



Southern Interior Local Government Association

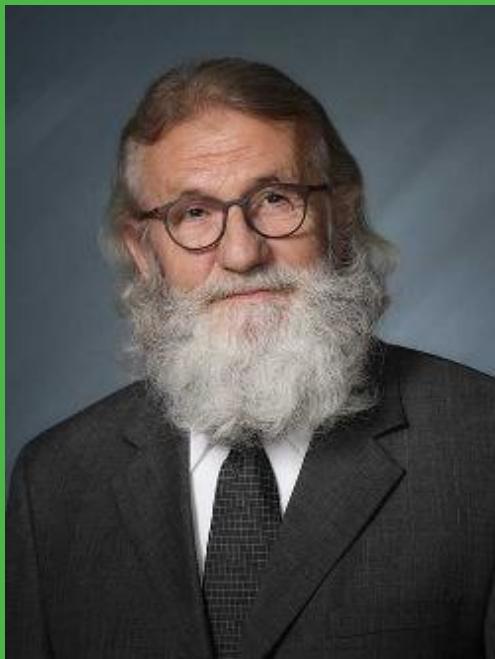
# Winter 2026 Newsletter



Greetings from the Southern Interior Local Government Association! We are hard at work preparing the Revelstoke 2026 SILGA Conference and AGM, occurring April 29th to May 2nd, 2026. This year's theme is Growing Together. We cannot wait to see you there.

**Registration opens February 16th, 2026.**

# In Memoriam



SILGA sends our condolences to those impacted by the passing of Peachland Deputy Mayor and SILGA Director-At-Large Keith Thom on November 6th, 2025. His legacy of generosity has impacted many across the Southern Interior and beyond, including through nearly a decade of service on the SILGA Board. In honour of his dedication to uplifting others from all backgrounds, our Youth at UBCM initiative has been renamed the *Keith Thom Memorial Scholarship*. Please consider supporting Keith's legacy by contributing to a local food bank in his memory this winter.

**2026 Webinar  
Registration Open**

Registration for SILGA's 2026 Spring Webinar has begun. The session features a workshop with Don Lidstone, KC and George Abbott, PhD, concerning the Cowichan Tribes decision and unfolding developments. It will run from 1:00PM to 4:00PM Wednesday, February 4th, and it is free for all SILGA members.

**Register Here!**

# Meet Our Revelstoke Keynotes

We are delighted to announce the following keynote speakers for our 2026 conference, bringing their expertise on various aspects of growing thriving communities.



**Thursday**  
Zita Botelho  
Fraser Basin Council



**Friday**  
Gitane De Silva  
Public Policy Forum



**Saturday**  
George Abbot, PhD  
Author, *Unceded*

## 2026 Community Excellence Awards



SILGA is currently accepting nominations for our 2026 Community Excellence Awards in the categories of Environmental Sustainability, Social Responsibility, and Economic Development. Winners will receive a plaque and a promotional video of their community project. The deadline for submissions is February 3rd, 2026.

### [Submission Criteria](#)

## Resolutions Deadline February 20th

Resolutions for debate at the SILGA 2026 Revelstoke convention must be submitted by 4:00PM on February 20th, 2026. It is advised that a draft be submitted to SILGA in advance of passing it at the council or board level to streamline any necessary revisions.

Please contact Koryn, SILGA GM, with any questions.



[Contact SILGA](#)

# SILGA Advocacy Update

SILGA met with four Provincial Ministers at UBCM to advocate for member priorities based on your Merritt 2025 conference feedback. This winter, we advocated on behalf of our communities in the face of emergent developments in the legislature.

Feel free to read and share our advocacy letters at the links below.

[BC Assessment Letter](#)

[Bill M216 Letter](#)



# Call For 2026-27 Nominations

The SILGA Executive is accepting nominations to our Board of Directors until Friday, February 27th, 2026. If you are interested in being apart of the SILGA Executive for the 2026-27 year, please send an email stating your intent to run along with a short bio and headshot for our website. A letter of nomination from your council or board is also recommended.

[Submit Your Nomination](#)



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