

# SILGA SCOOP

## 2024 Fall Edition



### SILGA Ministry Meetings at UBCM

#### Mental Health / Addictions

Jonathan Dube, Acting Deputy Director

- Expansion of the Road to Recovery program
- Focusing on detox and withdrawal
- Trying to establish a linear journey from detox to aftercare
- Acknowledged that transportation services are key for patients that don't live in the communities where services are provided – similar to cancer transportation programs
- Outreach teams for patients that don't have supportive families
- Secure facilities for people receiving supports in long term care facilities
- Providing better mental health care in correctional facilities

#### Housing / BC Housing

Jessica Brooks ADM Land Use and Planning

- Federal Government will allocate \$6 billion in infrastructure funding
- Bill 47 – new legislation - development finance tools expanded to help pay for expanding infrastructure, ie DCC's
- Local service area agreements with private developers reduce LG's borrowing capacities but current legislation is rigid and won't allow this re: borrowing limits
- Speak with Brian Bedford, ED with Muni to work on changing legislation as he is the one that understands the constraints of the current legislation
- SILGA asked if a grant funded by BC Housing to put planners into RDs - bringing continuity and can help multiple communities.

#### Transportation / Infrastructure

Katie Ward, Regional Deputy Director

- Province will not go back to public maintenance, too expensive
- Need to focus on service levels vs. cost to provide services
- Each contractor has a different way in how they maintain the road. If not satisfied, contact the contractor first. They do get audited to make sure they are living up to the terms of their contract.
- Be aware that each area has different challenges
- Egress roads are a Ministry of Forests responsibility, but MOTI does help fund.
- Signage is also MoF issue

#### UBCM Board of Directors

We are pleased to announce the following SILGA members have been elected / appointed to the 2024-25 UBCM Board

Mayor Denise O'Connor, Lytton – Small Communities Rep  
Mayor Spencer Coyne – Director at Large  
Councillor Aimee Grice – Director at Large  
Councillor Louise Wallace Richmond – SILGA Rep



# SILGA Students at UBCM

Alya Van Laer, Kamloops and Owen Grice, Oliver were the student representatives at UBCM.

## Alya's takeaways:

- A single conversation can lead to change and tone is everything.
- Everyone is just a person. The vast majority are just people who want to help make their communities better.
- Everyone shares a common goal and when we can all work together it makes things a million times easier.
- I learned the most in hallway conversations, and you shouldn't be afraid to go up to talk to somebody. Everyone has so many ideas and even just talking to them can be inspiring.
- It's not all going to be easy. I was extremely fortunate to have experienced walking away from a meeting with exactly what we went in asking for, as well as walking away with a more negative relationship than how we started.

## Owen's thoughts:

Going into UBCM I was pretty intimidated and wasn't too sure if politics was the right path for me. However, after attending and meeting so many people in government I am far more excited to start on that path of my life. My biggest take away from the conference was from the province wide community to community forum where I learned more about the history of indigenous people in Canada and the importance of truth before reconciliation. With this, I and a few friends are slowly putting together a truth and reconciliation club at our school to further our peers' and teachers' education about the land we reside on. I am extremely grateful to SILGA for allowing myself and the other youth delegate to attend as we both gained a lot from this experience, and it gave us a lot to think about for the future.

## 2025 SILGA Convention – Merritt BC

JOIN US FOR THE SILGA 2025 CONVENTION | APRIL 29 - MAY 2 | MERRITT

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