

# HIGH GROUND

**RIISING TO THE CHALLENGE**



## FRIDAY, MARCH 29

10 – 11:30 am	<b>PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP:</b> Women in Leadership Dialogue (Coronet Room)			
1:00 – 1:40 pm	<b>CONFERENCE OPENING:</b> Welcome Remarks and Stratcom's BC Public Opinion Poll Results (Ballroom)			
1:40 – 3 pm	<b>PLENARY: HOMES FOR BC – A YEAR IN REVIEW</b> (Ballroom) Opening remarks from Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, followed by a conversation on housing (Ballroom)			
3 – 3:15 pm	NETWORKING BREAK (Ballroom)			
3:15 – 4:30 pm	Coronet Room	Canada Room	Cascade Room	Fraser Room
	Poverty Reduction and Income Inequality in BC	Child Care: Next Steps in Growing the Public System	Planning for BC's Natural Hazards	Research and Tech to Increase Engagement
4:45 – 6 pm	Coronet Room	Canada Room	Cascade Room	Fraser Room
	Inclusion: Schools for Everyone	We've Had the Katowice Climate Talks, Now What?	Transit Equity: Moving All Our Communities	So, You're Elected: Building Roots in the Community
6:15 – 7:15 pm	<b>RECEPTION</b> (Location: Miama/Cheam)			
7:15 pm	<b>DINNER</b> + remarks from Katrina Chen, Minister of State for Child Care + Pecha Kucha Style! (Ballroom)			

## SATURDAY, MARCH 30

7 am – 8:30 am	Breakfast buffet (Ballroom)			
8:30 – 9:10 am	Mobilizing Popular Support for Public Education with Annie Kidder (Ballroom)			
9:15 – 10:30 am	Coronet Room	Canada Room	Cascade Room	Fraser Room
	Communicating with Councils, Boards & Staff	Priorities for K–12: Insights from Ontario	The Opioid Crisis: What You Need to Know	Jobs for Tomorrow and Net Zero Emissions
10:30 – 10:55 am	NETWORKING BREAK (Ballroom)			
10:55 am – 12 pm	<b>EMERGING ISSUES</b> (Ballroom)			
12 – 1 pm	<b>LUNCH</b> with Shane Simpson, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (Ballroom)			
1:15 – 2:30 pm	Coronet Room	Canada Room	Cascade Room	Fraser Room
	Food Security	Success for Aboriginal Learners	Reconciliation: Making it Tangible	Budgeting 101
2:45 – 3:15 pm	Remarks from Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture (Ballroom)			
3:15 – 3:30 pm	<b>CLOSING REMARKS</b> (Ballroom)			

# HIGH GROUND: RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

## PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

**WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP** Friday, 10 to 11:30 am

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 third 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. **SHEILA MALCOLMSON** and **SUSSANNE SKIDMORE** / Coronet Room

## CONFERENCE OPENING

Friday, 1 to 3 pm / Ballroom

### STRATCOM PUBLIC OPINION POLL RESULTS

Our research sponsor for High Ground 2019, Stratcom, donated five questions in an online survey shared with 1,500 adult British Columbians in late February. Here are the results.

### OPENING PLENARY

## HOMES FOR BC: A YEAR IN REVIEW



### REMARKS FROM SELINA ROBINSON, MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING

In February 2018, the government unveiled BC's first housing plan, *Homes for BC: A 30-Point Plan for Housing Affordability in British Columbia*. From stabilizing

the over-heated real estate market to building housing for people who are homeless, the plan is ambitious and bold. Minister Robinson will speak to the government's successes and challenges a year later and priorities moving forward.

### PANEL DISCUSSION

Local governments play a vital role in determining the type and quantity of new housing stock and in setting policies that protect existing homes. In this interactive and dynamic panel discussion, elected councillors and a housing policy expert will discuss the latest zoning and tax initiatives that aim to make housing more affordable and available to local residents. **THOM ARMSTRONG, CHRISTINE BOYLE, KHELSILEM, CHUCK PUCHMAYR** and **BRAD WEST**. Moderator: **DAVID BALL**

## WORKSHOPS

**FRIDAY AFTERNOON** 3:15 to 4:30 pm

*Participants choose one workshop*

### POVERTY REDUCTION AND INCOME INEQUALITY IN BC

After many years of inaction, BC finally has a poverty reduction plan with legislated targets and timelines and a special focus on reducing child poverty by 2025. This workshop will look at poverty across the province through the lens of the new plan. It will also explore the factors that keep people trapped in poverty; how the market basket measure determines Canada's official poverty line; and, drawing on First Call's 2018 Child Poverty Report Card, how all the levels of government play a role in poverty reduction. **IGLIKA IVANOVA** and **ADRIENNE MONTANI**. Moderator: **SUSSANNE SKIDMORE** / Coronet Room

### CHILD CARE: NEXT STEPS IN GROWING THE PUBLIC SYSTEM

BC's recent child care plan, the first new social program in decades, has helped many families access affordable, licensed child care. This workshop will look at what comes next in BC's child care plan and how municipalities, school boards, and not-for-profit organizations can play a larger role in developing quality child care spaces in the public system. Katrina Chen, BC's Minister of State for Child Care, will speak about government initiatives and next steps. The Minister will be joined by Sharon Gregson from the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC, who will present highlights from the newly-released 2019 edition of the \$10aDay Child Care Plan. **KATRINA CHEN** and **SHARON GREGSON**. Moderator: **HELESIA LUKE** / Canada Room

### PLANNING FOR BC'S NATURAL HAZARDS

Last spring, following a devastating 2017 wildfire season, many BC communities were preparing for a forecasted massive spring flood. Freshet quickly gave way to fire season, and summer 2018 saw even more area burned, though fewer evacuations of communities. As we meet, communities across British Columbia are preparing for this year's flooding and fires, while many are still in recovery from last year's events. How can local governments lead the way in planning for and responding to natural disasters and climate change impact? In this workshop, you'll learn about what different communities are doing when it comes to legislation, governance, and practice. **RICHARD BOASE, ARTHUR DEJONG, LYN HALL** and **TAMSIN LYLE**. Moderator: **JOHN CHAPMAN** / Cascade Room



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## LEVERAGING RESEARCH AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY TO INCREASE CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

This brainstorming workshop will explore how to use new tools and how to use old tools in new ways. From telephone town halls for public education and consultation, to Facebook ads targeting to serve and elicit feedback about programs, services and policies. We will explore how peer-to-peer texting can be used to engage in genuine one-on-one conversations with large portions of the public. In the end, you'll know what's working, what's not and what new tools have entered the market that may help achieve your engagement goals. **STEPHANIE LYNN** and **MATT SMITH**. Moderator: **DAVID LEVI** / Fraser Room

## FRIDAY LATE AFTERNOON 4:45 to 6 p.m.

### INCLUSION: SCHOOLS FOR EVERYONE

How can we meet the needs of kids in our schools? Hear from a trustee, a councillor and an advocate on how we can make sustainable changes to ensure all kids are included in our public education system. Topics include racism, supporting newcomers, and ensuring schools are built right, so that all students can thrive. **SHARMARKE DUBOW**, **MAGGIE MILNE MARTENS** and **JENNIFER REDDY**. Moderator: **HELESIA LUKE** / Coronet Room

### WE'VE HAD THE KATOWICE CLIMATE TALKS, NOW WHAT?

Catherine Abreu was in Katowice, Poland in December at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP23). Drawing from her prime-time spot, the Executive Director of the Climate Action Network in Canada will update us on what we need to know to transition to a low carbon economy globally and locally. Catherine and councillors from Vancouver and Port Moody will share how communities are ramping up climate action through climate and emergency resolutions, and climate change preparedness. **CATHERINE ABREU**, **CHRISTINE BOYLE** and **AMY LUBIK**. Moderator: **SETH KLEIN** / Canada Room

### TRANSIT EQUITY: MOVING ALL OUR COMMUNITIES

Affordable access to public transportation means all community members can live, work, and thrive. A person is more likely to experience 'transportation disadvantage' if they are low-income, minority status, and lack motorized transportation. According to the CCPA, "transportation equity is the idea that everyone, regardless of physical ability, economic class, race, sex, gender identity, age or ability to pay should have access to public transit and active transportation options." How can municipalities take the lead? This workshop will bring two BC mayors together to explore how public transit policy and action can ensure affordability for all. **LYN HALL** and **BRAD WEST**. Moderator: **VIVECA ELLIS** / Cascade Room

### SO, YOU'RE ELECTED: BUILDING ROOTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Everyone knows that citizen engagement is important, both with the people who voted for you and with those who did not. This workshop will bring together a councillor, a trustee, and a labour-leader to share their insights and experiences on how to build deep and sustainable roots in your community after your election. **MARIANNE ALTO**, **RON STIPP** and **ALLAN WONG**. Moderator: **ZOE ROYER** / Fraser Room

## FRIDAY DINNER 7:15 PM / Ballroom



REMARKS FROM  
**KATRINA CHEN**, MINISTER  
OF STATE FOR CHILD CARE

## PECHA KUCHA!

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



**PAUL FINCH**: Housing and Land Value



**GAETAN ROYER & CAROLA ALDER**: Car Ownership is Dead



**HALENA SEIFERLING**: Living Wage



**LORI PRATT & DARNELDA SIEGERS**: Sunshine Coast's Women's Campaign School



**DOUG HILLIAN**: Homelessness Campsites



**VIVECA ELLIS**: #AllOnBoard



**JUSTIN KULIK**: Food Waste

# HIGH GROUND: RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

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## BREAKFAST PLENARY

Saturday 8:30 to 9:10 am / Ballroom



### MOBILIZING POPULAR SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION with ANNIE KIDDER

Annie Kidder will “connect the dots” between what’s happening in our schools, and the issues we’re facing, globally, nationally, provincially and locally. If climate change, polarization, gaps between the rich and everyone else, reconciliation, and strong communities are our collective issues, how can we work more effectively together – across systems and sectors – to address them? Moderator: **PAUL SHAKER**. Sponsored by **Your Education Matters**

## WORKSHOPS

**SATURDAY MORNING** 9:15 to 10:30 am

*Participants choose one workshop*

### COMMUNICATING WITH COUNCILS, BOARDS, AND STAFF

Being an effective communicator is a critical part of becoming an elected leader, but how do you communicate effectively with councils, boards, and staff once you’re elected? It requires serious commitment, time and planning, as well as collaboration. This workshop will bring together a councillor, a city manager, a trustee, and a labour representative to cover the basics of how to have positive conversations and effective relations with the councils, boards and staff in your community. **SHELLEY CARTER, LEE MOSSMAN, CHUCK PUCHMAYR** and **GAETAN ROYER**. Moderator: **VAL AVERY** / Coronet Room

### POPULAR PRIORITIES FOR K–12 RENEWAL: INSIGHTS FROM ONTARIO

This workshop will focus on the practical steps the Ontario-based non-profit, People for Education, took to build an organization that is viewed as credible, independent, and a key convener in ongoing dialogue about public education. **ANNIE KIDDER**. Moderator: **PAUL SHAKER** / Canada Room

### THE OPIOID CRISIS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

How can local governments show leadership in their communities around opioid-related overdose prevention and management? Moderated by the Director of the Canadian Drug Policy Coalition, this workshop will offer a range of perspectives – from the frontline to academia, and from a municipality to the legal office – on what’s unfolding on the ground, the latest research, and the legal framework related to overdose epidemic in BC. It also offers action points for local governments to pursue in the face of the overdose epidemic in BC. **RYAN MCNEIL, ADRIENNE SMITH** and **MARY CLARE ZAK**. Moderator: **DONALD MACPHERSON** / Cascade Room

## JOBS FOR TOMORROW AND NET ZERO EMISSIONS

Whether it's retrofitting buildings, supporting green-building construction, or building transportation infrastructure, effective climate action can lead to good jobs that contribute to sustainable and inclusive communities. This workshop will present different perspectives on the potential for achieving low-carbon economic job growth rooted in good jobs, environmental conservation, and carbon emission reduction. **GEORGE BENSON, MICAH LANG** and **IRENE LANZINGER**. Moderator: **TIFFANY OTTAHAL** / Fraser Room

## EMERGING ISSUES

10:55 am to 12 pm / Ballroom

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

- **TERESA DOWNS:** White Privilege Campaign Update (Video)
- **SHARMARKE DUBOW:** Permanent Residents and the Right to Vote
- **ELVY DEL BIANCO:** Building Resilient Local Economies through Cooperatives
- **LISA LANGEVIN:** Untapped Strength: Women in Trades
- **KALEB CHILD** and **SCOTT BENWELL:** Education Equity and Reconciliation
- **ANITA ANSARI:** Free Menstrual Products in Schools



SATURDAY LUNCH  
FEATURED SPEAKER

**SHANE SIMPSON**  
MINISTER OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT AND  
POVERTY REDUCTION

## SATURDAY AFTERNOON 1:15 to 2:30 pm

### FOOD SECURITY

The release of Health Canada's new food guide earlier this year prompted many food security experts to remind us that access to affordable and nutritious food continues to be a pressing issue for many British Columbians. What does food security look like in BC? From urban to remote communities, this workshop will explore the unique geographical and cultural food needs across the province. We'll also share the story of an inspirational school food program in New Westminster. **LAUREL BURTON, GURVEEN DHALIWAL** and **MEGAN DYKEMAN**. Moderator: **KEN MELAMED** / Coronet Room

### SUCCESS FOR ABORIGINAL LEARNERS: EQUITY, RESPONSIBILITY AND RECONCILIATION

In this workshop, you'll hear stories from leading experts in the field of Indigenous education. They'll inspire you, offer ideas for your leadership toolkit and leave you feeling excited about what's possible in your own community. We begin with an overview of the current directions being taken by the Ministry of Education and School District partners in addressing systemic barriers impacting Indigenous student achievement. We then dig deeper with a focus on 'equity of opportunity' and the 'co-constructive model' driving a review of practices and policies that may be creating obstacles for Indigenous learners in the BC education system. The 'Equity in Action' project will be presented, followed by a discussion on how the concepts can be integrated into your work and community. **SCOTT BENWELL** and **KALEB CHILD**. Moderator: **HELEN KORMENDY** / Canada Room

### RECONCILIATION: MAKING IT TANGIBLE

How can local government lead the way in making reconciliation a tangible reality in the community? One way is by providing ideas, principles, guidelines, and practices on how to integrate reconciliation into the daily workings of local government and community life. You'll hear stories from the frontline on how to get started, how to make it work, and how to make a difference. You'll also take away insights into the planning process that underpins it. **RHIANNON BENNETT, KHELISILEM** and **RENA SOUTAR**. Moderator: **DENISE MOFFAT** / Cascade Room

### BUDGETING 101

Interested in municipal budgets? This workshop will give an overview with a few deep dives into the key issues that impact municipal budgets. Learn about the downside of downloading and the upside of non-tax revenues. You'll leave this session with insights on how to bring work back in house and transition to a more progressive budget. **GAETAN ROYER**. Moderator: **ROSS GENTLEMAN** / Fraser Room



CLOSING PLENARY  
FEATURED SPEAKER

2:45 to 3:15 pm

**LANA POPHAM**  
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

# HIGH GROUND: RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

## Presenters



**CATHERINE ABREU** is the Executive Director of Climate Action Network – Réseau action climat (CAN-Rac) Canada, a coalition of 115 organizations operating from coast to coast to coast. For 30 years, it has been Canada's only national network dedicated to climate change and energy issues. Catherine is one of Canada's foremost climate campaigners, with over 15 years of experience campaigning on environmental issues including seven years in the heart of the Canadian climate movement.

*We've Had the Katowice Climate Talks, Now What? Friday, 4:45 pm @cat\_abreu*



**CAROLA ALDER** is an urban planner and marketing guru. At 14 she transformed the mobile juice business in Victoria with *Juice on the Goose*. In her early 20s she was designing jewelry for Lady Gaga and other A-list celebs under her own brand, Bun. Now a partner in CityState Consulting Group, Carola helps clients through complex rezoning processes and presenting their projects to Councils throughout the Lower Mainland.

As a member of the Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Committee, she is committed to building better communities; a vision only possible when we rise to the challenge! *Pecha Kucha! at Friday dinner*



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

legislator elected to Victoria City Council in 2010, and to the Capital Regional District from 2011–2018, she vigorously advocates for equality, inclusion and fairness for people affected by stigma, stereotype and oppression. Marianne's current work includes portfolios in Reconciliation and Indigenous Relations, harm reduction, arts and culture, transgender inclusion, social enterprise, alternative and affordable housing, neighbourhood re-imagining, and poverty reduction, among others. *So, You're Elected: Building Roots in the Community, Friday 4:45 pm @MarianneAlto*



**ANITA ANSARI** is a working mother, a professional engineer, and the newly-elected Vice-Chair for School District 40, in New Westminster. She also serves as the co-chair of New Westminster's oldest non-profit day care society, and as an administrator for the over 3,000-member strong New West Mom's Group on Facebook. She is passionate about increasing equity and access in all her roles, and believes that empowering diverse perspectives produces innovative solutions and progress in our communities.

*Emerging Issues, Saturday 10:55 am @newwestanita*



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

chairs the board of Encasa Financial Inc., a Canadian social purpose mutual fund company owned by the community housing sector. CHF BC is the voice of the co-operative housing sector in BC, with the vision to play a leadership role in growing a community of permanently affordable co-operative housing. *Housing Panel, Friday 1:40 pm*



**RHIANNON BENNETT** is a much-sought-after speaker and is well known for asking tough questions in a manner that encourages engagement and dialogue. In 2014, she was the first Indigenous person elected to the Delta Board of Education. While not successfully re-elected, she was inspired to find other ways to continue to do the important work. Hummingbirds Rising's vision is to work towards creating a society that understands the violence of colonization and its other impacts and actively reconciling and working towards decolonization.

*Opening Plenary + Reconciliation: Making it Tangible, Saturday 1:15 pm @salishRhiannon @hummingbirdsRA*



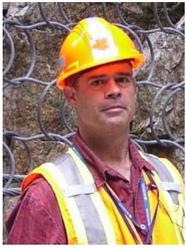
**GEORGE BENSON** is the Green Building Market Acceleration Consultant for the Vancouver Economic Commission, the economic development agency of the City of Vancouver. He works to support BC manufacturers of green building products to meet future local demand and assist them with global trade opportunities. George has sat on the provincial planning association's Climate Action Task Force, the Canadian and American planning associations' national executives, and is Co-Founder of a youth-led nonprofit, the Climate Migrants and Refugees Project.

*Jobs for Tomorrow and Net Zero Emissions, Saturday 9:15 am @georgeprbenson*



**SCOTT BENWELL** has more than 20 years of experience in educational leadership ranging from Vice-Principal to Superintendent of Schools/CEO. He has served students, families, and communities in BC, Yukon, and Alberta. Currently he is both Superintendent of Schools/CEO for SD64 (Gulf Islands) and Field Liaison with the BC Ministry of Education. Scott earned

a PhD in Educational Leadership from the University of Calgary in 2005 and continues to have research interests in school effectiveness and improvement, responsive learning environments and leadership that makes a difference and creates equity of opportunity for each learner. *Emerging Issues, Saturday 10:55 am + Success for Aboriginal Learners, Saturday 1:15 pm @sbenwell1*



**RICHARD BOASE** has worked in environmental geoscience and urban watersheds for over 25 years delivering programs ranging from bylaw enforcement to pollution prevention. He currently supervises the administration of the District's Natural Hazards Management and Risk Tolerance program involving new development and is assisting with the implementation of the Climate Change Adaptation Plan. He is currently Vice President of the Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC, a non-profit working on innovative tools and the promotion of leadership toward BC's water sustainability action plan.

*Planning for BC's Natural Hazards, Friday 3:15 pm*



**CHRISTINE BOYLE** is a newly elected Councillor with OneCity Vancouver. She is a community organizer, a climate justice activist, and an ordained United Church Minister. She previously did national climate justice organizing among diverse faith communities, including at COP21 and at the Vatican. She also led Strategic Communications at the Columbia Institute. She has a teenager and a pre-schooler.

*Housing Panel, Friday 1:40 pm + We've Had the Katowice Climate Talks, Now What? Friday 4:45 @christineboyle*



**LAUREL BURTON** works with Northern Health as a population health dietitian, with a focus on food security. She takes a multi-dimensional approach to her practice, and is particularly interested in the social determinants of health, and how they impact overall well-being on individual and population levels. She has worked with groups across the life-cycle in BC and around the world to support evidence-informed nutrition practice, with the aim of optimizing health.

*Food Security, Saturday 1:15 pm*



**SHELLEY CARTER** was born and raised in Mission, where her family has been since the early 1930s. She is a third-term trustee and a dedicated advocate for the FVRD area.

*Communicating with Councils, Boards, and Staff, Saturday 9:15 am*



**KATRINA CHEN** was elected as the MLA for Burnaby-Lougheed in May 2017. She is the Minister of State for Child Care. She has served as a Trustee on the Burnaby Board of Education, and worked in provincial and federal government constituency offices for over 10 years. Katrina has a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a political science major and a history minor from SFU, and also earned a certificate in Immigration Laws, Policies and Procedures from UBC. She has also worked as a community organizer with ACORN, emceed for major cultural festivals, and volunteered as an executive member for several local non-profit organizations for many years.

*Child Care: Next Steps in Growing the Public System, Friday 3:15 pm + Featured Speaker Friday Dinner @KatrinaCBurnaby*



**KALEB CHILD, MUSGAMDZI** is a member of the Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwagiulth) First Nation and the Provincial Director of Indigenous Education at the Ministry of Education. His education and professional experience has been connected closely to First Nations communities throughout his career as a teacher, director and educational leader. In his role across communities, he works to enhance and support

leadership development committed to equitable learning environments, an Indigenous vision for pedagogy, authentic Aboriginal learning connections for all learners, language and culture revitalization, and strengthening meaningful relationships across communities. *Emerging Issues, Saturday 10:55 am + Success for Aboriginal Learners, Saturday 1:15 pm @kalebchild*



**ARTHUR DEJONG's** passion is to find solutions at both the local and international levels to the challenges of climate change and loss of biodiversity. Raised on a dairy farm in the Fraser Valley, Arthur joined the Blackcomb professional ski patrol at the age of 19 – the season Blackcomb opened. Whistler instantly became the perfect outdoor office for Arthur as he moved from one management role to the next including Ski Patrol Director, Manager of Mountain Operations, and his present role as Senior Manager of Planning and Environment at Whistler Blackcomb.

*Planning for BC's Natural Hazards, Friday 3:15 pm*



**ELVEZIO ("ELVY") DEL BIANCO** is Vancity Credit Union's Cooperative Portfolio Manager and works internally on disseminating knowledge of the cooperative business model to increase Vancity's capacity to support co-ops, and externally on building partnerships and developing projects with cooperatives and others to help realize a stronger cooperative economy. This work is largely informed by the activities of the Italy's Emilia-Romagna region, the world's most significant cooperative economy and the focus of Vancity's Cooperative Study Tour, which Elvy has organized since 2008. Elvy is the founder and organizer of *Cooperate Now*, a co-op business model education program and a board director of the Foodlands Cooperative of BC.

*Emerging Issues, Saturday 10:55 am @elvydelbianco*



**GURVEEN DHALIWAL** is serving her first term as Trustee for New Westminster Schools and is Chair of the Board's Education Policy and Planning Committee. Outside of this, she proudly works in the community office of MLA Katrina Chen and is a recent graduate from UBC where she majored in Sociology and minored in Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice. The advocacy and passion she

associates with her professional, political, academic and community spheres is one premised on equity and inclusion and one that recognizes how our current colonial and patriarchal systems do not work. She is here to change the system from within the system. *Food Security, Saturday 1:15 pm @gurbeans*

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**TERESA DOWNS** is the Superintendent of Schools for the Gold Trail School District. Teresa completed her practicum in Gold Trail and has stayed in the district since that time. She has been a classroom teacher, Learner Support Teacher, Principal, Director of Instruction and now Superintendent. She is dedicated to the students and families of Gold Trail and to improving the quality of the educational experience for each student with a focus on Indigenous learners for whom the system has disadvantaged. *Emerging Issues, Saturday 10:55 am [by video]*



**SHARMARKE DUBOW** became a Canadian citizen in July 2017. He arrived in Canada after fleeing the civil war in Somalia when he was 8. He was a refugee for 20 years until arriving in Canada. Sharmarke cast his first vote in October 20, 2018, and at the same time was elected as a Victoria City Councillor. Sharmarke's passion and commitment to diversity, inclusion, equity and his work for immigrants and refugees at the local and national level has earned him a reputation as a respected community leader and voice for human rights. *Inclusion: Schools for Everyone, Friday 4:45 pm + Emerging Issues, Saturday 10:55 am @deardubow*



**MEGAN DYKEMAN** is the Managing Director of Strategics Canada, a firm which specializes in board governance and strategic planning, project management, marketing, and public relations. She is also Chair of the Langley Board of Education and founder of a specialty poultry farm in Langley. She is a Farm Business Management graduate from the University of Saskatchewan and holds a BPA in Governance Law and Management and a Masters of International Relations focused on the effects of International Trade Agreements on Food Security. *Food Security, Saturday 1:15 pm @megandykeman*



**VIVECA ELLIS** is a co-founder of the anti-poverty advocacy organization the Single Mothers' Alliance BC, which works on issues around women's and children's poverty in the context of single motherhood. In her role with the BC Poverty Coalition, she founded and now runs the BCPRC's Community Action Network and leadership training program. Viveca sources and co-animates community generated campaigns through CAN, and is the Campaign Coordinator of the #AllOnBoard campaign, launched in 2018 to address transportation affordability and equity in Metro Vancouver. *Pecha Kucha! at Friday dinner*



**PAUL FINCH** was elected Executive Vice President of the BCGEU in 2011 and Treasurer in 2014. The BCGEU is the most diverse labour union in BC, representing over 78,000 members at 550 different employers and government ministries. As Treasurer, Paul works closely with the President of the BCGEU and serves as the Union's Chief Financial and Administrative Officer. In his role he has closely overseen the move

to ethical investing, technological innovation, communications modernization, constitutional and structural changes and policy development. Paul has written on land economics since 2014, and in 2017 co-authored the Affordable BC plan with members of CUPE 1767 and BCGEU staff. *Pecha Kucha! at Friday dinner @paulgfinch*



**SHARON GREGSON** is the provincial spokesperson for the successful \$10aDay Child Care campaign in BC, building a public system of quality affordable child care. She works with the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC and travels extensively speaking with local governments, school boards, community, labour and business about current child care chaos and the solution – the \$10aDay Plan. She was twice elected as a Trustee to the Vancouver Board of Education and is well-known as a feminist and relentless advocate, skilled in campaign strategy, as well as government and stakeholder relations. *Child Care: Next Steps in Growing the Public System, Friday 3:15 pm @sharongregson*



**LYN HALL** has been an active member of the Prince George community for over 30 years. He first entered local politics in 2001 when he won a seat as a School Trustee on the Prince George School Board. He spent 10 years on the board holding various positions including vice-chair and chair. In 2011, he ran and successfully won a seat on Prince George City Council. As a Councillor, he was a member of several committees and community groups. In 2014 and 2018 he ran successful campaigns for Mayor of Prince George. *Planning for BC's Natural Hazards, Friday 3:15 pm + Transit Equity: Moving All Our Communities, Friday 4:45 pm @Lynhallpg*



**DOUG HILLIAN** is a four-time Courtenay Councillor and Regional District Director. A community volunteer and activist throughout his life, Doug recently retired from human services management after a long career on the front lines of social work and the justice system. He finds balance playing soccer, singing in a community choir and hiking in the mountains. Doug's presentation considers the challenges municipalities face grappling with homeless campsites, an ongoing manifestation of the housing crisis that continues to afflict our communities. *Pecha Kucha! at Friday dinner @DougHillian*



**IGLIKA IVANOVA** is a feminist economist who researches and writes on key social and economic challenges facing BC and Canada, including poverty, economic insecurity and labour market shifts toward more precarious work. Iglia also investigates issues of government finance, tax policy and privatization and how they relate to the accessibility and quality of public services. She is particularly interested in the potential for public policy to build a more just, inclusive and sustainable economy. *Poverty Reduction and Income Inequality in BC, Friday 3:15 pm @iglikalvanova*



**KHELSELEM** is serving his first four-year term as an elected Councillor and spokesperson for the Squamish Nation Council based in North Vancouver, BC. He serves on numerous committees, but has spent his first year in office focusing on housing, capital projects, language and culture, and economic development. He believes in progressive policy and ending the climate emergency.

*Housing Panel, Friday 1:40 pm + Reconciliation: Making it Tangible, Saturday 1:15 pm @khelsilem*



**ANNIE KIDDER** is the Executive Director and a founder of the Ontario-based People for Education. She regularly provides advice to policy-makers and government, and her writing on education has been published in a range of media. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Ontario Principals' Council 2004 *Outstanding Contribution to Education Award*, the Canadian Teachers' Federation 2005 *Public Education Advocacy Award*, and in 2018, an honorary doctorate from York University. She has spoken at conferences in Canada, the United States, Europe, Africa and South America. *Featured Speaker: Saturday breakfast plenary + Popular Priorities for K-12 Renewal: Insights from Ontario, Saturday 9:15 @PeopleforEd*

*Federation 2005 Public Education Advocacy Award*, and in 2018, an honorary doctorate from York University. She has spoken at conferences in Canada, the United States, Europe, Africa and South America. *Featured Speaker: Saturday breakfast plenary + Popular Priorities for K-12 Renewal: Insights from Ontario, Saturday 9:15 @PeopleforEd*



**JUSTIN KULIK** is currently seeking NDP nomination in Kelowna-Lake Country in the 2019 Federal Election. Justin became engrossed in community organizing last fall when, at 16, he set out to change how supermarkets deal with food waste.

*Pecha Kucha! at Friday dinner @JustinKulik*



**MICAH LANG** is shaping city and provincial policy on carbon retrofits for existing buildings and working on a skills and jobs transition strategy in collaboration with industry focused on heat pumps at the City of Vancouver. Previously, Micah created plans to decarbonize communities for local governments across North America. As a consultant, Micah has advised a local trade union on their green jobs strategy and authored influential reports on energy efficiency specifications for buildings. *Jobs for Tomorrow and Net Zero Emissions, Saturday 9:15 am*

*Jobs for Tomorrow and Net Zero Emissions, Saturday 9:15 am*



**LISA LANGEVIN** is an electrician and a passionate advocate for making trades more accessible to women. She was a founding member of both the IBEW 213 and BC IBEW Women's Committees, as well as the national and the provincial chapters of Build Together – Women of the Building Trades. She helped form and is the President of the BC Tradeswomen Society. She also works as an Assistant Business Manager for Local 213 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) in Port Coquitlam. In addition to serving on the Governance Committee for the BC Centre for Women in The Trades she is

also a board member of the ITA (Industry Training Authority). *Emerging Issues, Saturday 10:55 am @ElectricLisaL*

a board member of the ITA (Industry Training Authority). *Emerging Issues, Saturday 10:55 am @ElectricLisaL*



**IRENE LANZINGER** served as President of the BC Federation of Labour from 2014 to 2018, following four years as Secretary Treasurer. Irene is a long-time union activist and teacher. She began her teaching career in 1978 and taught in Abbotsford and Vancouver. She also traveled overseas and taught in Japan and Saudi Arabia. Irene was very active in the BC Teachers' Federation serving as

President of the Vancouver Secondary Teachers' Association, as a negotiator on provincial bargaining teams and as Vice-President and President of the BCTF. Irene served as an Officer of the BC Federation of Labour from 2007 to 2010. She was the first teacher to assume the top post in a provincial federation of labour. Irene was also the Chair of Columbia Institute's Board of Directors. *Jobs for Tomorrow and Net Zero Emissions, Saturday 9:15 am @ilanzinger*



**AMY LUBIK** is a first term City Councillor in Port Moody. Amy is a health policy analyst and researcher, currently working for Fraser Health Authority. She works on the social determinants of health: broadly how issues such as poverty and unequal access to housing, transit, and services impact health outcomes. She also has experience researching how the built environment can influence health, focusing on the mental health impacts of social isolation, as well as municipal resilience to climate change. She is also member for the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, and the Public Health Association of BC. *We've Had the Katowice Climate Talks, Now What? Friday 4:45 @amy\_lubik*

*We've Had the Katowice Climate Talks, Now What? Friday 4:45 @amy\_lubik*



**TAMSIN LYLE** is the founding engineer with Ebbwater Consulting Inc, a firm that works across the country to support communities to reduce their risks to natural hazards with a focus on floods. *Planning for BC's Natural Hazards, Friday 3:15 pm @ebbwater @TamsinLyle*

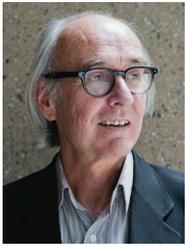
*Planning for BC's Natural Hazards, Friday 3:15 pm @ebbwater @TamsinLyle*



**STEPHANIE LYNN** joined Stratcom in June 2016 on her return to Canada from Asia, bringing her commitment to excellence in innovation to Stratcom's clients in BC and Alberta. She comes with three decades of experience working with heads of state, legislatures, political parties and community activists in over 20 countries. Stephanie is renowned for her achievements in leveraging research on public and political leaders' opinions and policy advocacy to advance representative, responsive governance. She brings her expertise to bear in message development and communications training, particularly in support of women leaders. *Leveraging Research and Digital Technology to Increase Citizen Engagement, Friday 3:15 @stratcom\_ca*

*Leveraging Research and Digital Technology to Increase Citizen Engagement, Friday 3:15 @stratcom\_ca*

# HIGH GROUND: RISING TO THE CHALLENGE



**DONALD MACPHERSON** is the Director of the Canadian Drug Policy Coalition a national coalition of organizations and individuals working to improve Canada's approach to psychoactive substance use. He is an Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Simon Fraser University. The Canadian Drug Policy Coalition advocates drug policies based on principles of public health and

human rights, social inclusion and evidence. He has co-authored the books *Raise Shit: Social Action, Saving Lives* and *Drug Policy in Canada: More Harm Than Good*. *Moderator: The Opioid Crisis: What You Need to Know, Saturday 9:15 am @donaldmacmac*



**SHEILA MALCOLMSON** was elected as MLA for Nanaimo in 2019. She was previously the federal MP for Nanaimo-Ladysmith. With a passion for environmental advocacy and a degree in Environmental and Resource Studies, she was previously the elected Chair of the Islands Trust Council and has been a policy analyst for a number of non-governmental organizations. She has cham-

ioned the issue of abandoned vessels, gender equality on federally regulated boards and brings together people of different backgrounds to achieve pay equity, universal affordable childcare, and to end violence against women. *Women in Leadership, Friday 10 am @s\_malcolmson*



**RYAN MCNEIL**, PhD, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine at UBC and Research Scientist with the BC Centre on Substance Use, where he leads the centre's Qualitative and Community-based Research Program. Ryan examines how social, structural, and environmental factors shape risk, harm, and health care access among people who use drugs, with a current focus on

overdose. In building on his commitment to community engagement as part of knowledge mobilization, Dr. McNeil is the co-creator and scientific advisor of *Crackdown*, a podcast launched in January 2019 that aims to use research to amplify the voices of people who use drugs.

*The Opioid Crisis: What You Need to Know, Saturday 9:15 am*



**MAGGIE MILNE MARTENS** is a founding member, researcher and writer for the Parent Advocacy Network for Public Education. She is also a Vancouver artist/printmaker and an art educator who has taught in schools and at the university level. Maggie is currently the Director of the Artist in Residence Studio program, a partnership program with the Vancouver School Board and the artist in

Residence at the Art and Discovery Studio at Nightingale Elementary. She twins her art engagement with students in schools with political advocacy for equitable access to the arts for children within the public education system. *Inclusion: Schools for Everyone, Friday 4:45 pm*



**ADRIENNE MONTANI** is the Provincial Coordinator for First Call – BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition. She has lived, worked and been a social justice activist in Vancouver since 1976. She joined First Call in 2000 and became the provincial coordinator in 2005. Prior to working with First Call, she served as the child and youth advocate for the City of Vancouver, and as the chairperson of the Vancou-

ver School Board for three of her six years as an elected school trustee. Some of her earlier leadership positions included serving as the executive director of Surrey Delta Immigrant Services Society and of Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland. *Poverty Reduction and Income Inequality in BC, Friday 3:15 pm @FirstCallBC*



**LEE MOSSMAN** is the Local Government Liaison for CUPE BC. Lee has worked in the public sector for nearly 35 years in public works. He served three terms as President for the Municipal Workers of the Central Okanagan and was a member on the CUPE BC Executive Board. More recently, Lee was a School Board Trustee for Central Okanagan, serving from 2014 to 2018. *Communicating with Councils, Boards, and Staff, Saturday 9:15 am*



**LANA POPHAM** was elected MLA for Saanich South in 2009. She is the Minister of Agriculture. She served as the Official Opposition spokesperson for Small Business and Agriculture & Food, and as the Official Opposition spokesperson for Tourism and for Arts & Culture. Lana was raised on Quadra Island in a do-it-yourself community, where growing food, raising animals and harvesting from the sea was

a way of life. Lana entered politics to improve the quality of life in Saanich, promote sustainable agriculture and strengthen the provincial response to climate change. *Featured Speaker, Saturday 2:45 pm @lanapopham*



**LORI PRATT** was elected as Sunshine Coast Regional District director for Area B – Halfmoon Bay in 2018. The board elected her as chair at their inaugural meeting. Prior to this role at the SCR, Lori spent 10 years as an elected trustee to the Board of Education of School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast). Lori has a strong drive to create space for women's voices that is inspired by her own experi-

ences and by wanting to create a better world for her three daughters. *Pecha Kucha! at Friday dinner @LoriAnnPratt*



**CHUCK PUCHMAYR** is a City Councillor for the City of New Westminster and a retired member of the Legislative Assembly of BC. He is the founder and a volunteer for A Beef With Hunger Society, chairperson of the Lookout Housing and Health Foundation and an active volunteer for BC Transplant. Chuck was first elected to City Council in 1996 and went on to serve in the provincial legislature from

2005, retiring in 2009. Chuck re-entered civic politics in 2011. *Housing Panel, Friday 1:40 pm + Communicating with Councils, Boards, and Staff, Saturday 9:15 am @chuckPuchmayr*



**JENNIFER REDDY** is working towards an inclusive community where people are engaged as valuable and deserving individuals, who can use their agency to lead the changes they wish to see. She holds a Masters in Social Policy and Development from the London School of Economics, a Bachelors in Development Studies from the University of Calgary, and a Certificate in Curriculum Development and Instructional Design from Mount Royal University. From SFU, EdMeCo and the VSB to Kuru Kuru Training Centre in Guyana, she was inspired by global leadership in education and social change. *Inclusion: Schools for Everyone, Friday 4:45 pm @reddyforchange*



**SELINA ROBINSON** was elected as the MLA for Coquitlam-Maillardville in 2013 and re-elected in 2017. She is the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Selina served as the Official Opposition spokesperson for mental health and addictions, seniors, local government and sports. As a former city councillor, Selina advocated for the rights of taxpayers, fought to protect the health of children and families by introducing a local ban on cosmetic pesticides, and worked to improve access for people with disabilities as chair of the Coquitlam Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee. *Featured speaker: Opening Plenary, Friday 1:40 pm @selinarobinson*



**GAETAN ROYER** is the CEO of CityState Consulting. His love of everything urban brought him to hundreds of cities in 30 countries. An urban planner originally from Québec City, he received a Governor General's Medal for his humanitarian work in Sarajevo. During his time as City Manager in Port Moody, the city received numerous awards including the International Livable Communities Award. The author of "Time for Cities," a book about getting a better deal for cities, he is also a Research Associate with the Columbia Institute who contributed to several reports. *Pecha Kucha! at Friday dinner + Communicating with Councils, Boards, and Staff, Saturday 9:15 am + Budgeting 101, Saturday 1:15 pm*



**HALENA SEIFERLING** is the Campaign Organizer for the Living Wage for Families Campaign. Halena is originally from Regina (Treaty 4) and moved west in 2014 to obtain a Masters in Public Policy from SFU. Her thesis focused on measures to encourage more women to run for office at the local level. Halena has also worked on issues including electoral reform, gender equity, and climate justice and adaptation within a municipal context. *Pecha Kucha! at Friday dinner @lwforfamilies*



**DARNELDA SIEGERS** has served the District of Sechelt as a Councillor since 2011 and was elected Mayor in 2018. She currently also sits as Vice-Chair of the Sunshine Coast Regional District. She and her husband, Adrian, moved to Sechelt from Alberta in 2009. With a passion for life-long learning, Darnelda has a diploma in Business Administration, a Bachelor of Education Degree and recently completed an Executive Certificate in Local Government. She is committed to supporting women as they pursue leadership roles. *Pecha Kucha! at Friday dinner @dsiegers*



**SHANE SIMPSON** was first elected MLA for Vancouver Hastings in May 2005. He is the Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. Shane has worked as the Director of Policy and Communications for Smart Growth BC, chair of the Vancouver City Planning Commission, an instructor in the Community Economic Development program at SFU, Executive Director of the Worker Ownership Resource Center, Legislative Coordinator for CUPE, coordinator and fundraiser for the Ray Cam Cooperative Center, Executive Assistant to former Vancouver East MP Margaret Mitchell, and as a self-employed consultant on business and economic development for labour, co-operative and non-profit groups. *Featured Speaker: Saturday Lunch @ShaneLSimpson*



**SUSSANNE SKIDMORE** was elected BCFED Secretary-Treasurer in November 2018. A well-known human rights, social justice and queer rights activist, Sussanne has served as executive vice-president of BCGEU since 2014. She has also served as co-chair of the BCFED's Human Rights Committee, and is active in the Women's Rights Committee. *Women in Leadership, Friday 10 am @SussanneRS*



**ADRIENNE SMITH** is a human rights activist and drug policy lawyer. Adrienne worked to ensure access to prescription heroin in BC. They recently settled a BC Supreme Court case which guaranteed access to opiate replacement therapy for prisoners in BC jails. Adrienne appeared at the BC Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Canada where they argued about the deleterious effects of mandatory minimum sentences for women, indigenous people, and people who come before the court as a result of their addiction. They live and work in the Downtown Eastside where five people die every day of preventable opiate overdose. *The Opioid Crisis: What You Need to Know, Saturday 9:15 am @Vanalias*



**MATT SMITH** is the President of Stratcom since May 2017 and oversees the company's day-to-day operations in fundraising, research and engagement to serve Canada's progressive governments, charities, unions and political parties. Matt was Senior Director of Research and Engagement for six years and continues to play a lead role in all government-facing

# HIGH GROUND RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

and election-related work. With fifteen years of research and campaign experience, Matt's expertise includes strategic planning, designing multi-modal research projects, audience analysis and targeting and campaign planning and execution. *Leveraging Research and Digital Technology to Increase Citizen Engagement, Friday 3:15 @stratcom\_ca*



**RENA SOUTAR (CHA'AN DTUT)** is of Haida descent and works as Reconciliation Planner for the Vancouver Park Board. Her portfolio includes the ambitious goal of decolonizing the Vancouver Park Board. Among other initiatives, she works with local First Nations on a long-term comprehensive plan for Stanley Park. Author of *Songhees*, a cultural biography of the Songhees Nation in Victoria,

she makes her home in Greater Vancouver with her husband and six year old daughter. Rena draws strength from her family and is reminded that helping build a world beyond colonialism means building a better future for all young ones. *Reconciliation: Making it Tangible, Saturday 1:15 pm @unsettling\_us*



**RON STIPP** is a Regional Representative for the Canadian Labour Congress in BC. His responsibilities include political action, media and communications for the CLC in the Pacific Region. He regularly instructs workshops and seminars on campaign management, candidate training, working with the media and media training. Additionally, he chairs the CLC Regional Federal Working Group and Municipal Working Group. Ron is a member of the Living Wage Advisory Committee, and the coordinator of the Sustainable Communities Initiative. *So, You're Elected: Building Roots in the Community, Friday 4:45 pm*



**SPOKEN WORD JEREMY LOVEDAY** is an award-winning poet, community organizer, and five-time Victoria Poetry Slam City Champion. Jeremy speaks powerfully and without pretense on social and environmental justice issues and he "captures the magic of being alive" with his words. Jeremy has performed at festivals, universities, and venues across North America and beyond. His poem *Masks Off – A Challenge to Men* has been viewed over one million times, translated into six languages, and utilized in classrooms and by anti-violence advocacy campaigns around the world. Jeremy was recently re-elected to Victoria City Council where he fights to make Victoria more affordable, sustainable, and inclusive.

*Spoken word performance, Friday dinner and Saturday closing plenary @JeremyLoveday*



**BRAD WEST** is a life-long resident of Port Coquitlam and was first elected to Council in 2008. He was re-elected in 2011 and 2014, receiving the most votes of all candidates both times. In 2018, Brad was elected as the 16th Mayor of the City of Port Coquitlam. He is a graduate of the University of Victoria, St. Francis Xavier University and most recently completed a program in Leadership at

Harvard University. *Housing Panel, Friday 1:40 pm + Transit Equity: Moving All Our Communities, Friday 4:45 pm @BradWestPOCO*



**ALLAN WONG** is serving his eighth term as a trustee of the Vancouver School Board, being first elected in 1999. Allan is an alumnus of UBC with a Diploma in Multicultural Teachers Program and a Bachelor of Arts in Asian Area Relations. His public service experience includes terms with several boards and committees, including the Vancouver Public Library Board and numerous diversity related Advisory Committees. He is a lifetime advocate for Public Education. *So, You're Elected: Building Roots in the Community, Friday 4:45 pm*



**MARY CLARE ZAK** is the Managing Director of the Social Policy and Projects Division with the City of Vancouver. She has decades of public sector experience at all three levels of government and the not-for-profit sector. Her role at the City of Vancouver is to provide advice to the Mayor and Council on social issues, and to work across government and various sectors to address these issues. *The Opioid Crisis: What You Need to Know, Saturday 9:15 am*

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