

SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
Minutes of Executive Meeting - June 19
Peachland

MEMBERS PRESENT

President	Councillor Bill Sarai, City of Kamloops
Directors	Mayor Spencer Coyne, Town of Princeton
	Councillor Adam Etchart, City of Merritt
	Councillor Alena Glasman, District of Peachland
	Director Adrienne Fedrigo, RDOS
	Councillor Stephen Karpuk, City of Kamloops
	Councillor Gord Lovegrove, City of Kelowna
	Councillor Sue Peters, Village of Cache Creek
	Director Tricia Thorpe, TNRD
	 Koryn de Vries, Executive Director
 Absent	 Councillor Tasha Da Silva, City of West Kelowna
	Councillor Louise Wallace Richmond, City of Salmon Arm

CALL TO ORDER

President Bill Sarai called the meeting to order at 12:20pm.

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

Moved/Seconded by Spencer Coyne/Gord Lovegrove THAT:

The agenda for 19 June, 2026, be adopted.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved/Seconded by Stephen Karpuk/Tricia Thorpe THAT:

The minutes for 20 March, 2026, be adopted.

CARRIED

COMMUNITY REPORT

Mayor Van Minsel gave the SILGA Board a community report for the District of Peachland. The Mayor welcomed the SILGA Board to Peachland, the kindest community in Canada. The District has around 6300 residents and 3000 households. This LG term, they have successfully leveraged UBCM and SILGA advocacy to receive more than \$30 million in funding from the Provincial and Federal governments. SILGA is very important; Peachland believes that our advocacy works. In many

governments, the voters look at the UBCM and SILGA expenses and get upset at the costs, but these conferences are meaningful because they build the connections needed to secure funding. Peachland has developed many new community facilities: dog park, trails, soccer field, 3 main roads redone, new childcare facility next to a school, private sector creating 89 rental units with 2 & 3 bedrooms for families. Peachland is often seen as a retirement community, but it hosts diverse residents. Our council is result-oriented with a lot of business background, which is why they are proud to invest and see return on our investments by unveiling our new firehall. On top of advocacy, they are also trying to preserve community character – downtown revitalization prioritizes the community's will to have the small-town feel remain. At FCM, the Mayor attended a session on harassment to public service workers and how that impacts current and future local government officials. We need to recognize we are all residents trying to do our best for our communities, but in every community there will be people who are unhappy: Mayor Van Minsel's advice is to avoid Facebook and focus on doing your job. To be clear: we can't always do it right, but elected officials are trying to improve their regions. On Tuesday, Peachland had its SOFI discussion: there was \$260,000 spent and now they have to explain to constituents the return on investment from these expenses. The Mayor says this can be proven through Peachland's numbers in funding secured. At council, the Mayor plans to explain how those expenses went toward improving the town and saving taxpayers millions.

As Keith Thom would say, be polite to people and try to understand their circumstances every day.

Councillor Stephen Karpuk asked for more details on the fire hall.

The Mayor elaborated, stating the cost is anticipated at \$15 million for a new firehall – Peachland has a borrowing power of \$7.6 million. Many different companies and sites were visited, they had nine development candidates – the Fire Chief decided with staff which one was the best proposal/design. It is a fairly basic structure except for the tower, which will be used to practice and to dry hoses. This consultation took 3 years due to partnership examinations, all of which said they couldn't support the project economically. Peachland was left with two choices: defer until a better time, or go it alone. They went for it and luckily have stayed on budget. Procurement is the most important phase: Andy Brennan, Procurement Specialist, has secured Peachland ironclad contracts that won't go over budget. Working with citizens to authorize the budget was the hardest part, but they had a 70% yes on a referendum: a clear mandate. They have also applied for a \$7 million UBCM infrastructure grant. If successful, the District can allocate additional funds for a firetruck and lessen the overall borrowing burden for taxpayers. Mayor Van Minsel also recognized that he has followed the example of Mayor Coyne: get people to know who you are when you walk in a room and know who is in power and what they can do. Ultimately, we have to work with others even when we differ on our views.

Councillor Gord Lovegrove inquired about regional transportation for Peachland.

Mayor Van Minsel said that the community has been struggling with transportation because of how the community is nestled alongside the highway, there are too many people with cars and nowhere to put them. He also recognized that the community must think of their future residents too, and expanding transportation via regional partnerships is very important for their quality of life.

Mayor Spencer Coyne inquired whether Peachland is participating in Route 70 with the RDOS.

The Mayor explained that the existing connection between Penticton and Peachland runs twice a day and the transfer to get to downtown Kelowna is in West Kelowna. Alena Glasman commented that she has ridden it and that it is unreliable for those trying to get into greater Kelowna for employment.

The Mayor mentioned his plans to run again, but acknowledges what a huge burden another term will come with: the job is busy, thankless, causes the loss of friends, and has little in the way of salary. With

this in mind, he saluted all who plan to run again. Mayor Van Minsel concluded with a few other Peachland statistics: the current tax rate is 3.84 – he has asked departments to be frugal because people are struggling. They still have 1.2% reserves, so the aim for the end of this term is to finish what they are doing, do it right, and move on. They are also facing challenges concerning a growing summer population that is difficult to count due to many unofficial Air BnBs: the current estimate is at least double their off-season population. Peachland also developed 50 new dwellings in 2025 – this helped keep the 2026 tax increase low.

Councillor Bil Sarai gave his best wishes for the election and, should Mayor Van Minsel be reelected, the new term ahead.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Evan Brown is on parental leave. His replacement, Anna Bunschuh, can be reached at Anna.Bundschuh@gov.bc.ca or Evan's former cell number.

2. Received a reply from Minister Boyle concerning Bill M216 advocacy – acknowledgment of feedback

3. Town of Princeton – Homeless Encampments on Crown Land.

Councillor Bill Sarai recommended SILGA compose a letter for support on homeless encampments – correctional institutions are sitting empty and people need care in our communities.

Resolution 6 in 2025, sponsored by Revelstoke, made the same request as Princeton's letter

It was noted that Merritt has had issues because they received wraparound supports and now more people at risk are entering their small community to receive them

Peachland also had a Crown Land encampment – the NRO came in with the RCMP, spoke to all individuals (mental health/addiction/unhoused/young single parents) about their housing needs – encampment residents had to disband on their own in 14 days or the RCMP would physically disband the encampment. The NRO found out what resources were needed for each individual and physically transported them to where they needed to go to get those services. In the Interior, only Peachland has received this response. The Province has an obligation to intervene in all cases with the same measures. Councillor Glasman recommended requesting support from the Okanagan Forest Task Force: a resource for cleaning up encampments in the spring; volunteer-run. They cleaned up 58,000lbs of refuse from the last Peachland encampment cleanup. They go into the district bubble region looking for problem areas and then coordinate cleanups.

Councillor Glasman to investigate how to get appropriate intervention happening in more communities – she credited the swift intervention to 'being the squeaky wheel' and advocating incessantly to the Province.

Moved/Seconded by Spencer Coyne/Alena Glasman THAT:

A letter requesting jurisdictional clarity and intervention on Crown Land Homeless Encampments be drafted and sent to the Province and the NROS.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**1. Betty Brown - JP Centre Presentation**

The JP Centre is a year in and is accelerating innovation to improve healthcare, in particular for rural and remote locations.

They are currently based in Kelowna – this is a neutral convening space where all stakeholders, from individuals to large organizations, can submit ideas. The JP Centre brokers partnerships through their wraparound services. Jim Pattison gave the Centre a \$5 million naming right grant, but the foundation is willing to fund more and has other donors. They are building as they fly – their CEO was installed last July, growing as things change. To date, there have been 65 submitted projects of various scope/potential/impact, with 22 in the pipeline moving forward, with others still looking for funders/partners. Single community requests and big research requests are moving forward. Betty has been hired to focus on local governments, particularly rural ones. Local governments have critical lived experiences in their communities that need to be heard.

The JP Centre is now in its second stage: moving forward. Forming more formal partnerships with LGAs, Indigenous partnerships, and medical pros.

The JP Centre is not bound by Interior Health (IH) but they have robust IH connections – the IH CEO sits on the board. By testing proof of concepts, those that are successful and scalable, can be coordinated with IH for implementation..

Proposal: to host a workshop asking how the Centre can support LGs, esp rural, to identify and dev ideas for the centre. Elected officials VERY busy and Betty wants to make it easy through regional hubs, workshops, mapping sessions, etc. Betty asks for a workshop at SILGA to further facilitate this. There is potential to get more boots on the ground by skirting bureaucracy through partnerships for trial implementation.

Councillor Karpuk commented on a primary concern, which is the extent to which bureaucracy does come into play and cannot be skirted. Interior Health Authority is the biggest barrier. As a chiropractor, Vancouver Island colleagues can do diagnostic imagery, neurological assessment, lab tests, etc. IHA does not permit chiropractors to perform any of this: chiropractors are not a part of the health system. The Ministry of Health cannot override IHA. Changing regulations to expedite patient care where they are already receiving care could help alleviate the backlog in the Interior.

Betty Brown recommends coming up with a trial program or research project to fund through the Centre to quantify this difference in Health Authorities.

Mayor Spencer Coyne asked whether physician sharing could be a pilot project through the JP Centre.

Betty Brown agreed that creating regional hubs for physician sharing could be a point of collaboration that could then be picked up by Interior Health.

Councillor Gord Lovegrove inquired whether the JP Centre could fund research into health outcomes' links to regional transit access.

Betty Brown said if the project is focused on health access/outcomes, JP Centre could find study funding. She recommends using the "Submit an Idea" portal on JP Centre website. The JP Centre commits five hours of in-kind support for an idea, then will support finding more grant opportunities if approved to go forward. The Centre recovers costs through a portion of the grant funding.

Director Tricia Thorpe is currently working on a project with the Centre, and remarks that the partners that JP centre brought in for in-house diagnostics training are people who Tricia's team would never have thought of incorporating.

Betty Brown made clear that they cannot fund operations. The JP Centre is for new initiatives that need support getting piloted: these initiatives must have ROI and replicability/scalability.

2. C2C and Transit – tabled for August

Koryn to follow up with ETSI-BC, Mayor Coyne, and Councillor Lovegrove

3. NCLGA Updates

Overall, it was an excellent time and very educational. It was remarked that there is a huge advocacy opportunity if SILGA were to advocate together with the AKBLG and NCLGA.

Moved/Seconded by Spencer Coyne/Tricia Thorpe THAT:

SILGA invite AKBLG and NCLGA to a joint Board Meeting, with BCRC as a guest observer.

CARRIED

4. Joint Area Association Webinar Initiative

Moved/Seconded by Spencer Coyne/Alena Glasman THAT:

SILGA support the join Area Association Webinar on preparing for Minister Meetings

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

1. Minister meetings:

After much deliberation on priorities, the major ones were:

Connect with the Premier's Office, wildfire mitigation, FireSmart funding, industrial water rates, regional transportation, EA Director standard of interaction, involuntary care, community forests, and trail maintenance and funding.

Staff meetings may end up being more important as there is an anticipated fall cabinet shuffle. Look to arrange Shadow Minister meetings also.

It was recommended to reach out to SILGA members who passed Resolutions to include us in their advocacy meetings to the Province.

Moved/Seconded by Alena Glasmane/Tricia Thorpe THAT:

SILGA offer a representative to be present at member advocacy meetings concerning SILGA-endorsed resolutions.

CARRIED

2. Bylaw review

Many SILGA bylaws are out of date and the language needs to be updated through the documents for consistency.

Moved/Seconded by Stephen Karpuk/Adrienne Fedrigo THAT:

SILGA use the 2026 Event Planner budget to contract a Corporate Officer to support a review of SILGA's Constitution and Policies.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS**1. 2026-27 Committee Assignments**

Member Services: Adam Etchart, Gord Lovegrove, Stephen Karpuk

Resolutions: Gord Lovegrove, Alena Glasman, Spencer Coyne, Tricia Thorpe

Communications: Alena Glasman, Louise Wallace Richmond, Tasha Da Silva

Policy: Adam Etchart, Sue Peters, Adrienne Fedrigo

Community Excellence Awards: Adam Etchart, Sue Peters, Tricia Thorpe

UBCM Rep: Bill Sarai

Keith Thom Memorial Scholarship: Committee of the Whole

2027 Convention: Louise Wallace Richmond, Tricia Thorpe, Spencer Coyne, Bill Sarai, Gord Lovegrove, Tasha Da Silva, Adrienne Fedrigo

Finance: Bill Sarai, Adam Etchart, Stephen Karpuk

Nominations: Louise Wallace Richmond

Human Resources: Spencer Coyne, Louise Wallace Richmond, Bill Sarai

Advocacy: Committee of the Whole

MIABC Rep: Adam Etchart

Indigenous Relations: Committee of the Whole

Moved/Seconded by Alena Glasman/Adam Etchart THAT:

The above serve as SILGA's committee assignments for the 2026-27 term.

CARRIED

2. Convention Committee

- Lee's Music A/V contract is up for renewal – the Board asks to make sure SILGA gives them what they are worth because they have been such a cornerstone and longtime supporter of the convention.

- Revelstoke – the Board asks to give the City a huge thank-you in the next newsletter for their generosity.

LGLA - offering complimentary attendance for providing Registration Desk support.

Koryn requests to attend as a part of their Professional Development and to support creating complementary programming for SILGA 2027.

Moved/Seconded by Spencer Coyne/Tricia Thorpe THAT:

Koryn de Vries attend the Local Government Leadership Association conference in Kelowna.

CARRIED

3. Communications Committee

Upcoming meeting - August 14th, West Kelowna

Newsletter – Communications Committee to review process

UBCM REPORT

UBCM

As newly appointed President, Councillor Bill Sarai has been invited to attend the Community Safety Committee meeting and Executive meeting as an observer; SILGA is expected to pay accommodations and travel

Moved/Seconded by Stephen Kapruk/Adam Etchart THAT:

Councillor Sarai attend the upcoming UBCM Executive meetings on behalf of SILGA.

CARRIED

Next meetings:

Convention Committee: Friday, July 24, 2026, 9am - remote

Board Meeting: Friday, August 7th, 2026, 10:30am - Clearwater

Communications Committee Meeting: Friday, August 14th, 2026, 1-3pm - West Kelowna

Moved/Seconded by Spencer Coyne/Tricia Thorpe THAT:

At 3:15pm, the June 19th, 2026 Regular Board Meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Koryn de Vries
Executive Director