring in a lawyer who could also provide inspiring examples. His presentation would be about 'official community planning and zoning.'
- Dale: I think what you're referring to from the call with Dale is that most cities don't have the jurisdiction to take many of the energy-related actions (or, more generally, climate actions) that Vancouver has, for example. The Vancouver Charter allows the City to set and enforce restrictions on energy consumption in buildings, and this is where they've achieved 56% of their GHG emissions reductions over the last several years. So what powers would a city like Prince George, for example, need to acquire in order to do what they want to do around climate action, or in the scope of Gaetan's presentation, on other issues? Gaetan will know 100x more about this than I will, so I don't think we need to do much explaining—it's already more or less what he plans to talk about. Regarding speakers, Dale mentioned Lee Brain (Prince Rupert) as someone who is working to revise municipal protocols, as well as Andrea Reimer.

1. Re. the municipal governance workshop, we have had the following related chats:

## CIVIC GOVERNANCE PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

- a. **Zoning - Paul Finch of BCGEU** is interested in speaking about the powers of municipalities to change zoning. He says that the perception is that this can't be changed, but he can provide examples of how this is actually happening. He could bring a lawyer who could also provide inspiring examples.
  - i. Good speaker
- b. Energy related action Dale Littlejohn says most cities don't have the jurisdiction to take many of the energy-related actions that Vancouver has, for example. Aidan explains, "the Vancouver Charter allows the City to set and enforce restrictions on energy consumption in buildings, and this is where they've achieved 56% of their GHG emissions reductions over the last several years. So what powers would a city like Prince George, for example, need to acquire in order to do what they want to do around climate action or other issues."
  - i. Good speaker.
- c. Constitutional change (Gaetan)
  - speakers in general
  - Downloading responsibilities and powers that go along with that
  - FCM advocating for integration into the constitution
  - Raising taxes for municipalities
  - Take away – write to your MP and FCM and pass a resolution and delegation of authority to municipalities should be put on national and provincial platforms
- d. Gaetan will speak with former Chillwack Mayor Sharon Gaetz
- e. Financial resources that going along with that
- f. Should we ask Andrea Reimer to join this discussion on revising municipal protocols and charters? Vancouver has its own charter and it wouldn't be applicable to them. This might be hard to apply to other areas. Own building code; own charter; couldn't do them in the past and in the future.

## NOTES

### Other Points from Discussion with Sherry Yano

Climate policy development and social equity -- the two are usually very separate issues and community engagement processes. But the City of Vancouver is starting some innovative work to apply more of a social equity lens to the climate policy development and implementation efforts. It would be great to have them share their experience and expertise with other municipal leaders to ensure climate policies and programs include and serve often under-served communities. This is something we see as inspiring and interesting and it would be great if more municipal leaders could learn about what CoV is doing in this area) Lisa at the City of Vancouver is working in this [lisa.brideau@vancouver.ca](mailto:lisa.brideau@vancouver.ca). Behind the scenes they are convening social equity working groups to help form social policy, drawing on Portland's climate and equity lens. CCity of Vancouver will have

## CIVIC GOVERNANCE PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

interesting insights into this. Can they talk about the process of how they've done it. How do we get the equity lens on climate development? Get someone from Vancouver or Surrey. SR wrote Lisa Brideau to ask for a time to chat.

It would be great for city councilors in Regina (e.g., Andrew Stevens) and Edmonton (e.g., Ben Henderson) talk about moving climate and energy transition policies forward in provinces and social contexts that are more conservative on climate action -- how they build coalitions across sectors to achieve progress on climate solutions. Across partisanship and . what if Arjun were hosting the question. We put him in touch with Ben and Andrew and see if Arjun could get a third person from BC (Dawson Creek, where there is resource development issue). He could do a PK issue. Arjun could lead conversation and design. Sherry suggested that we contact Andrew.

### Clean energy

- Chocoten
- Sherry recommends Chief Patrick michelle – run of river, wind solar, youth employment, health indicators (thinking about rural and indigenous communities, who are leading this transition in a big way and in a bigger way than municipalities
- Sooke Nation – Chief Gordon Planus (T'souck), elders
- CHIEF Judith Fayers – board on Clean Energy BC (indigenous clean energy). Spokesperson for clean energy transition and is a chief, clean energy proponent and her own community has done work there. What have indigenous communities done in clean economies transition. They can tell the story in the whole package – youth, employment, environment, ownership, local economies

### Building coalitions with groups outside government

## DELETED

### ~~3. Is It Hopeless to Think We Can Solve Homelessness?~~

~~Address issue of marginalization, infrastructure, services, seniors, addiction, institutionalization, etc. Case of Maple Ridge bylaw forcing homeless people out. Recent case of Nanaimo, where Mayor wants the province to institutionalize severely mentally ill people who are homeless and often addicted to alcohol and illegal substances. Also, Kelowna built a lot of houses in Vancouver. Michael Clague wrote a piece on it and he could moderate and provide a lens.~~

- ~~• Lead: Michael Clague~~
- ~~• Speakers: Leonard Krog (Mayor of Nanaimo), Mike Morden (Mayor of Maple Ridge), Pivot Society, Ross offered speaker name: Leilani Farha, who is involved in film called "Push" (where she traces a now global housing crisis). She is also the UN Special Rapporteur on adequate housing. Vancouver. Selina Robinson – what does her office say. Ethel of Carnegie Hall. Ross~~
- ~~• Ross: Homelessness is an issue that has been 'downloaded' onto municipalities. Yes, Councillors must figure out coping mechanisms. I am not sure who can provide good examples on the 'coping' front; maybe Vancouver's commitment to modular housing.~~

## CIVIC GOVERNANCE PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

- ~~Ross: Homelessness is really a policy failure at senior levels of government. Municipal councilors can criticize and advance other policy directions. (Janice Abbott of Atira Housing knows the DTES, local homelessness, and sits on the CMHC board) (linked to the federal and provincial program and see what is available on senior government level because municipalities really can't do anything, even though it's been downloaded on them.~~
- ~~Per discussion with Michael Clague, contact Celine Mauboules MCIP RPP, Director of Homelessness Services at the City of Vancouver (SR contacted her 3 times and on response.)~~
- ~~What's going on on a provincial level when it comes to homelessness? What about provincial allocations? Budgets? How is province dealing with it?~~