

2025 SILGA Nominating Committee Report



Presentation of the results of a call for nominations for the
Southern Interior Local Government Association

Nominations

1. Appointment of Nominations Committee

(up to 3 members, to include the Past President, who will be chair)

Responsibility: President

Completion Guideline: 60 days before convention

2. Call for Nominations sent to the membership

Responsibility: Nominations Committee Chair

3. Nominations to be received by the Nominations Committee Chair, who consults with the Nominations Committee and prepares the Nominations Report with photographs and biographies.

Responsibility: Nominations Committee

Completion Guideline: 2 months before convention

4. Forward the Nominations Report to the Host Committee for inclusion in the delegate binders.

Responsibility: Nominations Committee

Completion Guideline: 1 month before convention

NOTE: If, at the close of the annual convention, there are not sufficient members elected to the Executive to constitute a quorum, the local government who has the President as one of its members shall be responsible to find sufficient members to serve on the Executive. If there is no President, the local government currently responsible for providing administrative arrangements to the Executive shall have the responsibility to find sufficient members to serve.

NOTE: In addition to the above mentioned, nominations can still come from the floor as has always been provided.

TO BE ELECTED

All positions are for a one-year term and those presently serving may run for another term if they so wish, except for the President who can only serve for two consecutive terms.

Offices to be filled are for President, 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President and seven Directors, one of who must be an Electoral Area Director of a Regional District.

The Nomination Committee was formed under the bylaws and executive procedures of the SILGA Constitution.

Past President Aimee Grice, Town of Oliver
Koryn de Vries, SILGA General Manager

The Nominations Committee authorized circulation of a call for nominations and preparation of associated material (see background appendix). The results of the call are summarized on the next page and full biographical materials submitted by nominees begin on the page following. It is important to recognize that the role of the committee is to review submissions and prepare this report. It is not the role of the committee to recommend anyone for nomination. We are to ensure nominations are complete, and according to policies and procedures.

Further nominations can be received at the convention from the floor as has always been provided. Please contact the nomination committee chair if there is any aspect of the procedures that you would like clarified.

Nominations and Election of Executive

- 7.1 The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee. The Committee shall consist of up to three (3) Member Representatives, one of whom shall be a Past President.
- 7.2 The Chair of the Nominating Committee shall be the Past President unless that position is vacant, in which case the Chair shall:
 1. be appointed by the Executive with consideration to a previous Past President; and
 2. not be a member of the Executive.
- 7.3 The Nominating Committee shall submit a proposed slate of Executive to the Members at the Annual General Meeting for consideration.
- 7.4 All Member Representatives shall be eligible to stand for election to the Executive.
- 7.5 If an election of the Executive is required it will be conducted by a secret ballot and, subject to subsection 7.11 below, those candidates receiving the most votes of the Members being elected to the Executive, and ballots shall be destroyed by resolution of the Members following the declaration of the successful candidate for office or directorship.
- 7.6 In the event of an equality of votes between two candidates, the successful Executive candidate will be chosen by lot between those two candidates. The name of each candidate will be written on a separate piece of paper, folded in such a way that the names of the candidates are not visible and placed in a container and shaken. One piece of paper will be withdrawn by the Chair of the Nominating Committee and that person declared the winning candidate.
- 7.7 The Chair of the Nominating Committee shall present the Nominating Committee's candidates to the Association and will preside over the election process.
- 7.8 If the Chair of the Nominating Committee is unable to act, the Executive shall appoint a Member Representative, Officer or Director to undertake the duties and responsibilities as Chair of the Nominating Committee and to preside at the election.
- 7.9 The Secretary-Treasurer shall serve as the "Returning Officer" and may appoint other staff members in attendance to assist with the election.
- 7.10 The election of Officers to the Executive shall be held at the Annual General Meeting on a first ballot and that of the Directors at Large subsequently on a second ballot. Any candidate that is unsuccessful in obtaining an Officer position on the first ballot may become a candidate for a Director at Large position on the second ballot.
- 7.11 If, in the election of the Officers to the Executive on the first ballot, an Electoral Area Director of a regional district is elected, the Director at Large positions will then be filled by the candidates with the most votes.
- 7.12 If, in the election of the Officers to the Executive on the first ballot, an Electoral Area Director of a regional district is not elected, then in the election of the Directors at Large, the candidate - of those candidates that are Electoral Area Directors of a regional district - with the most votes will be elected as a Director at Large and the balance of the Director at Large positions will be filled by the remaining candidates with the most votes. If only one Electoral Area Director of a regional district candidate runs for a Director at Large position, that candidate will be acclaimed.

The Nominating Committee Chair will present the recommendations as the nomination for these positions. Other nominations can still come from the floor as has always been provided.

Candidates Speeches - Each candidate will have one minute to present themselves and their platform.

For Officer Positions:

Aimee Grice, Town of Oliver will be Past President.
(Elect one each)

President	Councillor L. Wallace Richmond	City of Salmon Arm
1st Vice-President	Councillor Bill Sarai	City of Kamloops
2nd Vice-President	Councillor Tasha Da Silva	City of West Kelowna

For Directors At Large:

(Elect seven. If no RD director on the table officer positions, one D-A-L must be a RD director)

Spencer Coyne	Mayor	Town of Princeton
Adam Etchart	Councillor	City of Merritt
Ruth Hoyte	Mayor	District of Coldstream
Stephen Karpuk	Councillor	City of Kamloops
Gordon Lovegrove	Councillor	City of Kelowna
Keith Thom	Councillor	District of Peachland
Tricia Thorpe	Director	Thompson Nicola RD

Nominated for:
President

2025 SILGA
AGM



Councillor
Louise Wallace
Richmond
City of Salmon Arm

Louise was born in Quebec City and raised in Northern Ontario. She graduated from the University of Ottawa with a degree in Economics and enjoyed working on Parliament Hill first as a Page then as a Legislative Assistant for the Chief Opposition Whip. After relocating to the West Coast in 1990, she worked in publishing and completed her Masters degree at SFU. In 1999, she moved to Salmon Arm and established Mediability Corporate Communications, a design and marketing business. Louise is a recently retired professor at the Okanagan College in the School of Business.

She is passionate about community-building, creativity and collaboration and is honoured to serve Salmon Arm as a third term city councillor in keeping with her long-standing interest in politics, public affairs and communications.

Her community committee work includes, the Housing Task Force, the Social Impact Advisory Committee and the Airport Commission. Louise was elected to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in June of 2023 and looks forward to representing the region at the federal table.

SILGA, where she is now serving her first term as President, has been exemplary in its advocacy for the region and is a tribute to the power of collective impact.

Nominated for:
1st Vice President

**2025 SILGA
A G M**



Councillor
Bill Sarai
City of Kamloops

I am currently elected as 1st Vice President after serving three years as Director at Large and a year as 2nd Vice President with SILGA. I retired from Canada Post after 31 years of service and was fortunate to become elected as City Councillor for Kamloops in October 2018. Currently, I am serving my second term as a City Councillor with the City of Kamloops and I currently sit as President of the Kamloops Airport Authority Society, Chair of the Governance & Service Excellence Select Committee, as well as being a member of the Safety & Security Select Committee and the Build Kamloops Select Committee. Since 2022, I have been a City of Kamloops Director with the TNRD and sit on the Regional Solid Waste Management Committee.

2024

Nominated for:
2nd Vice President

**2024 SILGA
A G M**



Tasha Da Silva
City of West
Kelowna

Tasha Da Silva is seeking re-election as 2nd Vice President of the Southern Interior Local Government Association for the 2025/26 term and asks for your support in continuing this important work.

SILGA plays a critical role in educating members on the challenges affecting our communities and advocating for change through resolutions brought to UBCM. Tasha is committed to working with the board to seek initiatives which foster collaboration, amplify our collective voices, and ensure that the diverse needs of our 37 communities are heard.

With a passion for inclusive advocacy and a dedication to strengthening regional connections, Tasha is eager to continue serving in this role. She is committed to working alongside SILGA members to champion policies that benefit all communities throughout the Southern Interior region. She asks for your vote to continue building on this momentum and advancing the priorities that matter most to our region.

- SILGA - 2nd VP 2024/Director at Large in 2023
- Okanagan Regional Library Board - Chair 2024/25
- West Kelowna Economic Development Corporation - Director 2024/25
- Glenrosa Resident Association - Past President & Director / Current Member
- West Kelowna Daybreak Rotary- Member since 2022
- Accelerate Okanagan - Member since 2016
- Greater Westside Board of Trade - Member since 2012

*Nominated for:
Director at Large*

2025 SILGA
AGM



**Mayor
Spencer Coyne**
Town of Princeton

Spencer is running for a fourth term in the role of Director at Large with the Southern Interior Local Government Association (SILGA).

He is firm in his conviction that local governance is the most impactful and efficient form of administration, asserting that the decisions and activities undertaken at this level have a profound and direct effect on the populace. His advocacy for regional collaboration and partnership underpins his decision to seek re-election as Director at Large.

In his capacity as the Mayor of Princeton, Spencer presides over the Vermilion Forks Community Forest Corporation, a collaborative initiative between the Town of Princeton, the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, and the Upper Similkameen Indian Band. Additionally, he is a member of the Similkameen Valley Planning Society, an economic development coalition comprising the Town of Princeton, the Village of Keremeos, the Lower Similkameen Indian Band, and RDOS Electoral Areas B, G, and H. Spencer is dedicated to fostering these partnerships to drive prosperity throughout the Similkameen Valley for its residents. Is a director and past vice-chair of the Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen, he collaborates closely with other area representatives and member municipalities to enhance not only his community but also the region at large.

As a proud member of the Upper Similkameen Indian Band and a devoted single father of three (ages 15, 12, and 4), Spencer strives to incorporate the wisdom of the Seven Generations teachings into his decision-making. His goal is always to create a stronger, more vibrant community for future generations.

Spencer is a staunch advocate for the principle that regional cooperation amplifies our collective strength and that a unified approach significantly enhances our ability to influence and enact positive change.

*Nominated for:
Director at Large*

2025 SILGA
AGM



**Councillor
Adam Etchart**
City of Merritt

City of Merritt Councillor Adam Etchart has a 26-year history of working in community service and as a commercial and private insurance agent. As a long-term resident, community volunteer and businessperson, Adam has developed a reputation for trust, integrity, and transparency. Passionate about his community and with a track record for making a difference, he easily won his seat on the municipal council in 2018 and was the only incumbent to be awarded a second term in 2022.

Continuing his tradition of community service, Councillor Etchart serves on the Phalen Seniors Society Board, acts as liaison with the Nicola Valley Community Arts Council and Nicola Valley Museum and Archives Association, and volunteers with Merritt's Emergency Support Services. In previous years, he also served on the board of the local food bank, in addition to a long and ongoing history of supporting the Knights of Columbus' charity events, among others.

As City Councillor, Adam also serves on the Policy Review Committee, the Finance and Police Committee, the Interior Health Advisory Board, and as an alternate on the Thompson-Nicola Regional District's Board of Directors.

Adam's contribution to the community is immeasurable. In addition to providing a clear and compassionate perspective on council, he has been integral in bringing much-needed funding to the community, totaling hundreds of thousands of dollars.

*Nominated for:
Director at Large*

2025 SILGA
AGM



**Mayor
Ruth Hoyte**
District of
Coldstream

I have been honored with the opportunity to serve on the SILGA Board of Directors, twice previously, currently serving as your MIABC representative for the past five years. I appreciate the experience of serving on SILGA with talented colleagues expanded my knowledge and benefits of this organization.

Elected as Councillor in 2018, I now serve as Mayor for the beautiful District of Coldstream. This provides the ability to serve my community and give back, a personal philosophy of mine.

I currently represent the District of Coldstream, both on the Regional District of North Okanagan and the Greater Vernon Advisory committee. I also lend my participation to the Regional Growth Committee and Regional Hospital Board.

Retired from the Insurance Industry after 27 years, I continue to be involved in the community and believe my varied experience can provide some positive input to SILGA.

Past and Current experience in a leadership capacity include:

- Past President - Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce
- Downtown Vernon Association (BIA)
- North Okanagan Employment Enhancement Society (now NExuS)
- Insurance Brokers Association - Treasurer
- Insurance Council of BC – Chair
- First Vice President - BC Elks Association

I sincerely ask for your support and consideration in letting my name move forward for participation on the Board of SILGA.

*Nominated for:
Director at Large*

2025 SILGA
A G M



Councillor
Stephen Karpuk
City of Kamloops

It has been an honour to represent the SILGA area as a Director this past year. I have learned an incredible amount about how SILGA and other LGAs can and should work together to improve the outcomes for all communities.

I believe educational advancement opportunities that empower our community leadership is vital for all of our future growth. I am grateful that my suggestion for a seminar on asset management became a reality and for how well it was received by those who took it in. My travels to SILGA meetings across the region over the past year have helped me better understand our regional differences and common goals for our communities large and small. It was an honour to be on this year's team that vetted the winners of this year's community awards for SILGA. The communities large and small have done incredible work. I am hopeful that all of SILGA membership will continue to strive for excellence in their pursuit of sustainable service delivery.

At this time, I would like to let my name stand as a candidate for the SILGA executive so that I can continue to work for all communities in the SILGA region, and with our collective LGA's and UBCM partners. I am asking for your vote again to be a member of the SILGA Executive board for the coming year. Thank you for your previous support and good luck to all who put their names forward.

*Nominated for:
Director at Large*

2025 SILGA
AGM



Councillor
Gord Lovegrove
City of Kelowna

Gord Lovegrove was appointed as a SILGA Director at Large in 2023. Lovegrove was elected to Kelowna City Council in 2022 and has been appointed to several Boards and Committees, including:

- Regional District of Central Okanagan,
- Bio-solids Advisory Committee,
- Southern Interior Municipal Employers' Association,
- Okanagan Basin Water Board (RDCO appointment), and
- Sterile Insect Release Board (RDCO appointment).

A professional civil engineer by trade, Gord has worked in several local governments across BC, including Vancouver, Langley, Kelowna, and the UBC Vancouver campus. Currently he is a Professor at the UBC Okanagan School of Engineering, which he helped start in 2005. Dr Lovegrove was one of the engineers responsible for the design and launch of the UBC Student U-Pass program, which resulted in a 300% increase in transit ridership and a reduction of over 10,000 tonnes of annual GHG emissions.

Lovegrove has also served on a range of service-based community organizations including the UBC Senate, Kelowna Gospel Mission, Fresh Outlook Foundation, Safe Routes to School, BC Cycling Coalition, and the Provincial Safer Roads & Communities Committee. Gord was also Canada's first departmental science advisor to the Deputy Ministers of Transport Canada and Infrastructure Canada, and he also served on the federal Environment & Climate Change Canada Committee developing the Federal Climate Action 2050 Plan.

His background is in 'SMARTer Growth', or, sustainable community systems development, including land use (cohousing, net zero buildings, walkable neighborhoods) and transportation (walking, wheeling, bussing, and electric, hydrogen-powered, inter-city passenger tram-trains). He has written several books, and served as an expert witness and internationally recognized consultant on improving the ways we manage growth in a way that sustains our quality of life without compromising carrying capacity. In his free time, he loves to stroll, run, bike, and swim along the shores of Okanagan Lake where he and his wife Karen live with their cat Simba.

*Nominated for:
Director at Large*

2025 SILGA
AGM



**Councillor
Keith Thom**
District of Peachland

I have had 5 terms as a Director at Large on the SILGA executive board and would be delighted to serve another term.

My strengths lie in promotion and advocacy. SILGA is a critical step in having well-articulated resolutions from our membership and bringing them to UBCM and local MLA's and MP's. Many of us represent smaller communities within our catchment area and we need a strong voice. I would like to be a part of that team with SILGA.

There are two major mandates of the Executive, with the first being the facilitation of the yearly convention as well as providing educational opportunities throughout the year at locations across the Southern Interior. With education comes empowerment to face the day-to-day challenges that all of us face in local government.

The second mandate is the collection of resolutions from all our area members and ensuring they get on to the desks of the various ministers and then discussed in person at UBCM. We are much stronger as a collective voice.

I would like to continue to be that voice for you as a Director at Large, along with my colleagues on the Executive Board.

"Be the Change You Wish to See in the World"

Nominated for: Director at Large

2025 SILGA
AGM



Director
Tricia Thorpe
Thompson Nicola RD

Tricia Thorpe is currently serving in her first term as Director for Area I (Blue Sky Country) of the Thompson Nicola Regional District. Tricia is seeking a second term as Director at Large to continue her passion for advocacy within the Southern Interior. In her first term as EA Director at Large Tricia implemented quarterly zoom meeting for SILGA EA Directors, as an opportunity to get together informally, discuss issues of concern and look for opportunities to collaborate for joint advocacy.

Born in Rossland, British Columbia, Tricia spent her early years growing up on her family's cattle ranch before moving to the Shuswap area as a teenager. She raised her four children in the Lower Mainland and during this time she worked for several major financial institutions while volunteering on many boards including her housing cooperative. She holds designations in both personal financial planning and a business development program for bankers.

She and her husband reside on a small acreage outside the Village of Lytton, where he is a 4th generation resident. Sadly, during the 2021 Lytton Creek Wildfire they lost their home and hobby farm. Their community lost all significant structures including their health care facility, ambulance station, grocery store and police station. Tricia took this misfortune and her personal experiences from this and became a strong voice for rural residents. Tricia firmly believes that communication and collaboration between all levels of government is a vital element to combatting major issues in the province including climate change, housing, and healthcare.

Over the past few years Tricia has become a well-known advocate for taking a proactive and mitigative approach to disasters such as wildfire and floods. This has involved becoming a champion for FireSmart, giving many interviews, and sharing her experiences in navigating life after the effects of climate change. Additionally, Tricia currently volunteers for the TLKemchEEN FireSmart Committee, Gold Country Tourism, Friends of Historic Hat Creek Ranch, and 2 Health Planning Tables. In her role as Director for the TNRD, Tricia currently sits on the Finance Committee, Utilities Committee, Policy Committee, Electoral Area Director's Committee, Parks and Trails Committee, Boundary and Governance Review Committee and the Regional Hospital Board.

Thank you for your consideration.