

SILGA SCOOP

2023 UBCM Newsletter



SILGA Board and SILGA Youth with Premier Eby

2023 SILGA Minister and Staff Meetings

SILGA met with four ministries and the Premier at the 2023 UBCM Convention. Our broad message in every meeting was to build partnerships with all provincial ministries while strengthening our advocacy role, and use SILGA as a way to improve communications, access and education between ministries and our members.

Mental Health and Addictions

SILGA asked how smaller communities can deal with the issues around support for people dealing with mental health and addictions as these communities just don't have the facilities and trained support workers. The larger SILGA centres have indicated they would gladly welcome any assistance to deal with this crisis.

Minister Whiteside responded that they are trying to keep these individuals out of the court system to allow them to become useful community members when sober without stigma from the court system. After touring the SILGA and AKBLG regions this summer she appreciated the call from the front line service providers for more complex care housing within our areas. She acknowledges to make a difference IH, BC Housing and MH&A need to work together. She confirmed that we need to have both in house and outpatient detox supports, ready for when people ask for help. IH is working on getting outpatient detox in every hub or mobile detox but it's tough when transportation is a roadblock.

Ministry of Housing and BC Housing

SILGA asked about the impact of the proposed zoning changes to single family lots as the new Home for People housing plan allows for three to four units per lot with higher densities in areas well served by transit. Secondary suites are also approved. Yet these changes put greater demands on existing infrastructure such as water, sewers, garbage, parking etc.

ADM Housing stated there is \$50M in grants to help with zoning changes with a formula to assist all communities. BC is also working with the Federal Finance Ministry to ask for help with increased infrastructure needs/expenses. Discussion also centered on ensuring the new buildings in a neighbourhood retain the same style of home as what is currently there. BC Housing is looking at subsidized housing/co-op homes but needs federal support to move forward. Tiny homes are also being considered but changes need to be made to the current BC building code.

And communities can opt out of public hearings if the project is part of the OCP. She suggested an option for LGs is to have an open web page forum to garner community members' views.

Ministry of Forests

SILGA raised the issue of the current AAC and the fibre inventory shortfalls at pulp mills which are threatening the future of our pulp and paper industry along with how to improve the fire management in our forests and wildfire response.

Ministry staff stated that BC Timber Sales is doing forest severity mapping, looking at the forest investment program, fire risk reduction projects, looking to expand the amount of timber they are able to salvage for the pulp sector including fire salvage (black wood) which mainly goes to First Nations. But they also realize they have to keep the auction system functioning properly. They recognize the importance of aerial seeding in fire zones.

Ministry of Water/Lands/Resource Stewardship

SILGA asked that the Ministry work with the stakeholders involved with water, and local governments to map out a long term plan for water usage and water conservation in light of the increased demands for hydroelectric power.

The ADM stated there is a conflict between the general population and agricultural demands on water. Who gets this limited resource? Farmers and ranchers are getting cut off from water because the aquifers are drying out. Unfortunately water rights aren't necessarily guaranteed, which creates lots of fear and angst. BC doesn't want to be the next California with constant brownouts etc. He acknowledged that open lines of communication are needed to let farmers/ranchers know why, in advance, they cannot keep using the water. Farmers/ranchers need to be part of the long term process for water usage.

SILGA Strategic Planning Session

The SILGA board met for 2 days in July for a strategic planning session at Silver Star Resort.

a) Strengthening Board member roles and responsibilities

i. Can Area Associations work together to streamline resolutions? If multiple AA's have approved similar resolutions, do they have to be voted on at UBCM if the majority of the province has already approved?

ii. Work on education re: resolutions. Ensure councils and staff know how to use the UBCM resolutions data base

iii. Create a SILGA framework for minister meetings

iv. Can SILGA meet with Ministers and/or provincial staff at times other than UBCM convention? Start our own SILGA Advocacy Days via virtual meetings or having select board members travel to Victoria. Unfortunately the provincial legislature is in session during most of the SILGA convention, but ministry staff could come in the ministers' place.

b) Enhancing Support and Engagement

i. Develop schedule for SILGA Scoop newsletter

ii. Ask members for content and feedback

iii. Make it one page/include minutes from board meetings

c) Empowering Effective Governance

i. Get back to hosting meetings in person around the SILGA region

ii. Offer educational sessions, both in person and online depending on the topics

- Local Government Budgeting 101 – in person
- Conflict of Interest - online

Mark your calendar!

2024 SILGA Convention

April 30th to May 3rd in Kamloops.

Keynote speaker Kukpi7 Rosanne Casimir



SILGA is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Gord Lovegrove to the SILGA Board. Kelowna Councillor Lovegrove takes the place of Charlie Hodge, also from Kelowna, who had to step aside for health reasons.



SILGA Youth at UBCM



McKenzie Gyorkos, Spallumcheen

I have a few takeaways from my time at UBCM. The first one being that communication is how anything gets resolved. Every community came to UBCM with issues that needed fixing, and they had to talk to the right people in order to come up with a solution. No matter how different municipalities may seem from each other, they have more in common than it appears. This was really shown to me in resolutions when elected officials around British Columbia came together to vote on what they wanted to talk to the province about. Lastly, everybody you see is human, even the politicians you see on your TV. You need to treat them like so.

Emily Armstrong, Salmon Arm

Throughout my week immersed in politics, I've learnt three main life lessons. If my generation wants our futures to look different from our current world, we need to act now. Most of the issues I see and experience in my own community do not go unnoticed. At the end of the day everyone, even powerful politicians, are human.

UBCM Community Excellence Awards

Presidents Committee Choice Winner

City of Kamloops/Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc
Building Relationships Towards Reconciliation



Excellence in Asset Management

Summerland for Water and Road Infrastructure
Integrated Asset Management Plans



Excellence in Service Delivery Runner Up

TNRD – Ashcroft Library Service Extender



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Does your community have a project they'd like to showcase? Has your council been progressive in any area of local government operations? We want to hear about it. Please send an article to info@silga.ca along with pictures if appropriate. Sharing best practices is the best way to make everyone work smarter!

You asked. We'll deliver. Budgeting 101 Seminar on November 15th and 17th



A bulletin will be sent when details have been ironed out.