



LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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RESILIENT COMMUNITIES/STRONGER REGION

LOWER MAINLAND LGA CONFERENCE & AGM, MAY 4-6, 2022, WHISTLER



Presidents Message

As I come to the end of my two-year term as President of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association, I want to express my sincere gratitude to our engaged membership, this amazing thoughtful board and to our Executive Director Shannon Story, a truly phenomenal and hard working woman. These two years have quite honestly been some of the most rewarding work of my political career.

I am so proud of all that we have achieved as an organization.

We have increased our advocacy work substantially over the last few years. We were able to quickly pivot during the COVID pandemic to offer our Annual Conference & Resolutions Session, and CivX Events virtually and as a bonus, ended up with high attendance numbers. We also held a Strategic Planning Session in late 2021 to ensure that we are on track and that our strategic priorities continue to be relevant and aligned with our organizational principles.

We are so excited to be finally meeting again in person in Whistler from May 4-6, 2022. We see from our record number of registrations that you are too! We have developed an amazing program under our theme of "Resilient Communities/Stronger Region".

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the conference and catching up!

President Laura Dupont



Opening Keynote Speaker: Charles Montgomery Stronger Together: Developing Resilience in a Post-Pandemic Age

Charles Montgomery is an award-winning author and urbanist who leads transformative experiments, research and interventions to improve human wellbeing.

His acclaimed book, *Happy City, Transforming Our Lives Through Urban Design*, examines the intersection between urban design and the emerging science of happiness.

Charles works with cities, organizations and citizens around the world to improve human wellbeing. His collaborators include the World Health Organization, the Guggenheim Museum and local governments in Canada, the USA, Mexico, New Zealand, the UAE and Poland. Charles is a member of the Global Happiness Council's sub-council for happy cities. Among his numerous awards is a Citation of Merit from the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society for outstanding contribution towards understanding of climate change science.



Closing Keynote Speaker: Andrea Reimer

Andrea Reimer served four terms in local government from 2002-2018 including 10 years on Vancouver City Council where she led ground-breaking policy efforts including making Vancouver the first major city in the Americas to commit to ending the use of fossil fuels and taking the lead nationally on local government

action on reconciliation. Her efforts garnered numerous awards including the World Green Building Council's Chairperson award, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal and the BC Business "Most Innovative" award. After leaving office, she was awarded a Loeb Fellowship at Harvard in recognition of her civic leadership. She currently teaches public policy students and public sector staff about power and engagement, sits as a provincial representative on the Translink board, and through her consultancy, Tawāw Strategies, acts as a strategic advisor to governments and advocacy organizations acting with courage on bold policy initiatives.

2022 Conference Charity - Whistler Health Care Foundation

The Whistler Health Care Foundation ensures that Whistler is a role model for health care in a mountain resort community by helping Whistler residents and visitors have access to the best health care services in the Sea to Sky and surrounding communities.



Candidates For 2022/2023

Candidate for President:



Patricia Ross

Patricia Ross has more than 27 years of community leadership experience as a councillor with the City of Abbotsford and as a Fraser Valley Regional District board member. These appointments have provided her with a solid understanding of the issues facing communities

across the region, the province, as well as an opportunity to forge excellent relationships with municipal, provincial and federal representatives.

Patricia is a Fellow of Leadership for Environment and Development International, a research and training institute committed to fostering leadership in sustainability worldwide. She graduated from the program in 1996 and has continued to support the program through teaching opportunities with subsequent cohorts. It is through the lens of sustainability that Patricia approaches all decision making. She is also the chair of GroYourBiz Fraser Valley, a mentoring and advisory board for businesswomen across the region.

Patricia has been widely recognized for her community service, receiving the Paul Harris award from Abbotsford Rotary Club; the Queen's Jubilee Award; named Abbotsford's Woman of the Year in 2009 from the Business and Professional Woman's Club; as well as receiving awards from the Soroptimist Club, Youth Commission, and several from the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce. She is a true community leader who would be proud to serve as President for the Lower Mainland Local Government Association.

Candidate for Vice President:



Paul Albrecht

A two-term councillor in Langley City, Paul has been the LMLGA Third Vice President for the past year and also served previously as a Director at Large for LMLGA. I have been on the UBCM Executive Board as one of two Vancouver Metro

Area representatives. During that time, I have been able to develop very strong connections and relationships with members of the Provincial government as well as other peers in the province. As a Civil Engineering Technologist, I bring over thirty years of municipal experience in all areas of infrastructure, servicing, planning, land use, land development and economic development that I have used in my elected roles to represent and serve my community and residents. My involvement on UBCM's Economic Development and Health and Social Development Committees have been invaluable in highlighting the needs for the Metro region.

We in Local Government are facing very uncertain times in so many areas in each of our communities and the value of an experienced executive board with strong relationships with senior orders of government to obtain the required support legislatively and financially for all Local Governments in BC cannot be overstated.

Good governance requires the ability to develop strong relationships with many, I have the skills to collaborate, obtain consensus, and help develop the kind of strong and supportive team needed for the LMLGA to make a difference in providing actionable solutions to meet all the challenges our communities face.

In these uncertain and seemingly unstable times, I feel it is vital, now more than ever, to have a strong and respected executive board that will listen to all our lower mainland affiliated communities.

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

It would be an honour and privilege to continue serving the LMLGA as First (1st) Vice President and the strong LMLGA Executive Team that we have developed.

Thank you for your consideration and support!

Candidate for Second Vice President:



Michie Vidal

Throughout her life, Michie has demonstrated a history of community commitment, leadership and organizational expertise. Ranging from participating in a monthly Feed the Homeless' campaign to a Past President of her professional

association, her commitment to benefiting the lives of others is evident. Her career as an emergency services 911 dispatcher provided extensive knowledge in local government structure and systems. Following retirement to the Village of Harrison Hot Springs, Michie continued her dedication to community. She united local residents, businesses and all levels of government towards a common goal related to a significant environmental and economic concern. The culmination of these experiences led her to seek election in 2018 and is currently serving her first term as Councillor with the Village of Harrison Hot Springs. She is proud to represent the Village with her portfolio appointments and liaison responsibilities including:

- Fraser Valley Regional District Board, Alternate Municipal Director
- Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District Board, Alternate Municipal Director
- Agassiz Harrison Healthy Communities Committee
- Local Community to Community Forums

Smaller communities face unique challenges in governance and Michie strongly supports the benefits of coordinated action through the LMLGA. She welcomes the opportunity to advance these goals as the Second Vice President of the Executive.

Lower Mainland LGA Executive Positions:

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

Seven Elected Positions

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

Non-Elected Positions

Appointed representatives from:

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

Eleventh Position

- Past President

The Nominations and Elections Process

THURSDAY, MAY 5th (DURING AGM)

- Nomination Committee Chair, Jack Crompton presents the nominations received
- Nominations from the floor can be received for elected positions
- Candidate speeches, (if necessary) will follow

Nominations Received for 2022/23 Lower Mainland LGA Executive

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

President:

Patricia Ross, City of Abbotsford and Fraser Valley Regional District

First Vice President:

Paul Albrecht, Langley City

Second Vice President:

Michie Vidal, Harrison Hot Springs

Third Vice President:

Jen McCutcheon, Metro Vancouver Regional District

Director At Large (three to be elected)

Ken Herar, District of Mission

Jessica McIlroy, City of North Vancouver

Chris Pettingill, District of Squamish



Candidate for Third Vice President:



Jen McCutcheon

Jen serves as the Director for Metro Vancouver's (MV) only electoral area, which includes approximately 18,000 people on the UBC peninsula, and a number of rural communities and islands across the MV region. She serves on MV's

Finance, Climate Action and Mayor's committees, as well as the MV Board. Jen is a member of TransLink's Mayor's Council and the Ocean Watch Action Committee, and also sits on the Board for the Metro Vancouver Zero Emission Innovation Center, Ecomm and the Fraser Valley Regional District Library.

Prior to entering politics in 2019, Jen utilized her doctoral degree in public health to help manage complex health projects in various countries across Africa for ten years, and still consults in public health. In her spare time, Jen volunteers extensively in her committee, stays physically active, and spends as much time as she can out in nature with her husband and two children.

Director McCutcheon approaches her decisions from a social and climate justice lens and is passionate about issues such as climate action and environmental protection, reconciliation, affordability and equity. She is honoured to contribute her energy and expertise to the LMLGA.

Candidate for Director at Large:



Ken Herar

I am currently serving as a councillor with the City of Mission and a regular public speaker on topics of race-relations and cultural polarization issues. My experience includes television and radio appearances.

In 2007, I received the "Champion of Diversity" at the Fraser Valley Cultural Diversity Award, the Arts and Culture Service Award and a Certificate of Accomplishment from the District of Mission. I was the recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal from Her Majesty in 2012 for multiculturalism and public service.

I was proud to receive the Community/Literary Ambassador Award, from the Writer's International Network in 2014. I also received the Breaking Barriers recognition at the 8th Annual South Asian Darpan ExtraOrdinary Awards. I was bestowed with the Paul Harris Fellow recognition from Rotary International. I am a multi award winning athlete, a active tennis player in which I hold a former provincial/national ranking. I've earned a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology/Anthropology from the University of the Fraser Valley and completed a second Bachelor's Degree from Simon Fraser University in General Studies. I am the founder and current director of Cycling4Diversity and Spinning4Diversity.

I am currently in my 27th year as a columnist for the Abbotsford News.

Candidate for Director at Large:



Jessica Mclroy

Jessica Mclroy is passionate about driving change to realize social and climate justice. With over fifteen years of experience in clean energy and climate action, she is continually looking for and creating opportunities to change policy, behaviour

and industry practices. Jessica is currently a Councillor with the City of North Vancouver and sits on the City of North Vancouver Library Board of Trustees, the North Van Arts Council Board of Directors, the Lonsdale Energy Corporation Board of Directors, the Metro Vancouver Climate Action Committee, the BC Municipal Climate Leadership Council, and is Chair of the City's Climate and Environment Task Force. Ms. Mclroy has held leadership positions with Climate Reality Project Canada, the BC Sustainable Energy Association, Passive House Canada, Marine Renewables Canada, and the BC Women in Energy Network.

Candidate for Director At Large:



Chris Pettingill

Chris Pettingill is a Councillor for the District of Squamish on traditional and unceded Skwxwú7mesh territory. Chris also serves as an Alternate Director for the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Board, and as an active member of

the Climate Caucus. Everyone deserves a bright future so Chris brings thoughtful consideration of equity and climate change to these roles.

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

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

Chris also stays busy as an on-snow mentor for the Vancouver chapter of the Chill Foundation youth development program, and a long-standing volunteer for Squamish's "Amped in the Park" music program. Through this involvement, Chris is able to enjoy his passions of music and snowboarding while supporting others as they learn to be leaders.

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2022 Exhibitors Only

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LOWER MAINLAND
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Banquet Dinner Entertainment

Blame the Weekend is a 5-piece cover band based out of Whistler that was founded with one main principle: packing the dance floor! With a repertoire spanning from the Beatles to Bruno Mars and Fleetwood Mac...this is a band that truly has something for everyone to enjoy!