

SILGA

2020 Summer Newsletter



Similkameen River, OSRD

2020 SILGA Speaker Series (registration information to follow)



BC Infrastructure Benefits - Katie Shaw, Director of Communications **July 14th 9:30 am**

BC Infrastructure Benefits (BCIB) is the new crown corporation responsible for implementing the Community Benefit Agreements on select public infrastructure projects, including the four-laning Hwy 1 Expansion. We will introduce the organization, explain how priority hiring is applied for all projects focusing on ensuring local, women, indigenous and other underrepresented groups have the opportunity to get into the trades and what we are doing to support respectful workplace cultures.



Strategic approach to budgeting in the Covid aftermath - Christina Benty **July 21st 9:30 am**

Christina will interview Summerland Mayor Toni Boot and Logan Lake Mayor Robin Smith and model questions (not necessarily with answers) on the conversations communities need to have both at the board table and with their citizens re: levels of service now that revenues have been impacted from Covid 19. Road maintenance, asset maintenance vis a vis operations, etc. Will there be long term impacts to service levels from the loss of revenues?



UNDRIP - Jessica Wood, ADM Ministry of Indigenous Relations **TBA**

The 2019 legislation sets out the process to align BC's laws with the UN Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples. ADM Wood will provide an overview of the action plan to achieve this alignment which allows the Province to enter into agreements with a broader range of Indigenous governments along with providing a framework for decision-making between Indigenous governments and the Province on the matters that impact their citizens.

2020 UBCM Convention Planning for a Virtual Convention

The 2020 UBCM Convention will be held virtually from September 22nd to 24th. The format will be essentially the same as in prior years using a virtual platform with keynote and provincial speakers, a resolutions session, minister meetings and a virtual trade show. MFABC and MIABC AGMs will be held during the week but minister meetings with local governments will most likely be held during the week prior to the convention with Area Association AGMs held the week after.

UBCM's Executive directed staff to ensure that a virtual convention would provide a rich experience for all members, including the consideration of resolutions in an abbreviated format; addresses by the Premier, other party leaders and Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; and workshops aimed at the top issues facing communities. "Everyone is feeling 'zoomed out' right now," said Mayor Tait, "We are going to pull out the stops to make sure the 2020 Convention is dynamic, interactive and engaging."

UBCM is aware of the connectivity challenges that exist in various regions of the province and is reaching out to its members to explore solutions. "We want to make sure that every local government and our First Nations members have access to the full convention. Access to high quality internet access varies considerably across the province, but we will find ways to overcome those challenges through the hallmarks of UBCM: cooperation, sharing and working together."

The SILGA AGM will be held virtually one morning after the UBCM convention. Items on the agenda will be the adoption of the minutes from the 2019 AGM, the adoption of the 2019 Financial report and the elections of the 2020-2021 SILGA Executive. Please note there will be no nominations from the floor - the candidates in the 2020 Nomination Book will be the only nominees. There will be no resolution debate at this AGM as all resolutions have been forwarded directly to UBCM.

Registration for the UBCM convention should open on July 1st. For more information on the UBCM convention becomes available, please go to the [UBCM convention webpage](#).



Community Excellence Awards

RD Central Okanagan

Environmental Sustainability for the
Okanagan Flood Collaboration

City of Revelstoke

Economic Development for Food
Security



Mayor Gary Sulz

City of Vernon

Social Responsibility for Partners in
Action



Vernon Mayor Victor Cumming

Resolutions SILGA is advocating for

Keep of Prisoner Program – on behalf
of the City of Kamloops

Additional Provincial Police Resources –
on behalf of City of Revelstoke

Re-evaluation of Outpatient Model –
on behalf of the City of Kamloops

SILGA Community News

Lumby

Lumby's new bike park is still under water, but with the weather finally clearing and sun shining it should be ready for use soon. One of our merchants has donated a water feature for our bike park, so parents and guests can relax and enjoy a break from either their walk or ride. Our Lumby Golf Course now offers Frisbee Golf, more fun and great views of Lumby Valley. Work has begun on our Pat Duke Arena Renovation adding a dedicated female change room as well as extra room for tournaments when the province can get back to normal.



Kamloops

Over 100,000 guests who stay overnight in Kamloops via the world famous Rocky Mountaineer will not be coming through with the cancellation of the rail tour. Rumour has it that the Mountaineer will resume in September - a great time to travel through the Rockies. Any BC residents interested?

TMX project is gearing up and is going to be a big financial bonus for economic recovery in Kamloops. Workers, pipeline and equipment are all arriving daily. And City Hall staff are busy processing outdoor patio licences and waiving fees for the restaurants.

Kamloops prepared for another big flood, which thankfully stayed below the historic 1972 levels.

Summerland

Like other SILGA members, the District of Summerland amended our budgets to account for loss of revenue and to do what they could to help their residents. While staff had to close playgrounds, the skatepark, outdoor courts and sports fields, Council elected to keep our passive recreational areas open to help encourage residents to get outdoors and maintain physical and mental health.

During budget amendment discussions, Council chose to complete Phases 1 and 2 of the Giant's Head Mountain Park Revitalization Project. With grant funding from the Province, the District collaborated with the Summerland Rotary Club to both improve and upgrade some trails while decommissioning others to restore the healthy grasslands ecosystem. Needless to say, the passive trails on Giant's Head and other municipal parks have seen a spike in use this year.



Clearwater

The District of Clearwater also had to tighten their budget belt and it was HARD! The community was still trying to recover from the Canfor closure so COVID19 compounded the challenges. The business community didn't miss a beat and implemented new safety procedures that encouraged consumers to shop where possible.

The District of Clearwater recognized the importance of community well being and put all of their recreation programs on-line. This has been a TREMENDOUS success and resulted in a wider audience. Programs included yoga, sit and be fit for seniors, tabata, how to learn to play guitar as well as a motivational speaker series that addressed issues around mental health. The video series also included an educational series that featured local experts on topics like beekeeping and gardening 101. The uptake was so good that the presenters created follow up programs. We think that the online versions were well received because everything was done by "local" people and we created programming that hit every demographic including youth.

Penticton

Penticton used several financial measures to help the community during the pandemic. All parking downtown is now free for the remainder of 2020, utility disconnections for non-payment for 90 days have been suspended, a one-time grant equivalent to 2.9 per cent on property taxes was applied, meaning there is no increase in property taxes. In addition, all taxpayers were granted a 60-day, penalty-free grace period on payments to Sept. 30, 2020.

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