



HIGH GROUND

TOOLS FOR ENGAGED LEADERS

Agenda



FRIDAY, APRIL 1

9 am – noon	PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS: Hands-on Communications (Canada Room) and Talking about Taxes (Coronet)			
10 am	Shuttle bus leaves Downtown Vancouver for Harrison Hot Springs			
1 pm	WELCOME (East Forum Room)			
1:30 – 2:45 pm	Fraser Room	Coronet Room	Canada Room	West Forum Room
	Counting Nature	Climate Action	From Controversy to Collaboration	Refugees Welcome
3:15 – 4:30 pm	Fraser Room	Coronet Room	Canada Room	West Forum Room
	Aboriginal Education	Supporting Local Food Systems	Beyond Public Hearings: You & Citizen Engagement	Addressing the Wealth Gap
6 pm	PECHA KUCHA STYLE! (Doors open at 5:45 pm, Forum Ballroom)			
7:15 pm	DINNER & KEYNOTE with Karen Joseph of Reconciliation Canada (Forum Ballroom) Sponsor: Vancity			

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

from 7 am	BREAKFAST (Forum Ballroom) Sponsor: United Way			
8 am	BREAKFAST KEYNOTE: <i>Deepening Community</i> with Paul Born (Forum Ballroom) Sponsor: UFCW Local 1518			
9:15 – 10:30 am	Fraser Room	Coronet Room	Canada Room	Cascade Room
	Green Buildings	Mindfulness in Schools	Collective Impact	Reconciliation in Action
11 am – noon	EMERGING ISSUES (Forum Ballroom)			
noon – 1:15 pm	LUNCH (Forum Ballroom) Sponsor: BCGEU			
1:15 – 2:30 pm	Fraser Room	Coronet Room	Canada Room	Cascade Room
	Roundtable on the State of Public Education in BC	Our Future: Seniors, Socialization and Health	Telling the Story	Housing in Action
2:30 – 3:30 pm	CLOSING PLENARY (Forum Ballroom)			
4 pm	Shuttle bus leaves Harrison Hot Springs for Downtown Vancouver			

PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS

FRIDAY MORNING 9 am – noon

HANDS-ON COMMUNICATIONS

Want to feel more confident in your public speaking? A little leery of doing media interviews? Come join this intensive skills-based workshop on communications for elected people. We'll cover what people are looking for in their leaders, why impressions matter so much, and what you can do to be a stronger communicator today. This session will include practice and review. **MAYA RUSSELL** / Canada Room

TALKING ABOUT TAXES

Back by popular demand, this skills development workshop offers an opportunity to improve your ability to talk about taxes, inequality and economics with timely research. **SETH KLEIN** / Coronet Room

FRIDAY WORKSHOPS

FRIDAY EARLY AFTERNOON 1:30 – 2:45 pm

Participants choose one workshop

COUNTING NATURE

Natural capital assets have a clear advantage over those created by people. Cheaper to operate and maintain, they provide “free” ecosystem services, and do not depreciate. They also have a carbon advantage, but they are not accounted for in municipal budgets. Until now. The town of Gibsons is receiving international attention as the first North American municipality to integrate natural capital assets and ecosystem services into its municipal budget. Emmanuel Machado will share Gibsons' experience in developing their eco-assets strategy. Co-presenter Michelle Molnar will share the tools she is using in Gibsons to identify and value ecosystem services. **EMMANUEL MACHADO, MICHELLE MOLNAR** / Fraser Room

CLIMATE ACTION

On the world's stage in Paris last December, 196 countries reached a historic agreement on climate change. They agreed to limit global warming to well below two degrees of warming and work towards 1.5. What was it like in Paris? What will it mean for Canada and how can Canadian communities make a difference? Columbia Institute's new paper highlights key actions needed by senior orders of government to enable local governments, whose decisions impact 45% of Canada's greenhouse emissions. **CHARLEY BERESFORD, CHRISTINE BOYLE, KAREN FARBRIDGE** / Coronet Room

FROM CONTROVERSY TO COLLABORATION

Elected officials are only too familiar with the fierce controversies that can arise around municipal issues. From re-zoning applications to parking regulations to gender-inclusive wash-rooms – policy questions that residents and stakeholders feel immediately affected by often spark polarized public debate. Drawing on recent examples, this workshop will explore how elected officials can engage the public and enable collaboration for solutions that are owned and supported by the community. **ROBIN PREST, SEBASTIAN MERZ** / Canada Room

REFUGEES WELCOME

The global refugee crisis has rattled the world. More than 26,000 Syrian refugees have arrived in Canada in the last few months, with many more on the way. How do we support refugee youth in our schools? How do we create welcoming, inclusive spaces for newcomers? This panel brings together speakers from the grassroots, non-profit and education sectors to begin to answer these questions and speak to how our communities can make “refugees welcome.” **JEFF CALBICK, DANNY RAMADAN, DIEGO CARDONA** / West Forum Room

FRIDAY LATE AFTERNOON 3:15 – 4:30 pm

Participants choose one workshop

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

Carol Bellringer is BC's Auditor General. Her 2015 audit of the education of aboriginal students in the BC public school system examined whether the BC government had achieved its target of closing the gaps in education outcomes between aboriginal and non-aboriginal students. The report says “educators, administrators and decision makers need to know what is working and what should change” and makes 11 recommendations. Deborah Jeffrey of the First Nations Education Steering Committee will share FNEESC directions in aboriginal education and offer insights on the Auditor General's report. **CAROL BELLRINGER, DEBORAH JEFFREY** / Fraser Room

SUPPORTING LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS

In the context of climate change, support for local food systems, including farmland, farmers and people involved in the production, processing and distribution of food, is increasingly important. This panel brings together elected officials working in a rural and urban context and leaders in sustainable agriculture to discuss how local governments can increase support for local food systems as part of a broader strategy of building healthy, sustainable communities. **HAROLD STEVES, HANNAH ROESSLER, BEN ISITT** / Coronet Room

**BEYOND PUBLIC HEARINGS:
YOU AND CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT**

The basis for good representation in a democracy is citizen engagement. Easier said than done. How can citizen engagement be done effectively beyond public meetings? How can elected leaders be accessible, yet retain personal privacy? Is the playing field different for women and men when it comes to social media? This workshop explores formal and informal structures through the lens of three experienced civic leaders. **DONNA MACDONALD, TAYLOR BACHRACH, KAREN FARBRIDGE** / Canada Room

ADDRESSING THE WEALTH GAP

According to the 2016 Oxfam report, 63 people in the world have as much wealth as 50 per cent of the rest of us. The wealth gap is widening. Living Wage is gaining local government champions and the call for a \$15 minimum wage grows stronger. Meanwhile, in a blast from the past, Canada's 1970s experiment with Mincom in Dauphin, Manitoba has reignited a national conversation about guaranteed annual income. **EVELYN FORGET, IRENE LANZINGER, GREG MOORE** / West Forum Room

FRIDAY DINNER + KEYNOTE 7:15 pm

with **Karen Joseph**



KAREN JOSEPH is CEO of Reconciliation Canada, a non-profit that seeks to promote understanding of the Canadian Indian residential school system, which forcibly relocated First Nations, Inuit and Métis children into boarding schools from the late 1800s until the 1960s, as well as the reconciliation process begun by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Karen brings 18 years of experience inspiring diverse partners to collaborate on strategic planning processes that support effective change to the organization. She also brings both experiential

and researched knowledge regarding the impacts of multi-generational trauma and upholds a lifelong commitment to providing individuals with opportunities to achieve their highest potential. / Forum Ballroom / Sponsored by Vancity



PECHA KUCHA! 6 pm

Find out about our community leadership and innovative progressive initiatives with fast-paced presentations from civic-minded movers and shakers in **20 SLIDES WITH 20 SECONDS PER SLIDE**. / Forum Ballroom



RYAN DVORAK, Building Community and Sustainability in Schools



DEB CAMERON-FAWKES, Metro Vancouver Alliance



DONNA MACDONALD, Surviving City Hall



ANNA PURCELL, Solar Garden



NIKI SHARMA, Women Transforming Cities



ELIZABETH SHEEHAN, Small Business and Climate Change



ELLEN WOODSWORTH, A Place for Everyone

SATURDAY BREAKFAST AND KEYNOTE breakfast from 7 am, keynote at 8 am

with Paul Born



PAUL BORN grew up in BC's Fraser Valley as the son of Mennonite refugees. This in part is what made him curious about and engaged in ideas that cause people to work together for the common good, work he describes as collective altruism. Paul believes that when people feel a sense of connection to their neighbours they are happier, healthier and more effective. They are also more engaged and prepared to collaborate on ideas to strengthen our institutions and families. Engaged citizens contribute more financially and of their time to building a great city making all of our jobs easier. / Forum Ballroom / Sponsored by UFCW Local 1518

SATURDAY WORKSHOPS

SATURDAY MORNING WORKSHOPS 9:15 – 10:30 am

Participants choose one workshop

GREEN BUILDINGS

How can local government lead the way in accelerating GHG emission reductions? One way is through buildings, specifically through energy retrofits, stretch building codes and other green building levers. Learn about legislative and governance changes that would make a difference. **ROB DUFFY, KAREN TAM WU, BOB BARTER** / Fraser Room

MINDFULNESS IN SCHOOLS

A mindfulness initiative, nurtured by the Roberts Creek Community School and embraced by the Board of School District No.46 (Sunshine Coast) is rapidly becoming an integral part of the school district culture. The success of the program speaks to the value of community schools, collaborative partnerships and the leadership of trustees. This workshop shares the story of how the program has been operationalized and discusses the science behind why mindfulness training deeply supports social and emotional learning. The workshop will also explore what Mindfulness is through both discussion and experiential training. **RAHUL GUPTA, BETTY BAXTER** / Coronet Room

COLLECTIVE IMPACT

Community-wide change requires us to adopt a systems-change lens and employ key principles that advance large scale change. The five core principles of collective impact are: Build a common agenda; Develop a shared measurement system; Support mutually reinforcing activities; Continuous Communication; and Build a backbone organization. This workshop will give you an introductory overview of the collective impact approach. **PAUL BORN** / Canada Room

RECONCILIATION IN ACTION

The ongoing effects of colonization have placed Indigenous people in Canada on the negative side of many social, health and economic indicators. Municipal leaders have a variety of tools available to begin to address these challenges in collaboration with Indigenous communities. This interactive workshop will provide information and space to explore, discuss, and develop actions to “do” reconciliation and decolonization in your community. **JUSTIN WIEBE, ZOË GREIG, TASHA HENDERSON** / Cascade Room

EMERGING ISSUES 11 am to noon

A fast-paced plenary that spotlights the latest trends and issues in our communities through punchy presentations. / Forum Ballroom



EVELYN FORGET,
Guaranteed Annual Income



SONIA FURSTENAU,
Grassroots in the Watershed



NORMAN GLUDOVAZ,
Organizing for Education
through Narrative



SETH KLEIN,
The Leap



DANNY RAMADAN,
Syrian Refugees



STEPHANIE SMITH,
Marijuana in Liquor Stores

SATURDAY AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS 1:15–2:30

Participants choose one workshop

ROUNDTABLE ON THE STATE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN BC

What Does it Mean to You? Join your fellow trustees to explore the state of public education in BC. Are schools still able to deliver on the Heart of the Community expectations of their neighbourhoods? What happens when the “Low Hanging Fruit” isn’t? What can trustees do to engage their public and make the case for public education? **JONINA CAMPBELL, ELSIE MCMURPHY** / Fraser Room

OUR FUTURE: SENIORS, SOCIALIZATION AND HEALTH

A wave of aging baby boomers is coming to your community soon. Is your municipality ready? What’s the role of municipalities in maintaining senior’s health? You’ll hear the findings from a new report on seniors, socialization and health and new research on fragmentation in senior’s health services in BC, along with a lively dialogue about public policy implications. **GLORIA LEVI, MARCY COHEN** / Coronet Room

TELLING THE STORY

Whether you are bringing your municipal council or school board colleagues on board with a new idea or sharing a new policy with the public, your communications will be more effective if you can tell the story well. You’ll have a chance to practice and leave with tools that you can use to help with meetings and presentations for anywhere between 2 and 200 people. **KEVIN MILLSIP** / Canada Room

HOUSING IN ACTION

From boomtowns to big urban centres, the cost of housing is running away from household incomes. Locally elected leaders are finding innovative ways to take action. Bring your leadership story to the table for a lively, inspiring discussion in the context of new directions on housing outlined in federal minister mandate letters. Highlights from Tye Solutions Society’s Housing Fix, a yearlong investigative reporting project kick off this round table discussion on housing. **KATIE HYSLOP, DAVID P. BALL** / Cascade Room

Presenters



TAYLOR BACHRACH was elected Mayor of Smithers in 2011 and is currently serving his third term in local government. In addition to his elected role, he owns and runs Bachrach Communications, a small web and graphic design company. Taylor and his wife Michelle have two young daughters and in their spare time enjoy skiing, biking and paddling. *Beyond Public Hearings – You and Citizen Engagement*



DAVID P. BALL reports on housing for the Tye Solutions Society. He is also staff reporter at TheTye.ca, and has been published in the Toronto Star, CBC.ca, VICE, National Post, 24 Hours, Daily Mail UK, Georgia Straight, and several nonfiction anthologies. David has won Canadian Association of Journalists and Jack Webster Foundation awards. Born in Ottawa, raised in Quebec, steeped in Winnipeg and now based in Vancouver, he studied journalism and political science at the University of Victoria. After years living in somewhat grimy, overcrowded communal hovels, he happily rents a 500 sq ft apartment but hopes to move into a co-op or co-housing. *Housing in Action*



BOB BARTER is a Project Manager of Salamander Inspections, a BC Insulators Union subsidiary that provides energy assessments for mechanical systems in Canada. Bob holds a Red Seal Journeypersons ticket at Local 118 and is a Recording Secretary and Pension Trustee. Bob has also spent time as a Certified Technologist in the asbestos abatement field. His construction experience in BC's commercial and industrial construction dates back to 1975. Bob has also been involved with Local 118's green campaign focusing on the benefits of mechanical insulation, energy conservation and greenhouse gas reduction. *Green Buildings*



BETTY BAXTER is an outspoken and passionate advocate of social justice, particularly equality on gender and sexual orientation. She is a former Olympic athlete, coach, Member of Parliament candidate, and civic leadership instructor. She is an adult educator who is passionate about ethical leadership in public life. As a consultant she has focused on harassment awareness, conflict resolution,

and mediating workplace conflicts. She has a Masters in Psychology of Sport with a thesis on Communication in Coaching. She lives and farms in Roberts Creek and serves as chair of the Board of Education for School District 46 [Sunshine Coast]. *Mindfulness in Schools*



CAROL BELLRINGER, FCPA, FCA, is the Auditor General for the Province of BC and was formerly the Auditor General of Manitoba, and the City Auditor of Winnipeg. She possesses an extensive background in conducting financial statement audits, performance audits, and investigations. Ms. Bellringer is a Chartered Professional Accountant, and holds a Bachelor of Commerce from Concordia University, and an MBA from the Warsaw School of Economics and the University of Quebec, Montreal. She was named a Fellow of the Chartered Accountants of Manitoba in 2006, and BC in 2015, in recognition of her contributions to the community and the profession. *Aboriginal Education*



CHARLEY BERESFORD is the Executive Director of the Columbia Institute, a public policy think tank in Vancouver. Charley attended the UNFCCC climate discussions in Copenhagen (2009) and Paris (2015) and regularly contributes research and analysis on sustainability and emerging public policy issues. Under her stewardship, the Institute has developed four research streams, helping shape the public discussion and related actions around these issues. The Institute's Centre for Civic Governance has created a setting for locally elected leaders to explore policy solutions for challenges in their communities. From 1996 to 2008, Charley served as a School Board Trustee in Victoria. *Climate Action*



PAUL BORN is co-founder and President of Tamarack—An Institute for Community Engagement, a leader on issues of place, citizen engagement, collective impact, and community innovation. The author of four books, including two Canadian best sellers, Born is internationally recognized for his community-building activities that have won awards from the

United Nations and as a senior fellow of Ashoka, the world's largest network of social innovators. Paul Born grew up in the Fraser Valley as the son of Mennonite refugees. This in part is what made him deeply curious about and engaged in ideas that cause people to work together for the common good, work that he describes as collective altruism. *Saturday morning keynote; Collective Impact*



CHRISTINE BOYLE is a community organizer raised on unceded Coast Salish Territories. She spent the past five years leading Strategic Communications at the Columbia Institute, and currently spends her time doing interfaith engagement on climate justice. She directs programs for Fossil Free Faith Canada, is the Minister of Community Life at Canadian Memorial

United Church, and was a delegate of the United Church of Canada to the COP21 Paris Climate Talks. She has an MA in Spiritual Leadership for Social Change from Berkeley, CA, and a BSc in Urban Agriculture and First Nations Studies. *Climate Action*



JEFF CALBICK has been a leader in the United Way movement for many years. He believes strongly in inspiring people and organizations to give back to their community and celebrating what we can do together. In his role with United Way, Jeff has developed philanthropic investment strategies to address critical social issues, connecting individual and

corporate donors with causes that matter. Educated in Psychology and Urban Studies, Jeff has also been trained in non-profit leadership, business development, conflict resolution and Board development. Jeff has experience with the Cooperative sector and in business development with BC's Ministry of Management Services. *Refugees Welcome*



DEB CAMERON-FAWKES sits on the Board of the Metro Vancouver Alliance, an alliance of labour, community, educational, and faith organizations. MVA's membership builds relationships across sectors, identifies common concerns, and develops grassroots campaigns for social change, including its work to make the City of Vancouver a living wage

employer. Deb is a retail worker, an activist with United Food and Commercial Workers Union, and also a theologian and preacher at the intersection of politics and spirituality. *Pecha Kucha*



JONINA CAMPBELL is a strong advocate for public education. As a parent, a teacher and a school trustee, Jonina understands the essential role that public education plays in ensuring a truly democratic society. Jonina has been a public school teacher for 18 years, teaching both intermediate and primary grades. She is currently a resource and English language teacher in the Richmond

School District. Wanting to play a larger role in advocating for a strong public education system, Jonina successfully ran for School Board trustee in New Westminster in 2011 and is now the Board Chair of the School Board. *Roundtable on the State of Public Education in BC*



DIEGO CARDONA arrived to Canada in 2005 with his mom and his sister as a refugee from Colombia. Diego is a member of the Fresh Voices Youth Advisory Team, an initiative that engages immigrant and refugee youth from across the province in dialogue and action. He is a graduate of the Multicultural Youth Circle Program, a current member of Pave the Road BC, formerly known as Action

Team, and a member of Vancouver Foundation's Youth Philanthropy Council. *Refugees Welcome*



MARCY COHEN has worked with or volunteered for community and social movement organizations her entire life. This includes working for the federal and provincial governments, a provincial and national women's organization, post-secondary institutions and a large health care union. As a researcher and policy consultant, Marcy has worked on issues of gender and income inequality, healthy

aging strategies, community health restructuring and health system innovation. Marcy is currently a research associate with the CCPA-BC and an adjunct faculty member in Health Sciences at SFU. *Our Future: Seniors, Socialization and Health*



ROB DUFFY is the coordinator of the Sustainable Communities Initiative. From 2009 to 2014, he was a research analyst with the Columbia Institute. Today, he is one of the Columbia Institute's first research associates. Prior to that, he held research and policy positions in the Canadian parliament and BC legislature. *Green Buildings*

HIGH GROUND: TOOLS FOR ENGAGED LEADERS



RYAN DVORAK is an educator at Alberni District Secondary School in SD 70. A teacher since 1998, Ryan has worked with the team at ADSS to build natural resources programs since starting there in 2009. Ryan has spent years building project-based learning, sustainable resource management, and forestry programs on local and provincial levels. Ryan began teaching after a career in a variety of pursuits, which helped him to bring a range of skills into the classroom, linking curriculum with the real world. *Pecha Kucha*



KAREN FARBRIDGE is President of Karen Farbridge & Associates and former mayor of Guelph. During her 11 years as mayor, she championed sustainability and citizen engagement in city building. Karen believes low-carbon cities are a solution to global warming and that the way we build cities will not only decide the fate of the planet, it will also determine our quality of life and wellbeing. She was an early advocate of local government leading community energy planning recognizing the approach as a tremendous platform for engagement and releasing the ingenuity of communities to combat climate change and reduce GHG emissions. *Climate Action; Beyond Public Hearings – You and Citizen Engagement*



EVELYN L. FORGET is a health economist and professor in the School of Medicine at the University of Manitoba, and Kierans-Janigan Visiting Scholar at Massey College (University of Toronto). She received the Mike McCracken Award in Economic Statistics from the Canadian Economics Association for her research on income security and Guaranteed Annual Income, and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in recognition of her work in partnership with low-income Canadians. *Addressing the Wealth Gap; Emerging Issues*



SONIA FURSTENU was elected to represent Shawnigan Lake in November 2014 amid a contentious battle between the community and provincial government over a contaminated landfill site. She has worked with Shawnigan residents to build a community of engaged and empowered citizens. Prior to being elected,

Sonia was teaching high school. She has a Master's in History from UVic and has been involved in grassroots advocacy with Results Canada and Citizens Climate Lobby. *Emerging Issues*



NORMAN GLUDOVATZ is a public engagement specialist. Norman trained with Harvard Professor Marshall Ganz in the use of story-telling as both an organizing and communications tool that compels people to action. He has a master's in professional communications from Royal Roads University—his thesis was a study of why people don't vote. Norman works as a communicator for the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators and is currently crafting compelling stories about why we need to invest in post-secondary education—openthedoors.ca. *Emerging Issues*



ZOË GREIG is of Scottish, Irish, and German descent. She feels blessed and honoured to be a visitor, living and working, on the unceded ancestral territory of the Musqueam/xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Squamish/Sk̓wxwú-7mesh, and Tsleil-Waututh/Selilwítulh. Zoë's diverse professional background includes community development, qualitative research, and program management. She has spent time working locally and internationally on a variety of projects, all distinct, but similar in their overall aim of working toward finding local solutions to unique community issues. She has an MA in Indigenous Community Planning from UBC and a BA (Hons) in Geography from UVic. *Reconciliation in Action*



DR. RAHUL GUPTA, MD works as an integrative medical physician, professional coach and mindfulness instructor. Endorsed by the Center for Mindfulness to facilitate mindfulness-based stress reduction programs, he offers this service to both professionals and patients. Since 2014 Rahul has worked with “Mind the Gap,” a mindfulness project that aims to build social emotional capacity in the school community (Roberts Creek Community School). He lives and works in Gibsons and travels across the province to speak on the topics of patient self-management and physician self-care. *Mindfulness in Schools*



TASHA HENDERSON has a decade of experience working with non-profits in rural and urban centres across Canada. Her portfolio spans from frontline experience with marginalized communities to managing diverse strategic planning and community development projects on issues such as housing, youth, human trafficking and civic engagement. Tasha specializes in facilitating community dialogues, graphic facilitation and workshop development on social justice issues. She has a Master's in Planning from UBC, a BA in Sociology and Cultural Anthropology and a Certificate in Leadership from Memorial University. *Reconciliation in Action*



KATIE HYSLOP As education and youth issues reporter for The Tye Solutions Society, Katie has reported on current struggles and best practices BC's education and youth services for over four years. Originally from Newfoundland, Katie's interest in social justice reporting stems from a (misguided) belief that her home province was Canada's poorest. *Housing in Action*



BEN ISITT is a city councillor and regional director in Victoria. His priorities include supporting local food systems, expanding parks and active transportation options, and increasing housing affordability and social justice in the city and region. Alongside his public duties, Ben is a historian and legal scholar affiliated with the University of Victoria Faculty of Law and the SFU Labour Studies Program. He is the author of three books that examine the connection between social movements and the state in Canada and around the world. *Supporting Local Food Systems*



DEBORAH JEFFREY is a member of the Tsimshian Nation and the Executive Director of the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC). She has a Master's in Education and a law degree and has worked for three decades to advance quality First Nations education locally, provincially and nationally. In past years, Deborah has served as president of

the Tsimshian Tribal Council, Co-Chair of the National Working Group on First Nations, and Co-Chair of the BC Teachers' Federation Task Force on Aboriginal Education. *Aboriginal Education*



SETH KLEIN is the BC Director of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, a research institute committed to social, economic and environmental justice. Seth holds a BA in international relations and a B.Ed from the University of Toronto, and an MA in political science from SFU. He has been a social activist for over thirty years. A former teacher, Seth is co-chair of the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition and an advisory board member with the Metro Vancouver Living Wage for Families campaign and with the Columbia Institute's Centre for Civic Governance. Seth is also an advisor and instructor for Next Up, a leadership program for young people committed to social and environmental justice. *Talking About Taxes; Emerging Issues*



IRENE LANZINGER is a member of the Columbia Institute's Board of Directors. She has also been the President of the BC Federation of Labour since November 2014. The BCFED represents more than 500,000 working people from affiliated unions across the province, in every sector of the economy. Irene is the first woman to be elected as

President of the BCFED. She has a long history as a strong leader in the labour movement and is deeply committed to advancing equality, protecting vulnerable workers, and strengthening workplace safety. Prior to being elected President, she served as Secretary-Treasurer for the BCFED from 2010 to 2014. *Addressing the Wealth Gap*



GLORIA LEVI is the founder and former coordinator of Integrated Care Advocacy, dedicated to advocate for a non-fragmented, team-oriented delivery system of health care to elders in the community. She was a Councillor on Coquitlam City Council from 1981 to 1984, when she resigned for personal reasons. A gerontologist with more than

30 years in the field, Gloria holds a BA from State University of Iowa, an MA from Oregon University, and a graduate certificate in gerontology from the Center for Aging at University of Oregon. She has been a recreation therapist, social worker, author, and activist. Her book, *Dealing with Memory Changes as You Grow Older* has been printed in six languages. She was the founder of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Vancouver from 1997 to 2004. *Our Future: Seniors, Socialization and Health*

HIGH GROUND: TOOLS FOR ENGAGED LEADERS



DONNA MACDONALD served on City Council in Nelson for 19 years, beginning in 1988. She spearheaded many projects including cultural development, affordable housing, recreation facilities and action on climate change. She was a leader of the Osprey Community Foundation and the Nelson CARES Society. She has been involved with

libraries for many years and is currently president of the BC Library Trustees Association. In 2015, she received a BC Community Achievement Award. Most recently, she published a book titled *Surviving City Hall. Beyond Public Hearings: You and Citizen Engagement*; *Pecha Kucha*



EMANUEL MACHADO is the CAO of the Town of Gibsons. For more than twelve years, he has worked with communities across Canada, promoting a greater use of renewable energy, net-zero buildings, water strategies, social plans and sustainability frameworks, all with a focus on people. Recently, Emanuel developed a program called Eco-Assets,

which recognizes the role of nature as a fundamental component of the municipal infrastructure system, leading to a greater understanding of the value of ecosystems services and improved financial and operational management plans of the community's natural assets. *Counting Nature*



ELSIE MCMURPHY was elected to a fourth term as a school trustee in School District 63 (Saanich). A former teacher and BC Teachers' Federation president, she has also served as a municipal councillor in North Saanich. *Roundtable on the State of Public Education In BC*



SEBASTIAN MERZ's approach to dialogue-based engagement is inspired by his background in peace research, conflict resolution and the study of democracies and rooted in his dialogue process work on city and land-use planning, transportation, sustainability, labour market and other policy issues. Sebastian has a Master's in Political Science from Freiburg University, Germany and has received training in dialogue facilitation, civic and stakeholder engagement, conflict resolution and mediation at SFU, the Justice Institute of BC, and Uppsala University, Sweden. *From Controversy to Collaboration*



KEVIN MILLSIP founded and runs a national youth leadership program called Next Up, which operates in six cities across Canada. Kevin co-founded Check Your Head, has been a Vancouver School Board Trustee, and currently serves on the boards of the Columbia Institute Centre for Civic Governance, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Small Change Fund, and Theatre for Living.

Telling the Story



GREG MOORE is an avid transit user and bike rider and is often seen peddling around town getting from one place to another (thank goodness Port Coquitlam is flat for the most part!). He loves taking morning walks with his wife Erin and their dog Molly in his neighbourhood and around their community. Greg is well known for

being a practical joker and has a great sense of humour; you can often hear his laughter permeating from somewhere within City Hall. He gives back to the community in many more ways outside of being the Mayor of Port Coquitlam. *Addressing the Wealth Gap*



MICHELLE MOLNAR is an Environmental Economist and Policy Analyst at the David Suzuki Foundation. She leads the Lower Mainland Natural Capital Project, which focuses on the conservation of natural capital using various tools of ecological economics, policy analysis, and public outreach. She also teaches Introduction to Ecological Economics

at BCIT through the Sustainable Business Leadership Program and is President of the Canadian Society for Ecological Economics. Michelle has an MA in Public Policy from SFU, an MA in Philosophy from the University of Western Ontario, and an Honors BA in Economics and Philosophy from the University of Western Ontario. *Counting Nature*



ROBIN PREST's approach to public engagement is impact-oriented, drawing upon backgrounds in dialogue, project management, systems thinking and the psychology of change. Robin has implemented a range of public engagement and dialogue-based initiatives in fields such as governance, transportation, neighbourhood

planning and human rights. Recent examples of his work include managing a deliberative dialogue to resolve parking and access conflicts in North Vancouver's Deep Cove community, and helping to design the most comprehensive stakeholder dialogue ever held to explore the reconciliation of historical and contemporary injustices in Canada. *From Controversy to Collaboration*



ANNA PURCELL is originally from Halifax, making her way to Nelson in 2008, by way of Vancouver, Victoria, and Gabriola Island. Anna has supported herself as registrar and activities and homestay coordinator at a busy private ESL college in Vancouver, a self-employed artist, and through running her own book business. She has taught theatre sports and felting workshops, is active

with Amnesty International, and serves as the volunteer coordinator for the Civic Theatre. Anna works at Maple Rose store on Baker Street and is keen to work with others to ensure Nelson is green, prepared, connected, inclusive, fair, prosperous, attractive, and gloriously self-expressive. *Pecha Kucha*



DANNY RAMADAN has found his calling in activism, civil society, journalism and creative writing. As an LGBTQ activist, he coordinates online and on the ground efforts to support gender and sexual minorities in Egypt, Turkey, Lebanon, as well as his birthplace of Syria. Danny is QMUNITY's Volunteer Coordinator, where he advocates for democracy, social justice and LGBTQ

refugees' rights. He demonstrated his commitment to these causes through his involvement with organizations in the Middle East, as well as his experience as a former gay refugee. Danny has written for the Washington Post, The Guardian and Foreign Policy. He is also an author of two short stories collections in Arabic. *Refugees Welcome; Emerging Issues*



HANNAH ROESLER is passionate about plants and has a deep commitment to food sovereignty issues. She has an MA in Environmental Studies from the University of Victoria, where she explored how organic farmers in the Pacific Northwest perceive climate change and adapt to changing environmental conditions at the farm level. Her research interests also span agroecology, community engagement

in food security, permaculture, and traditional land-management and cultivation techniques. Hannah has international permaculture and farming experience, having developed programs on sustainable food production, food security and health. *Supporting Local Food Systems*



MAYA RUSSELL brings 20 years of experience to working to help elected people better connect with the public. She has been senior staff to MLAs, MPs, cabinet ministers and most recently the leader of the Official Opposition. Maya has a background in advertising and cause communications. *Hands-on Communications*



NIKI SHARMA is a lawyer with a practice in aboriginal law at Donovan and Company. She works with survivors of the residential school system. She was formerly elected as a Park Commissioner for the City of Vancouver and served as Chair of the Park Board. As a Commissioner, she led the Park Board's opposition to the Kinder Morgan Pipeline expansion and worked on reaching

the goals of the Greenest City Action Plan. She is currently a member of the Women's Advisory Committee for the City of Vancouver and is passionate about equity, justice and taking action on climate change.

Pecha Kucha



ELIZABETH SHEEHAN is co-founder and president of Climate Smart Business Inc., an award winning social enterprise and B Corp. Climate Smart offers a unique blend of training, advisory, software, certification and data services to engage small and medium sized businesses for governments, financial institutions and transport hubs. Elizabeth brings 20+ years experience

working with private sector, philanthropic and government partners to scale up innovative business-focused programs with economic and environmental impact. She holds degrees from the University of California, Berkeley (BSc), and Cornell University (MRP). *Pecha Kucha*



STEPHANIE SMITH is the first woman elected president of the BC Government and Service Employees' Union (BCGEU), representing 67,000 members at 550 different employers and BC government ministries. Stephanie was elected at the union's convention in May 2014. An early childhood educator by training, Stephanie began her involvement with the labour movement in 1981 – first in

New Zealand, and then in BC with the Children's Services Employees' Union, which merged with BCGEU in 1995/96. A tireless advocate for worker rights, young workers, and equity groups, Stephanie has spoken at provincial, national and international conferences on behalf of BCGEU members. *Emerging Issues*

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HAROLD STEVES has served on Richmond City Council continuously since 1977, served as an MLA, is a founder of the Agricultural Land Reserve, and is the south coast director of the BC Groundfish Development Authority. Descended from a pioneer Richmond farming family, Harold operates the family

farm in Steveston with his wife Kathy and is active in community life in the Steveston area. He is particularly interested in the preservation of farmland, heritage preservation, and environmental issues. *Supporting Local Food Systems*



KAREN TAM WU advocates for policy leadership to curb emissions and energy consumption from BC's buildings sector, collaborating with industry, as well as provincial and municipal governments. Prior to joining the Pembina Institute, Karen worked with First Nations, communities, government and

industry on conservation initiatives in BC's Great Bear Rainforest and Sacred Headwaters. Karen also worked with forest companies worldwide for over a decade developing and implementing sustainable forest management systems. *Green Buildings*



JUSTIN WIEBE is michif (Métis) from Saskatoon, SK, who lives as an uninvited guest on the traditional territory of the Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh and Musqueam peoples in Vancouver. Justin works as a researcher, program evaluator and planner and volunteers his time on a number of boards and

committees. He is especially interested in Indigenous planning and decolonization in the city, social and environmental justice, art and design, and education and community development. Justin has a Master's in Indigenous Community Planning from UBC and a BA in Indigenous Education from the University of Saskatchewan. *Reconciliation in Action*



ELLEN WOODSWORTH is the Chair of Women Transforming Cities International Society (WTC). She is an international speaker and urban consultant on gender and inter-sectional planning. A former Vancouver City Councillor and representative on the Executive of UBCM, LMTAC and Alternate at Metro, Ellen provides workshops for cities and NGOs using "Advancing Equity

and Inclusion a Guide for Municipalities" available at www.women-transformingcities.org endorsed by the FCM, CCMARD, UNESCO and several universities. WTC launched the "Hot Pink Paper Campaign" outlining 11 key issues to make cities work for women and girls and are working on a UN Habitat project. *Pecha Kucha*

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