



MERRITT 2025 AGM & CONFERENCE

BRIGHT IDEAS; BRIGHTER COMMUNITIES

TUESDAY, APRIL 29TH

MORNING

REGISTRATION OPENS

BEES, BISON, AND BEER TOUR

A TOUR OF SOME OF MERRITT'S FINEST: FEATURING AN APIARY TOUR, VALLEY GRAZE CHARCUTERIE LUNCH AT PENTANGLE V BISON RANCH, AND BEER SAMPLES AT THE EMPTY KEG BREWHOUSE

NOTE: PLEASE WEAR RANCH-APPROPRIATE OUTDOOR CLOTHES AND FOOTWEAR

AFTERNOON

GOLFING - MERRITT GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS

CHOOSE ONE
OR TWO

1:00-3:00

BRIDGING CLIMATE & ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES TO REGIONAL CHALLENGES
CAROLEANNE LEISCHMANN, COMMUNITY ENERGY ASSOCIATION &
DANIEL ARBOUR, PACIFIC INSTITUTE FOR CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

1:00-1:45

VISITOR CENTRE STRATEGIES AND MRDT

SAPPHIRE GAMES, VISITOR SERVICES & COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR, SALMON ARM VISITOR CENTRE

2:00-3:00

INTERIOR HEALTH'S HUMAN RESOURCES STRATEGY

BUILDING RESILIENT SYSTEMS IN RECRUITMENT, RETENTION AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
TAYA SANDERS, DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT, IH HUMAN RESOURCES
JENNIFER MILLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, IH MEDICAL STRATEGY AND RECRUITMENT
KATHY DOULL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, IH CLINICAL OPERATIONS, KAMLOOPS COMMUNITY

3:15-4:15

TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES THROUGH LIBRARIES

THE SMART CHOICE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
DANIELLE HUBBARD, CEO, OKANAGAN REGIONAL LIBRARY
JUDY MOORE, CHIEF LIBRARIAN, THOMPSON-NICOLA REGIONAL LIBRARY
CARI LYNN GAWLETZ, CHAIR, ASSOCIATION OF BC PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTORS; AND LIBRARY DIRECTOR,
GRAND FORKS & DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY

EVENING

PUB NIGHT - VARIOUS LOCATIONS

GRAND PUB
WINE TASTING

MERRITT LEGION
KARAOKE & COMFORT FOOD

THE EMPTY KEG BREWHOUSE
TRIVIA & TACOS

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30TH

MORNING

BREAKFAST TALK: MOBILIZING COMMUNITIES FOR RESILIENCE

A MULTISECTORAL APPROACH TO PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND RECOVERY
KRISTI RINTOUL, UNITED WAY DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNITY IMPACT AND INVESTMENT

REGISTRATION CONTINUES

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

CHOOSE ONE

SUPPORTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR

LESSONS LEARNED
LAUREL DOUGLAS, CEO, ETSI-BC
RENATA KING, PROJECT CONSULTANT, ETSI-BC

COMMUNITY FORESTS

SUPPORTING RESILIENCY IN RURAL BC
CARLY DOW, MANAGER OF COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH, BC COMMUNITY FOREST ASSOCIATION

EXPLORING DATA ON STATISTICS CANADA WEBSITE

DESIREE NG, REGIONAL MANAGER, STATISTICS CANADA

OPENING CEREMONIES

REGIONAL DISTRICTS

LEGISLATIVE REFORM
DON LIDSTONE, PARTNER, LIDSTONE & CO.

AFTERNOON

TRADE SHOW BEGINS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

NORM VAN EEDEN PETERSMAN, STRONG TOWNS

RESOLUTION SESSION

EVENING

WELCOME RECEPTION

COMMUNITY SHOWCASE AT NICOLA VALLEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
CATERED BY VALLEY GRAZE

THURSDAY, MAY 1ST

MORNING

TRADE SHOW CONTINUES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES

EMERGING ISSUES

GARY MACISAAC, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

TRISH MANDEWO, PRESIDENT, UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES

CULTURE COUNTS!

STORIES, STATS, AND SECRETS TO THRIVING COMMUNITIES

KATHLEEN DARBY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CREATIVE CITY NETWORK OF CANADA

DAVID GONELLA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SALMON ARM ROOTS AND BLUES

AIMEE GRICE, MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS COORDINATOR, OLIVER THEATRE

COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE AWARDS

THE FUTURE OF RURAL BC

ENVISIONING COMMUNITY-LED DEVELOPMENT

SARAH SINCLAIR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BC RURAL CENTRE

AFTERNOON

AUTHENTICITY IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

HARNESSING THE POWER OF STORY

KEN MATHESON, KM DOCUMENTARIES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - CON'T

BULLYING & HARRASSMENT

KEEPING OUR WORKPLACES SAFE

DENISE MCCABE, PARTNER, FULTON & CO.

JESSICA Vliegenthart, PARTNER, FULTON & CO.

BEYOND THE BASICS

HOW CAPITAL PLANNING CAN HELP SHAPE VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

HAYLEY INGLIS, COMMUNITY PLANNER, URBAN SYSTEMS

AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR DETAILS

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THURSDAY, MAY 1ST - CON'T

AFTERNOON - CON'T

AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

CHOOSE ONE

ELECTORAL AREA DIRECTOR ROUND TABLE

MERRITT CIVIC CENTRE

TRICIA THORPE, MODERATOR, SILGA DIRECTOR AT LARGE & TNRD EA DIRECTOR

BARKMAN CONCRETE MANUFACTURING TOUR

BARKMAN CONCRETE - NO TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED

TOUR HOST TBA, BARKMAN CONCRETE

CULTURAL AWARENESS TOUR

NICOLA VALLEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY - NO TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED

JOHN CHENOWETH, PRESIDENT, NICOLA VALLEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

RESILIENCY TOUR

BUSSING PROVIDED

SEAN STRANG, DIRECTOR OF FLOOD RECOVERY AND MITIGATION, CITY OF MERRITT

EVENING

BANQUET

SMOKEHOUSE BARBEQUE AND COQUIHALLA COYOTES AT MERRITT CIVIC CENTRE

CATERED BY WOODS SMOKING BBQ PIT

MERRITT 2025
AGM & CONFERENCE

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FRIDAY, MAY 2ND

MORNING

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

CHOOSE ONE



AGRICULTURAL PERSPECTIVES

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE
GLEN BURGESS, EMERGENCY SPECIALIST, BC DAIRY
KEN NICKEL, CONSULTANT, BC AGRICULTURE
KEVIN BOON, GENERAL MANAGER, BC CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

WHAT IS A BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREA?

AND HOW DOES IT ENHANCE A COMMUNITY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT?
JEREMY HEIGHTON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KAMLOOPS NORTH SHORE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

UNLOCKING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

SADIE HUNTER, HUNTER INK

GATEWAY 286

HARNESSING INTERSECTORAL COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT
JEFF KENNEDY, CFO, TROIKA

MINING IN THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR

PANEL HOSTED BY MAYOR SPENCER COYNE
JONATHAN BUCHANAN, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, ASSOCIATION FOR MINERAL EXPLORATION BC
KORAH DE WALT-GAGNON, PROJECT MANAGER, TASEKO MINES

GRAND PRIZE DRAW

NOON

CONFERENCE CLOSES