

2021 SILGA AGM and Conference

The 2021 meeting was held virtually, President Lori Mindich welcomed members and guests to the conference. The results of the election for the 2021 executive were announced as follows:

President: Karla Kozakevich, RDOS
1st Vice President: Mayor Toni Boot, Summerland
2nd Vice President: Councillor Aimee Grice, Oliver

Directors at Large:

Mayor Spencer Coyne, Princeton
Councillor Tony Luck, Merritt
Councillor Bill Serai, Kamloops
Councillor Judy Sentes, Penticton
Mayor Robin Smith, Logan Lake
Councillor Louise Wallace Richmond, Salmon Arm
Councillor Barb Wiebe, Lillooet

The Keynote Speaker, Diane Kalen-Sukra's presentation, "Addressing Culture Risk: Civic Leaders as Culture Shapers" was quite thought-provoking. The question of the role of culture and the kind of culture needed was explored in detail. She postulated that in order to make cities safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable, change is needed, as cities are on the brink of cultural collapse. Community building is a social process. Technology alone will not lead to sustainable institutions but cultivating a compassionate, human culture will have government do the right things for the right reasons, she says.

The resolutions (31) were presented with opportunities for discussion, although most (25) passed without debate. One resolution was withdrawn and 5 were defeated. There were no late resolutions.

The UBCM President, Brian Frenkel, gave a short address. He planned to be meeting with several MLAs in the near future to discuss UNDRIP and DRIPPA. He sees two major topics at the present time - bringing clarity to Reconciliation, and the Opioid Crisis, and of course other important issues such as Housing and Climate Change. He thanked all of the SILGA members for the good work we are doing under the pressure of these times.

Incoming President Karla Kozakevich spoke of how well SILGA members are adapting to work in this COVID-19 era. She introduced Mayor Alan Harrison of Salmon Arm who invited us all to the 2022 AGM to be held (hopefully) next April 26-29. He says we have lots to talk about and learn from each other, a time to think, talk, and enjoy.

A Meet and Greet with Minister of Municipal Affairs Josie Osborne concluded the Zoom conference.