

SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
Minutes of Executive Meeting - August 19, 2025
Revelstoke Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT

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| President | Councillor Louise Wallace Richmond, Salmon Arm |
| Past President | Councillor Aimee Grice, Oliver |
| Directors | Councillor Tasha Da Silva, West Kelowna Mayor Spencer Coyne, Princeton Councillor Stephen Karpuk, Kamloops Director Tricia Thorpe, TNRD Mayor Ruth Hoyte, Coldstream Councillor Keith Thom, Peachland Councillor Bill Sarai, Kamloops Councillor Adam Etchart, Merritt General Manager Koryn de Vries |
| Absent | Councillor Gord Lovegrove, Kelowna |

CALL TO ORDER

President Louise Wallace Richmond called the regular board meeting to order at 8:42 am.

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Acting Mayor Tim Stapenhurst welcomed the Board to Revelstoke and expressed the City's excitement to host SILGA in 2026. Revelstoke is looking to work with Provincial Ministries to improve traffic safety, increase conservation officers, receive Bill 44 support, and safely relocate homeless encampments. These requests were submitted to SILGA and passed as 2025 Resolutions.

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

Addition to agenda: Spencer Coyne's reports to new business.

Moved/Seconded by Aimee Grice/Spencer Coyne THAT:

The agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved/Seconded by Spencer Coyne/Bill Sarai THAT:

The draft minutes of the Executive Meeting held on June 6, 2025, remote, be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Mayors for Peace
 - a. Important and well-intentioned, but unclear what is going on with the core group in Japan
 - b. Extend an invitation to apply to have a booth at the Trade Show
 - c. Beyond our scope as SILGA to promote/spearhead this organization – refer them to our convention
2. Lumby Community Readiness Workshop
 - a. SILGA has been invited
 - b. Community stakeholders are invited to plan for the future together

Moved/Seconded by Bill Sarai/Tricia Thorpe THAT:

SILGA send a representative to Lumby's Community Readiness Workshop.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**1. Archiving Progress**

Society documents are now located in GM Koryn de Vries's home office, but the online archive creation is at a standstill due to lack of access to a secure location in which to scan the documents.

Moved/Seconded by Louise Wallace Richmond/Bill Sarai THAT:

SILGA allocate a budget of \$800 for a feed-through scanner/printer to upload society documents.

CARRIED

2. Minister Meetings

SILGA has meetings with four Ministers at UBCM to discuss advocacy initiatives. It would be nice to have a one-pager on SILGA to distribute to MLAs while at UBCM.

Moved/Seconded by Spencer Coyne/Tricia Thorpe THAT:

GM Koryn de Vries create a one-page document with information about SILGA for distribution at UBCM.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS**1. BC Rural Centre Research Collaboration**

Sarah Sinclair and Koryn de Vries would like to look for grants to spearhead research about the impacts of public transportation on rural residents' healthcare as a way to complement SILGA's proposed transportation working group.

Moved/Seconded by Spencer Coyne/Bill Sarai THAT:

GM Koryn de Vries pursue funding and, if successful, research concerning the proposed topic with Sarah Sinclair.

CARRIED**2. CAPE Webinar**

SILGA received a request to promote Canadian Alcohol Policy Evaluation's webinar to our members.

Moved/Seconded by Spencer Coyne/Stephen Karpuk THAT:

The educational webinar be distributed to the membership.

CARRIED**3. Spencer's Reports****a. Regional Transit**

- i. Increased interest in having a central train system in the Interior
- ii. Integrating studies being done internally to have cross-boundary networks that get people to and from essential infrastructure. To effectively do this, we need cross-boundary cooperation: RDs, municipalities, regional Bands
- iii. Goals: integrate rail and bus stops, train lines that feed to/from airports, health facilities, and other necessary infrastructure, walk and bike safely across regions, public/private partnerships, sustainable transportation
- iv. Next step: establish a working group with representatives from all impacted parties, reach out to MOTT letting them know what we are up to
- v. Tourism sector also impacted: Province is looking to decommission the corridor rail; we need to try and partner with TNRD and SLRD into Whistler

Moved/Seconded by Tricia Thrope/Tasha Da Silva THAT:

SILGA create an internal committee to start a Regional Transit Working Group.

CARRIED**b. Indigenous Relations**

- i. Recommendation: create a Community 2 Community program for all of SILGA that invites all seven Tribal Associations to collaborate with SILGA's membership in one group setting
- ii. Goal: bring under-represented groups to the table, including associations that support First Nations and Indigenous groups and other Provincial stakeholders, such as BC Housing and UBCM
- iii. Collaborate on emergency management, economic development, tourism, housing and social services integration (the Indigenous Council at UBCM has asked for support), eventually we will also need to talk about land use planning, but this must be approached with caution because legislation is currently in flux

- iv. Next step: seek funding – Province may help since this has never been done before, but this initiative will be extremely costly over the long-term
- v. Needs to be a committee of the whole
- vi. There are many different bridges to cross before we can get everyone in the same space, but this is a necessary and exciting step to promote the collective needs of our region
- vii. Aim for a first meeting in early spring in Kelowna/Okanagan region – this way SILGA has the project begun in writing for the 2026-27 Board
 - 1. West Kelowna has excellent accommodations and relationships – recommended as forum host

Moved/Seconded by Keith Thom/Bill Sarai THAT:

SILGA seek funding and put together a working group consisting of Ruth Hoyte, Aimee Grice, Keith Thom, Tricia Thorpe, and Spencer Coyne, to pursue funding and planning of this initiative.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. HR – In-Camera

2. Finance

- c. Bank Statements and Bookkeeping in order
- d. Member dues for 2025 all paid
- e. Member dues change: [Schedule A](#) is recommended, but we need to see where larger communities are at when it comes to supporting SILGA
 - i. Policy Committee needs to improve fiscal policy by adding a requirement to have a year's worth of operating costs in our savings
 - ii. Whatever policy is presented needs to be set in stone with no room for renegotiation
 - iii. We need to better communicate the value of SILGA – Communications Committee needs to create a plan for how to do this and the Board will need to execute (recommended: road show prior to SILGA 2026)
 - iv. Educate on what SILGA is, not sell SILGA as a product
 - v. We may also need to increase conference fees so that we break even from the conference and can accrue savings quicker
- f. E-transfer changes
 - i. Recommended that e-transfers over a certain amount require a secondary approval from a signatory

Moved/Seconded by Spencer Coyne/Bill Sarai THAT:

E-transfers should require a second signatory over the same amount as SILGA's chequing policy.

CARRIED

- g. SILGA is interested in adding sponsor opportunities for seminars and newsletters – this needs to go through a review by the Policy and Communications committees

3. Convention

- i. FCM Green Municipal Fund – search for keynotes via them/invite to attend and collaborate
- ii. Reece Harding – Young Anderson, Keynote nominee or educational seminar
- iii. Policies for fees, non-profits, and sponsorships need to be discussed at the Convention and Policy Committee level

4. Education

- a. Reece Harding – Autumn seminar nominee – Kamloops&Kelowna - inquire
- b. Chris Paine or Mario Piroddi – Spring webinar nominee

UBCM REPORT:

Social Development Committee: had a presentation concerning involuntary care and addictions, concurrent disorders, synthetic drugs and their impacts, expanding access, coordination between Local Governments and Province to identify appropriate safe injection sites.

Indigenous Relations Committee: working with AHMA for Urban-Indigenous housing support. This exploration has been spurred by FNLC's advocacy about how off-reserve housing is extremely complex.

Environment Committee: reviewed new regulations on water, reviewing how current renewable energy RFPs are all through BC Hydro because Fortis refuses to support solar energy, need more electricity players to support solar in rural/forested areas and are now required to have indigenous buy-in. This is difficult for Local Governments because First Nations Bands often don't have the capacity to support all new and wanted developments.

Convention Committee: 'Charting the Course' – over 700 seminar submissions, no trade show because Victoria is a smaller venue.

Economic Development Committee: discussed tariffs, trees, and trails – there are lots of changes coming to tourism.

FCM REPORT:

Currently reassigning committees – Louise hopes to be on Transportation & Infrastructure, the French Forum, the BC Caucus, and Environmental Sustainability

Advocacy day in Ottawa is Oct 27-29, please send Louise any requests

Request from Stephen Karpuk: need to advocate for land parcels for social housing in Kamloops and other SILGA communities

Next meeting:

November 7th, Kelowna City Hall, in-person.

Moved/Seconded by Spencer/Bill THAT:

At 11:33 am the SILGA Executive Meeting of August 19, 2025 be adjourned.

CARRIED

Koryn de Vries
General Manager