

In This Issue

A Message from the President..... 1-2

NCLGA Advocacy & Activities..... 3-6

- UBCM Annual Convention
- 2025/26 NCLGA Resolutions

Member Webinars..... 7

Mental Health & Addictions Symposium & Accord..... 8

Upcoming Meetings & Events..... 9

NCLGA

Representing over 240 elected officials in over 42 local and First Nation governments.

Established in 1955, the NCLGA is a non-profit, non-partisan association comprised of local government elected officials in North Central BC.



A Message from the President

Gladys Atrill, NCLGA President

Musings for autumn!

As the hillsides adopt hues of yellow and orange and the mountain tops are dusted in white, autumn is upon us. This season somehow prompts in me the drive to work a little harder to get things finished before the snow comes. While that may be literal when it comes to my yard, it still rings true for the work we all do in local government. UBCM has now rushed past and next up, our budgets are looming. How to plan and cost out all the projects we want for our communities and how to pay for them – that is our constant challenge.

Touching back on UBCM now behind us, it was indeed a busy week. It was great to connect with many of you, even if it was just a quick hello as we passed each other heading to the next meeting or workshop. The organizers of the conference deserve a big thank you as does the City of Victoria for the fabulous weather!

As the Board of NCLGA continues its work stemming from the last Annual General Meeting, I can update you on a couple of things.

We have been rescheduling our Board meetings to make it easier for directors from all our member Regional Districts to attend. This is no small feat considering the number of meetings that must be planned around. Thanks to NCLGA staff for creating a bit of a Tetris puzzle to make this work.

On advocacy, UBCM was the stage for advocacy through meetings with Ministers and on the resolution floor. Specific meetings can be read about in the Advocacy section on Minister Meetings at UBCM, page 3. We worked to ensure Board members were on the convention floor speaking to the resolutions that came forward from NCLGA.

Other highlights important to communities in our region included:

- *Forest Minister Ravi Parmar announced the results of the review of the BC Timber Sales, accepting all recommendations of the review panel.*
- *Save our Streets rally at the legislature drawing attention to the challenges to public safety due to addictions and mental illness, homelessness and strains in both the health care and justice systems.*

...continued on page 2



I want to thank all of you who took time to attend the NCLGA luncheon during UBCM week. That event provides a valuable networking opportunity and a chance to focus on our region. We provided a speaking opportunity to all of the candidates from the NCLGA region who were running for seats on the UBCM Board and I am delighted to let you know the following elected officials from the NCLGA region will be on the UBCM Board for 2025-2026:

- Cori Ramsay, *President of UBCM*
- Sarrah Storey, *Second Vice President*
- Sheila Boehm, *Director at Large*
- Gord Klassen, *Director at Large*
- Jerrilyn Kirk, *Electoral Area representative.*

I will also join my colleagues at the UBCM table representing NCLGA. Congratulations to all – we will be well represented!

An important event that is upon us now is the second Mental Health and Addictions Symposium. It takes place October 15, 2025 in Prince George. A big thank you to all have worked hard to bring this to fruition.

I will take a moment to thank all of the Board members who took up the extra challenge at UBCM to attend our meetings, in addition to those of their own local government, and for your support throughout the week.

And always – thank you to our small but mighty staff team. Terry Robert and Sandra Moore worked hard at UBCM as they always do. They prepped our meetings, including the briefing notes, and organized our luncheon. And thank you to Bettina Johnson for managing communications on behalf of us all – no mean feat!

Enjoy autumn everyone and do take time to enjoy the colours!

Gladys Atrill, NCLGA President

Gladys Atrill has served on the NCLGA Board for the past three years. Gladys has been the Mayor of the Town of Smithers since 2020 and was first elected to Council in 2014. Read more about Gladys here: [Board of Director Bios](#)



Thank you to our NCLGA Area Association UBCM Luncheon sponsor, PNG



NCLGA Directors at UBCM (L-R): Jesse Wright, Gladys Atrill, Kyle MacDonald



NCLGA/Minister Meeting (L-R): Kyle MacDonald, Gladys Atrill, Minister Jessie Sunner, Jesse Wright, and Barry Cunningham



NCLGA/Ministers Meeting (L-R) Jesse Wright, Minister Tara Richards, Minister Nina Krieger, Melanie Woods, Gladys Atrill, and Kyle MacDonald

NCLGA Advocacy

UBCM Annual Convention

NCLGA Directors attended the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Annual Convention, which took place from September 22-26, 2025, in Victoria, BC. From advocating for regional priority issues to engaging in information sharing, UBCM serves as a key space for local government elected officials to convene and share in a collective voice, and to debate and vote on resolutions.

The NCLGA Board of Directors held a Strategy Session on Sunday, September 21, 2025, to prepare for Minister meetings and discuss resolutions session planning.

NCLGA Members and dignitaries attended the Area Association Luncheon, sponsored by PNG, on September 24, 2025. Attendees had the opportunity to network, connect on regional issues, hear the President's address, and hear speeches from Candidates for the UBCM Board.

Update on Minister Meetings at UBCM

NCLGA Board members met with the following Ministers, to advocate on priority issues on behalf of NCLGA:

- **Local Governments and Rural Communities – Minister of State Brittany Anderson:** on Public transportation for rural communities, Access to post-secondary education, and Legislative Reform
- **Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills – Minister Jessie Sunner:** on Impacts to business due to the loss of funding for international students, and loss of temporary foreign workers
- **Public Safety and Solicitor General – Minister Nina Krieger and Minister Tara Richards:** on Community and Downtown Safety
- **Emergency Management and Climate Readiness – Minister Kelly Greene:** on Emergency Preparedness, Impacts of wildfire and drought.

2025/26 NCLGA Resolutions

A total of 10 Executive Resolutions and 52 Member Resolutions were shared with membership in the [2025 AGM Annual Report](#). The 2025 resolutions are posted in full on the website for review: [2025 NCLGA Resolutions](#).

Resolution Number UBCM	Resolution Number NCLGA	Resolution Title	Endorsed/Not Endorsed/ Referred to NCLGA or UBCM Executive	Sponsor(s)
NR36	E3	Short-Term Rental Accommodation Act Exemption Flexibility for Small Communities	Endorsed	NCLGA Executive
EB86	E7	Engagement Protocols for Regional Directors in Resource Development Processes	Endorsed	NCLGA Executive
NR123	E10	Establishment of a Permanent Provincial Housing Policy Roundtable	Endorsed	NCLGA Executive
EB2	R1	Streamlining Licensing for Out of Province and International Healthcare Professionals	Endorsed	City of Fort St. John
NR5	R2	Addressing Rural Physician Shortages Due to Practice Ready Assessment BC and Longitudinal Family Physician Changes	Endorsed	City of Dawson Creek
NR11	R3	Mental Health Support for Local Elected Officials	Endorsed	Cariboo Regional District
NR9	R4	Rural Foundry Centres	Endorsed	District of Mackenzie
NR23	R9	Co-op Housing Program and Sustainable Funding for Housing	Endorsed	City of Fort St. John
NR24	R10	Lowering Financial Barriers for Community Housing Projects	Endorsed	Town of Smithers
EB15	R11	Funding Off- Site Works for Affordable Housing	Endorsed	Town of Smithers
EB21	R12	Speculation and Vacancy Tax	Endorsed	
EB24	R13	Initial Fire Attack Crew Relocation	Endorsed	District of Chetwynd
NR48	R14	Emergency Social Services Grant Funding for Capital Costs	Endorsed	Town of Smithers
NR56	R15 – NR56	Release of Prolific Offenders in Communities	Endorsed	City of Williams Lake
NR55	R16	Creation of Regional Crime Prevention Officer Positions for Rural BC	Endorsed	City of Dawson Creek
EB29	R17	Managing Policing Contract Costs Through Engagement in RCMP Collective Bargaining	Endorsed	City of Terrace
NR54	R18	Addressing RCMP Staffing and Contract Costs	Endorsed	City of Fort St. John
EB36	R21	Moose Habitat Considerations in Landscape Planning	Endorsed	Village of Burns Lake
EB45	R22	Biodiverse Climate Resilient Ecosystems	Endorsed	Regional District of Fraser Fort George and Regional District of Bulkley Nechako
NR67	R24	Nuclear Energy in BC	Endorsed	District of Mackenzie
EB51	R25	Including Rail Related Activities in the Environmental Assessment Act Scope	Endorsed	City of Terrace

Resolution Number UBCM	Resolution Number NCLGA	Resolution Title	Endorsed/Not Endorsed/ Referred to NCLGA or UBCM Executive	Sponsor(s)
EB48	R26	Sustainable Funding for Small Water Systems	Endorsed	Regional District of Fraser Fort George
EB56	R34	Expedite Municipal Applications for Crown Lands	Endorsed	Town of Smithers
EB55	R35.	Efficient Resource Permitting	Endorsed	Peace River Regional District, District of Hudson's Hope, District of Taylor, and City of Fort St. John
EB72	R39	Twinning of Highway 16	Endorsed	District of Fort St. James and Regional District of Bulkley Nechako
EB68	R41	Forest Service Road Closures	Endorsed	District of Mackenzie
EB73	R42	Active Transportation Infrastructure on Rural Highways	Endorsed	City of Williams Lake
EB90	R46	Industrial Electrification Expansion	Endorsed	Peace River Regional District, District of Taylor, District of Hudson's Hope
EB90	R47	Expanding Industrial Electrification	Combined with R46 in UBCM Disposition	City of Fort St. John
EB88	R49	Consultation on Removal of Crown Land	Endorsed	District of Mackenzie
EB94	R51.- EB94	BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Representation in Rural BC Communities	Endorsed	Village of Burns Lake
EB80	L2	Review of the BC Library Act	Endorsed	District of Taylor

NOT ENDORSED/REFERRED BACK TO NCLGA/REFERRED BACK TO UBCM EXECUTIVE/TBC

Resolution Number UBCM	Resolution Number NCLGA	Resolution Title	Endorsed/Not Endorsed/ Referred to NCLGA or UBCM Executive	Sponsor(s)
NR13	E1	Advancing Recovery Informed Workplace Practices	Not Endorsed	NCLGA Executive
NR66	R23	Balanced Emissions Policies	Not Endorsed	Peace River Regional District, District of Taylor
RR47	E2	Blood Plasma Donor Centre for Northern BC	Referred back to NCLGA	NCLGA Executive
RR48	R6	Psychiatric Hospital for Northern BC	Referred back to NCLGA	District of Vanderhoof and District of Fort St. James
RR45	R8	Enhanced Wraparound Supports and Second Stage Housing for Individuals in Recovery in Rural Northern Communities	Referred back to NCLGA	District of Chetwynd
RR22	R19	Conservation Officer Advocacy	Referred back to NCLGA	City of Prince George
RR25	R27	Provincial Funding for Public Libraries	Referred back to NCLGA	City of Prince George

Resolution Number UBCM	Resolution Number NCLGA	Resolution Title	Endorsed/Not Endorsed/ Referred to NCLGA or UBCM Executive	Sponsor(s)
RR26	R28	Increased Funding for Public Libraries	Referred back to NCLGA	District of Hudson's Hope
RR27	R29	Increased Capital Funding for Libraries	Referred back to NCLGA	Town of Smithers
RR34	R36	Removal of the BC Port Tax Cap	Referred back to NCLGA	North Coast Regional District
RR31	R37	Essential Service Levels of Inland Ferries	Referred back to NCLGA	Regional District of Bulkley Nechako
RR32	R38	BC Ferry Advisory Committee	Referred back to NCLGA	North Coast Regional District
RR46	R40	Quesnel North South Interconnector	Referred back to NCLGA	Cariboo Regional District
RR35	L1	Highway Road Maintenance Agreements – Addressing Regional Adaptation	Referred back to NCLGA	Village of Pouce Coupe
	R7	Regional Secure Psychiatric Care Facility	Referred back to NCLGA	City of Prince George
NR70	E4	Regulation of Mushroom Harvesting Industry	Referred to UBCM Executive	NCLGA Executive
NR114	E8	Canada First Local Government Procurement Strategy	Referred to UBCM Executive	NCLGA Executive
NR115	E9	Eliminating Interprovincial Trade Barriers	Referred to UBCM Executive	NCLGA Executive
NR78	R20	Allocation of Wildlife Revenues to Conservation	Referred to UBCM Executive	Regional District of Kitimat Stikine
NR85	R31	Agricultural Land Reserve Boundary Review	Referred to UBCM Executive	Cariboo Regional District
NR86	R32	Accessory Dwellings in the Agricultural Land Reserve	Referred to UBCM Executive	Cariboo Regional District
NR92	R33	Natural Resource Royalty Sharing with Watershed Associations (title changed since NCLGA Annual Report)	Referred to UBCM Executive	Regional District of Fraser Fort George and Regional District of Bulkley Nechako
NR107	R43	Leaves of Absence Provisions for Elected Officials	Referred to UBCM Executive	Cariboo Regional District
NR109	R44	More Formalized Property Assessment Processes for Communities in BC	Referred to UBCM Executive	District of Houston
NR112	R45	Economic Impact and Fair Resource Revenue Sharing	Referred to UBCM Executive	City of Terrace
NR111	R48	Natural Gas and Liquefied Natural Gas Strategy	Referred to UBCM Executive	City of Fort St. John, District of Hudson's Hope, and District of Taylor, and Peace River Regional District

To address resolutions not passed at UBCM, the NCLGA will continue advocacy efforts through letters and request for appointments to respective Ministers.

Please [check the webpage](#) regularly for updates on advocacy activities related to each resolution.



Member Webinars

NCLGA continues to host quarterly webinars for its membership with topics relevant to local government and consistent with advocacy priorities identified by member communities and the NCLGA's Board of Directors.

Our August 2025 webinar was presented by Louise Pedersen, Executive Director of the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC, on their newly released [Outdoor Recreation Guidebook for Rural British Columbia Communities](#), to help rural B.C. communities plan and develop sustainable outdoor recreation as a powerful catalyst for community well-being.

Do you have a suggestion for a webinar of interest to NCLGA membership? Please contact: bjohnson@nclga.ca.

Please join us at our Next Webinar on Resolutions:

“Advancing Local Government Advocacy through Effective NCLGA Resolutions Processes”

November 12, 2025 at 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. PDT

This webinar will provide education to NCLGA membership on how to prepare for and craft effective resolutions, and will include an overview of NCLGA resolutions processes and detailed how-to's on writing a resolution to maximize reach and strength of the advocacy position.

Speakers: Lara Beckett, RDFFG Chair - Gord Klassen, NCLGA Past President

Who should attend: NCLGA membership (elected officials, staff who write resolutions, Chief Administrative Officers, Corporate Officers, etc.)

[Register here](#)

2025 Mental Health and Addictions Symposium and Accord

The 2025 Mental Health and Addictions Symposium will be held in Prince George on October 15, 2025, and is intended primarily for Accord Signatories. It will be a focused space dedicated to collaboration and progress sharing on advocacy activities.

To learn more on the Accord purpose and vision, visit nclga.ca/accord. If you are not already a signatory and would like more information, please contact Bettina Johnson at bjohnson@nclga.ca.

For registration or information on the Symposium, please contact Sandra Moore at admin@nclga.ca.

A Mental Health Resource for Individuals in North Central BC



Looking Glass Counselling
Bridge the Gap™

Looking Glass Foundation offers recovery-focused counselling services and peer support programs to individuals in BC who are affected by eating disorders – a complex mental health issue with rising impact across BC. Since 2020, hospitalizations for youth with eating disorders have doubled, a reality that underscores the urgent need for early intervention, accessible care, and increased awareness.

Bridge the Gap is a program which provides affordable, accessible counselling through virtual support services.

To learn more, please visit www.lookingglassbc.com.



Prince George, BC,
photo credit: Chuck Nisbett

Upcoming Board Meetings

NCLGA Board Meeting

November 28-29, 2025

In-person, Prince George, BC
and virtual via [zoom](#)

2026 dates to be confirmed

Upcoming Meetings & Events

2025 Mental Health and Addictions Symposium

October 15, 2025, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Prince George, BC

More information at nclga.ca

Member Webinar

November 12, 2025, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

“Advancing Local Government Advocacy through Effective NCLGA Resolutions Processes”

Presenters: Lara Beckett, Chair of the RDFFG and Gord Klassen, NCLGA Past President

[Register here](#)

Member Webinar

January 14, 2026, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

“Addressing the Development of Substance Use and Mental Health Services in a Psychiatric Hospital for Northern BC”

Presenter: Dr. Barbara Kane, Head of Psychiatry, UHNBC

[Register here](#)

Member Webinar

April 15, 2026, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

“Update on the Findings of the Northern Energy Dialogues”

Presenters: Sinead Earley and Sarah Korn, UNBC

NCLGA Annual General Meeting and Convention 2026

May 20-22, 2026

Prince George, BC

More information at nclga.ca

CONTACT US

NCLGA - North Central Local Government Association

Suite 507 - 1488 4th Avenue,
Prince George, BC, V2L 4Y2

admin@nclga.ca

www.nclga.ca

NCLGA Newsletter Contributions

We encourage our members to contribute content for the newsletter to bjohnson@nclga.ca. We welcome your submission ideas, including:

- Member Spotlight and Success Stories: highlighting achievements and activities of our member communities
- Upcoming Events, Resources.