

2023 SILGA AGM & CONFERENCE

Vernon, BC

#SILGA2023

VERNON
SILGA 2023

RE NEW ALL

FRESH TAKES. MOVING FORWARD.

Keynote Speaker Dr. Mark DeVolder Future Proof - Navigating Change with Confidence and Excitement

Imagine a new way to change - unhurried, composed, and confident instead of the usual frenzy, chaos, and uncertainty. The Empowered Change strategy presented in this high-impact keynote equips participants to transform the pace of change and drive sustainable success by providing a clear roadmap for navigating the stages of change.



Dr. Mark DeVolder distinguishes himself as a change management specialist and is one of today's original thinkers and motivators on transitions. Often in the spotlight for high profile transitions,

Mark offered guidance for the ending of the NASA Space Shuttle Program, helped Colombian business leaders adapt to the NAFTA Free Trade Agreement and has coached industry leaders in mergers and acquisitions, some as large as \$50 billion dollars.

He is a change management and employee engagement specialist with over 19 years of experience in education and research. His doctoral studies focused on the issues of unity, diversity, and synergy. With this experience, he brings extensive knowledge and understanding about human characteristics to each highly customized presentation, backed up by impressive business acumen.

Mark reveals why many change initiatives fail to achieve their stated goals. With straight-forward strategies and convincing business examples, he shows leaders how to drive results to improve the bottom line.

Mark's mission and passion is to help people and organizations adapt boldly, nimbly and quickly in the midst of exponential change.

Tuesday, April 25th
Afternoon

Preconference Sessions
1:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Fair Taxation and the Fundamentals of Property Assessment

**Graham Held, Manager Local Government
Relations with BC Assessment (50 min)**

The session will provide a background on the history of BC Assessment and our link to property taxation in the province, including the products and services BC Assessment offers and the role BC Assessment plays in supporting the development of vibrant communities in B.C. New and returning elected officials and senior staff will have the opportunity to learn more about fair taxation and property assessment, equip themselves best to support their communities, and be a part of the continued conversation about building and strengthening our relationships. Topics that will be covered include:

- History of property taxation in British Columbia
- Principals of fair taxation
- Detailed overview of BC Assessment:
 - o History
 - o How we value and classify properties
 - o Relationship between assessments and taxes
 - o Assessment appeals process
- Region-specific information regarding assessment values and market trends

Preconference Session
2:45 pm - 3:45 pm

Climate Change and the Future for Water in the Okanagan (20 min)

**Anna Warwick Sears, Executive Director with the
Okanagan Basin Water Board**

The B.C. Interior has experienced many extreme weather events in the last several years, with more expected in the future as a result of climate change. The Okanagan Basin Water Board, a local government watershed agency, has been working with local communities, the Okanagan Nation and other levels of government to move forward on climate adaptation. This talk will detail the collaborative projects

and studies being undertaken by the Board and its partners – ranging from flood mapping to drought planning, stream flow monitoring, and public education. These made-in-the-Okanagan solutions are leading examples for B.C. and beyond.

Syilx Leadership for Protecting siwłk^w (water)

Tessa Terbasket and Scott Boswell with the Okanagan Nation Alliance and the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program

The syilx siwłk^w (water) Strategy is a call to action that outlines how the syilx Nation intends to care for their territory and work to ensure that siwłk^w is properly respected and available for all living things. This presentation will go over how the syilx siwłk^w Strategy came to be and its key components and directives for working with the province and local governments. This presentation will also describe the planning and engagement process for kłúsxnítkw (Okanagan Lake) Responsibility Planning Initiative, which is designed to reimagine water governance, use syilx traditional ecological knowledge in land use planning, and increase capacity-bridging between the syilx nation and local governments.

Tuesday, April 25th

Afternoon

Preconference Tours and Activities

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Golf at Spallumcheen

Golf Course 1:00 pm

Executive Course (9 holes)

Cost is \$35. Equipment and transportation NOT provided. Prizes awarded.



Okanagan Spirits Craft Distilleries

1.30 pm (max 40) cost \$10

Okanagan Spirits Craft Distillery offers visitors an opportunity to learn about our production with a complimentary education on the art of craft distilling.

After education, Okanagan Spirits encourages a visit to the tasting bar where a selection of our award-winning spirits can be tasted.



Planet Bee Honey Farm and Honey Meadery 1:45 pm max 40 Cost \$10

Guests can look forward to an informative presentation on species of bees, the lifecycle of a honey bee, and the importance of pollination for our food supply. Afterwards, guests will be encouraged to ask questions and browse our self-guided learning center full of informative posters, signs, and even a live honeybee hive behind glass. There will be complementary honey tasting of over 15 floral varieties, plus some flavoured honeys. Guests will complete their visit by heading over to our mead tasting bar, where they will be served a historical alcoholic beverage made from fermented honey.



James Nowek will lead the presentation.

Evening

5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Pub Night at Marten Brew Pub

Take this opportunity to kick off the convention and mingle with your peers in this unique brew pub. The Elderly Brothers will provide easy listening music while you sample the craft beers from MBP.



Wednesday, April 26th

Morning Tours

Okanagan Rail Trail tour (8:00 am)

Friends of the Okanagan Rail Trail members will be your host. Max 40 (\$25 cost for regular bike/\$40 for e-bike rental)

Rail trail opportunities are presenting themselves across the province, but how can local governments position themselves to work together and across jurisdictional boundaries to successfully capture the opportunities that they can present?



This tour includes riding bikes for approximately 1 hour. Participants must know how to ride a bike. If you own your own bike please bring it but transportation will not be provided. Regular and e-bikes will be rented at the start of the tour. Bring water with you.

Laurie, Julie, Michelle and Deb present the approach taken by the Okanagan Rail Trail team that got this project off the ground. www.okanaganrailtrail.ca for information on the trail.

Transportation provided.

Vernon Water Reclamation Centre

Serge Kozin, Manager, Water Reclamation Services (8:15 am) maximum 40 (flat, closed toe footwear required)

The Vernon Water Reclamation Centre treats approximately 4500 million liters of influent annually using a Biological Nutrient Removal process. The high-quality reclaimed water is then pumped 8 Km to MacKay reservoir located in the Commonage area near Predator Ridge. The reclaimed water from the reservoir is used as a primary source of irrigation water on approximately 850 ha of agricultural lands, tree farms, sports fields, and three large golf courses. For over 40 years the City has managed to use almost 100 % of the treated water for the designated spray irrigation program.



Join Serge Kozin, your tour guide, as he takes you through the centre.

Grey Canal Walking Tour - A 'Game-Changer' for Vernon

Hosts Ingrid Neumann and Mayor Victor Cumming



The Grey Canal Trail is a popular hiking route in Greater Vernon. Join Vernon Mayor Victor

Cumming and Ingrid Neumann, Ribbons of Green Trails Society director, on a guided walk along a section of the trail to learn the amazing history of this scenic trail.

Formerly an irrigation waterway, the Grey Canal sustained over 20,000 acres of orchards and farmlands in the Greater Vernon area from 1906 until 1970. At one time it was BC's longest gravity-fed irrigation system from a single water source, spanning 50 km from Lavington to Okanagan Lake.

Along this easy, level 1.5 km walk, you'll view several historical canal remnants with incredible vistas of Okanagan lake, orchards, vineyards, grasslands and Vernon.

Thursday, April 27th

Afternoon Breakout Sessions

Planning for the Future - Using 2021 Census Data on the Statistics Canada Website

Desiree Ng, Acting Regional Engagement Manager

Need help finding 2021 Census results on Statistics Canada website? This introductory session will help participants navigate the Statistics Canada website and locate data, reference material and analyses from the 2021 Census of Population.

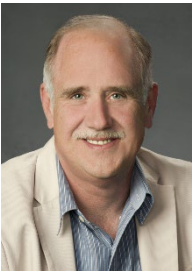


Desiree Ng is an Acting Regional Engagement Manager with the Statistical Information Service (SIS) of Statistics Canada in the Western and Northern Region. For the past 15 years with Statistics Canada, Desiree has held a number of different positions. For the 2021 Census, she worked as a Field Operation Manager, where she oversaw enumeration on First Nation reserves in the Northern British Columbia. After the 2021 Census, Desiree worked as a Consulting Analyst, where she provided advice to major data users across the Western region in Canada. In her current role, Desiree actively participates in various outreach activities to promote Statistics Canada's products and services.

The 13 Things Local Governments Need to Know for Successful Economic Development

Dale Wheeldon and Colleen Bond, BC Economic Development Association

This interactive workshop covers the new resource manual launched in the summer of 2017 by BCEDA. Recognizing the impacts of COVID-19 this session has been updated to incorporate how the “13 Things” have changed but still must remain as top priorities for a strong economy. The reasons why a community will engage in economic development activities varies greatly. Each community has unique characteristics and own reasons for actively engaging in economic development. Communities understand to create economic diversity, maintain and expand infrastructure, create a sustainable economy and to increase their ability to meet the needs of residents and businesses; they need to develop their economic development focus and goals. The more you understand about economic development, the more effective you can be in supporting your community’s economic development efforts. This session is directed to all elected leaders including Mayors, Chiefs, council members and regional directors as well as economic development boards and team members. All participants are provided with a complimentary copy of the resource manual.



Dale joined the BCEDA team in 2007. As the President and CEO he is responsible for leading the association through the development of programs and initiatives to support communities and economic development organizations. With over 25 years of economic development experience, Dale has successfully developed several award winning economic development programs, developed strategies and other initiatives in small and large communities. His excellent working relationships with all levels of government and industry associations have helped to ensure that BCEDA is well positioned to provide member services. Dale works extensively with other organizations including the International Economic Development Council as a course instructor, and with other Provincial economic development associations developing partnerships across Canada.

Colleen is a partner with EDCD and has over 25 years economic development experience. She has her diploma in Economic Development from the University of Waterloo and is a certified Economic Developer. Colleen has extensive knowledge in building economic development programs and delivering practical and realistic strategic plans.



Colleen’s skills, practical guidance and results-oriented approach have helped clients across Canada develop innovative economic development solutions. She has facilitated workshops on economic development essentials including strategic planning, business retention and expansion, business attraction, and economic recovery from disasters.

Economic development troubleshooting and community development strategies have become a specialty for Colleen and she specializes in providing elected officials and community leaders with the right information to make decisions for their businesses and communities to grow.

Partners in Action: Working Together to Affect Change

Annette Sharkey, Executive Director

Social Planning Council for the North Okanagan

This is a solution-oriented, community driven committee that addresses social issues with a community development approach. The role of the coordinating committee is to identify problems and/or solutions and then create and oversee action teams. Members of the coordinating committee are recruited from the community based on the skills and knowledge they bring to the table, in addition to representation of an agency, support group or a municipal service including RCMO, Bylaw Compliance and Planning.



Annette has been the Executive Director for the Social Planning Council for the North Okanagan since 2006. The City of Vernon provides funding for her position to facilitate social planning and community development for the municipality. Currently, as part of her role at the Social Planning Council, she is the coordinator of the Partners in Action Committee and a member of the City of Vernon’s Affordable Housing Committee and Economic Development Advisory Committee. In conjunction with the Partners in Action Committee, she oversees the implementation of Vernon’s: Homeless and Housing Strategy; Harm Reduction/Opioid Overdose Response Strategy; and Immigration and Settlement Strategy.

Friday, April 28th
Morning Breakout sessions

Media 101

Setting Yourself Up For Success

Christy Poirier, City of Vernon Manager, Communications and Grants, Richard Rolke, Vernon Chamber of Commerce, Communications & Program Coordinator and Kevin Rothwell, journalist and business editor

You've been elected. You're living in the public eye, helping to make tough, complex, community-shaping decisions. And now you're being asked to answer big questions by a local reporter. What do you say? What don't you say? How do you keep your foot out of your mouth?

Join three long-time journalists and communication professionals to hear the good, the bad, and the ugly moments they've shared with elected officials and other reporters as they've covered local government affairs over the years. Learn key tips and tricks to prepare yourself for your next interview (or casual conversation) and walk through it with success... instead of distress.



Richard Rolke was a senior journalist in the North Okanagan for 28 years, specializing in municipalities, regional districts, school boards and Indigenous governance, as well as provincial politics. For the last four years, he has been the communications and program coordinator at the Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce, where he continues

to engage with elected officials and attends local government meetings.

Born and raised in the Okanagan, Richard is extremely committed to the region, and his previous volunteer activities included 18 years on the Vernon Jubilee Hospital Foundation board. He is presently on the board of directors of the Friends of Kalamalka Lake Provincial Park, and he also volunteers with the Canadian Mental Health Association in Vernon.



Christy Poirier is an award-winning journalist, a former News Director, television station supervisor, and radio and television host, and most recently, a strategic communications specialist. With nearly 20 years' experience in broadcast media and communications, she has a diverse background in building strong community connections and helping organizations and individuals share their stories in creative and effective ways.

In 2019, Christy graduated from Royal Roads University

(RRU) with a Bachelor of Arts in Professional Communication and joined the City of Vernon as Manager, Communications and Grants. She has since returned to RRU as a teaching assistant and guest speaker for various classes and has also assisted Okanagan College's Department of Communications as a guest speaker.

In addition to her comms and media work, Christy has spent a considerable amount of time exploring her passions as an entrepreneur, is a proud aunt to her two nieces and nephew who live in the East Kootenay where she also grew up, and recently got married to her husband Brett. She loves spending time outdoors, exploring all the North Okanagan has to offer, but is also keen on less weather-dependent activities, such as wine tasting, cooking, and spending quiet evenings at home with her husband and friends.



Kevin Rothwell is a veteran journalist with over 30 years' experience writing for radio, television, newspapers, magazines and online, across the Western provinces and Britain. Kevin has worked in small, mid and major market radio news.

Kevin is a British Columbia Association of Broadcasters Journalist of the Year award winner.

He has covered local, provincial and national politics for much of his career. As a talk-show host in both Vernon and Kelowna many of his guests were politicians dealing with questions on the fly from listeners.

Kevin is currently the Fund Development and Communications Officer for the North Okanagan Hospice Society, The Business Editor for the local Pattison Media online news portal Vernon Matters / Beach Radio 107.5 and a Benefit Auctioneer, publicist and MC.

Power of Collaboration in Times of Health Care Human Resource Scarcity

Tracey Kirkman, Executive Director Shuswap North Okanagan Division of Family Practice



The Shuswap North Okanagan Division of Family Practice (SNO) includes family physicians from Vernon, Lumby, Armstrong, Enderby, Sicamous, Salmon Arm and Sorrento. We are a community-based group of family physicians working together – and with health authorities and community partners – to achieve common goals.

We are a member-driven non-profit society, created by and for doctors, who understand the needs and realities of serving a diverse community. Through our membership, we strive to provide professional support and work collaboratively to improve health care.

How to Manage Difficult Constituents – from a legal perspective

Marisa Cruickshank, Lidstone & Company

Marisa will discuss the pros and cons of various tools that local governments have at their disposal, taking into account the unique position of elected officials and the fact they are not 'workers' under the WCA.



Marisa Cruickshank assists local government clients with a wide range of workplace matters, including preparation and review of employment contracts and policies, sick leave and disability issues, human rights, and labour relations matters,

including discipline, grievances and interpretation of collective agreements. Marisa also assists clients with privacy and FOI matters, governance issues, and bylaw enforcement matters. Marisa has represented clients before all levels of court in British Columbia and boards and tribunals, including arbitration boards, the Human Rights Tribunal, the Information and Privacy Commissioner, and the Labour Relations Board. Prior to joining Lidstone & Company, Marisa clerked for two justices at the British Columbia Court of Appeal and articulated at the Vancouver office of a leading national law firm.