

SILGA 2018 Fall Newsletter

2018 SILGA Executive at Silver Star Resort



The SILGA board met in August for their strategic planning session and determined the following priorities:

- Attainable housing in the SILGA area
- Funding for roads, including maintenance/resurfacing and the TransCanada Highway corridor improvements
- Funding for mental health initiatives along with rural policing funding
- Climate change issues and fuel management
- State of Emergency declaration and impact on tourism

SILGA has a new mission statement that better reflects the association's mandate and value to its members.

CONNECT – EDUCATE - ADVOCATE

We hope that through the convention and annual educational sessions, along with the UBCM minister meetings, your SILGA board can be worthy of this new mission statement. We are always listening to our members; if you have a regional issue that needs to be brought forward, please let us know.

Back Row: Toni Boot, Tim Lavery, Mike Macnabb, Andrew Jakubeit, Barbara Roden, Keith Thom, Chad Eliason
Front Row: Alison Slater, Robin Smith, Karla Kozakevich, Lori Mindnich, Shelley Sim

The SILGA board wishes all the candidates success in the upcoming election. And a heartfelt thank you to those that are passing the baton.

SILGA YOUTH REPORT - Gray Simms, CSRD



discussed at our family dinner table, and I was pleased to be able to give my opinion as a farmer in support of the CSRD's request. For me, this was one of the highlights of the convention, and it touched on one of the key ways to get youth involved. Listening, as the Honorable Lana Popham did during our meeting, or as the City of Salmon Arm does with our youth council, shows youth that their voice is being heard and their opinion matters.

Being able to accompany different local government delegates allowed me to get a broader understanding of the issues spread throughout British Columbia. I found that while the different Municipalities and Regional Districts are unique, they share many of the same complex and challenging issues. In my mind, this was one of my

most notable takeaways from UBCM. I heard many conversations between officials from different areas of the province comparing notes as to how they had tackled specific problems. It made me realize that for all the sessions, the workshops, the speeches and the resolutions, the heart of the conference was the networking amongst the delegates.

I'd like to thank the CSRD, especially Director Talbot, for all they did during my trip to UBCM. I am also very grateful to the TNRD and the City of Salmon Arm for including me their activities. This enriching opportunity would not have been possible without SILGA's generous and forward thinking initiative in sponsoring youth participation at UBCM, and I am grateful to have taken part in such a valuable program.

Excerpts from Gray's report to the SILGA board.

I got my first taste of lobbying the provincial government when I accompanied the CSRD to their meeting with the Minister of Agriculture; they were discussing abattoir regulations and legalizing the on-site kill of meat animals on the farm. I was impressed as this is a topic that has often been

2019 SILGA AGM Convention

Penticton, B.C.

April 30
to
May 3, 2019

Keynote Speaker
Jody Urquart

Reach Higher



2018 UBCM - Minister Heyman and Members of the SILGA Board

UBCM Minister Meeting Highlights

EMBC and Tourism State of Emergency legislation (staff)

SILGA is concerned that by declaring a state of emergency during the fires or floods it indicates to tourists that they shouldn't come to BC. The board asked both the Tourism and Public Safety Ministries to consider amending the legislation to indicate that the province is still open for business.

EMBC staff said this issue has been brought up a lot. Our provincial communications department needs to avoid being too alarmist but still convey the importance of the situation, especially when dealing with the other private news outlets. No legislation changes will happen until at least next summer.

SILGA will continue to work with provincial stakeholders to keep this issue active and at the forefront

MOTI – Funding and Greyhound (staff)

Priorities changed with the coalition government but the big projects in the

Southern Interior are still a go, including the 4 laning of the TransCanada Highway.

Maintenance funding has not decreased, but with a static budget and increasing costs (especially for resurfacing), MOTI can't get as much done. Allocation to the numbered routes is first, and the side roads will get maintained when MOTI is doing the main highway.

MOTI is looking at road pricing, rather than tolls. This concept works well in urban areas, and if implemented, may free up money for other areas.

With the mudslide and geotech problems, the Feds have changed the funding allowance so that 15% of the funds received can be used to improve infrastructure, rather than just rebuilding exactly as before. MOTI continues to work with FLNRORD when dealing with logging roads above highways.

Minister Trevena convened a meeting to brainstorm ideas to deal with the loss of Greyhound for intercity transit services. Once the local elections are over, she will

create a working group and Director Kozakevich (if re-elected) has agreed to participate in this working group.

Public Safety – Rural Police Funding – Minister Farnworth

Minister Farnworth recognizes the challenges in rural policing and in urban rural areas. BC is struggling to get new recruits, along with First Nations police. Even though it takes a while for police to respond to a rural disturbance, we should always call in – it could be part of a bigger issue.

He also believes, the legalization of cannabis should not have an impact on police responsibilities. Cannabis stores, both legal and illegal, will be inspected by a provincial regulatory body, not the police. Farnworth also doesn't expect the DUI rates to increase. People are getting the message about driving under the influence.

EMBC/Environment Fires and Floods/Climate Change – Minister Heyman

SILGA raised a number of issues (ministry comments in italics)

- Building Code changes to reflect setbacks from forests and mandatory sprinklers

Minister Heyman would like SILGA to poll its members to give the ministry feedback.

- Fuel management in provincial parks – prescribed burns

With the Abbott/Chapman report recommending fighting fire with fire, this is no longer a political issue.

- Clearcutting by homeowners on private properties impacting waterways

Ministry will look into the

management of logging activities on private lands – there is room for improvement.

- Lack of input/control by local governments on watersheds
Currently no integrated picture of source sustainability. This is a grey area for water quality.

- Temporary berms for flood control and conflicts with fisheries
- Community Forests program reinstatement

SILGA will continue to work with provincial stakeholders to keep these issues active and at the forefront.

Mental Health and Addictions – Minister Darcy

SILGA commented that smaller communities are often on their own with mental health issues; they do not have resources to deal with these citizens and police are the first, and only, responder. We need outreach workers – on the streets.

Minister Darcy's mandate is to improve the access and quality of mental health and addictions services, as well as develop an immediate response to the opioid public health emergency. Focused on saving lives first, then getting people into treatment and outreach programs.

Vernon is part of a pilot project where police are partnered with an outreach worker. This diverts people out of jails and into treatment centres. Ministry also focusing on children and youth – hoping to stop the problem before it starts.

SILGA will ask Minister Darcy to attend the Penticton Convention in April.

SILGA's Own UBCM President Kamloops Councillor Arjun Singh



SILGA would like to give a huge congratulations to Arjun, a councillor from City of Kamloops, who was just elected as President of UBCM. Arjun currently sits on the Kamloops Official Community Plan Advisory Committee, the Sustainability Advisory Committee, the Community and Council Services Committee, and the Tournament Capital Committee. He is also the council representative on the board of Venture Kamloops and a Director of the Thompson-Nicola Regional District.

Outside of his local government duties, Arjun helps manage an apartment complex, and enjoys travelling, good milk chocolate, technology, running, and spending time with his wife Marsha and their families.

President Singh follows in the footsteps of other SILGA politicians - Rhona Martin, CSRD (2013/14) and Robert Hobson, CORD (2008/9), Pat Wallace, Kamloops (2002/3) and John Ranta, Cache Creek (1988/9).