



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 A TOUR OF GRIMSHIRE APIARIES, VALLEY GRAZE CHARCUTERIE LUNCH AT PENTANGLE V BISON RANCH, AND BEER 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

TOURISM TRANSFORMED

UNIFYING SALMON ARM'S TOURISM SERVICES FOR IMPACT, EFFICIENCY & GROWTH.
SAPPHIRE GAMES, VISITOR SERVICES & COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR, CITY OF SALMON ARM
JENNA ROBINS, TOURISM MARKETING COORDINATOR, SALMON ARM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

MERRITT 2025
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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
RANDY SPYKSMA, REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL FORESTER, BC COMMUNITY FOREST ASSOCIATION

EXPLORING DATA ON STATISTICS CANADA WEBSITE

DESIREE NG, REGIONAL MANAGER, STATISTICS CANADA

OPENING CEREMONIES

REGIONAL DISTRICTS

LEGISLATIVE REFORM
DON LIDSTONE, K.C., SENIOR PARTNER, LIDSTONE & CO.

12:00PM-5:00PM

TRADE SHOW BEGINS

AFTERNOON

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

STRONG TOWNS

A BOTTOM-UP REVOLUTION TO REBUILD AMERICAN PROSPERITY
NORM VAN EEDEN PETERSMAN
DIRECTOR OF MOVEMENT BUILDING, STRONG TOWNS

RESOLUTIONS SESSION

EVENING

WELCOME RECEPTION

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

MERRITT 2025
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THURSDAY, MAY 1ST

8:00AM - 3:00PM

TRADE SHOW CONTINUES

MORNING

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES

EMERGING ISSUES

GLEN BROWN, GENERAL MANAGER, UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES
GARY MACISAAC, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES
TRISH MANDEWO, PRESIDENT, 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, HOUSE MANAGER, VENABLES 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

RULING THE UNRULY

BALANCING THE RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH WITH WORKPLACE SAFETY

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
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FRIDAY, MAY 2ND

MORNING

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

CHOOSE ONE

AGRICULTURAL PERSPECTIVES

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

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

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS

HARNESSING INTERSECTORAL COOPERATION FOR COMMUNITY BUILDING
JEFF KENNEDY, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, TROIKA
RENEE MERRIFIELD, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, TROIKA

MINING IN THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR

PANEL HOSTED BY MAYOR SPENCER COYNE
JONATHAN BUCHANAN, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, ASSOCIATION FOR MINERAL EXPLORATION BC
FRANK CATALANO, GENERAL MANAGER, HUBBAY MINERALS INC
KORAH DE WALT-GAGNON, PROJECT MANAGER, TASEKO MINES
TIM MCEWAN, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, MINING ASSOCIATION OF BC

GRAND PRIZE DRAW

NOON

CONFERENCE CLOSES