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## FRIDAY NIGHT KEYNOTE

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We have asked **Charlie Demers** to speak to leadership in transitioning times. There's no end of material, from electoral upsets and fake news to millennial expectations, new economy and righting inequality. Charlie will make you laugh while touching on these themes with witty and insightful commentary. Charlie is an author, stand-up comedian and adjunct professor of creative writing at UBC. He has performed for national television and radio audiences, and at the just for laughs festival. He is one of the most frequently returning stars of CBC radio's smash-hit comedy show the debaters. By combining political humour that's never shrill or self-righteous with jokes that are never thoughtless, Charlie will make you laugh while reflecting on the social, cultural and economic currents of our time.

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## SATURDAY PLENARY

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*Libby Davies*  
Social activist, former MP and  
Deputy Leader of the NDP



*Josha MacNab*  
Director  
Pembina Institute BC



*Craig Suavé*  
City Councillor of Montreal



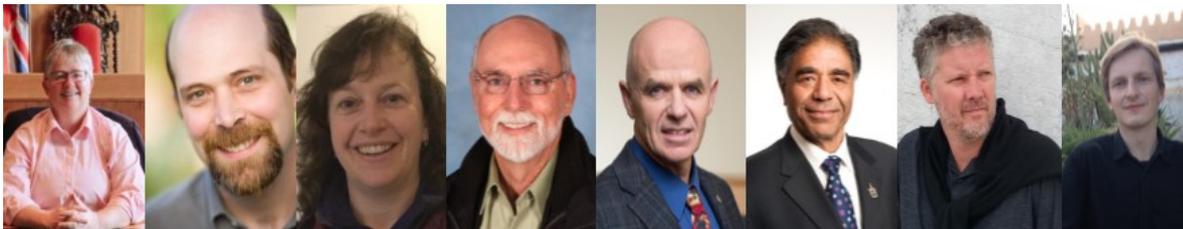
*Stephanie Smith*  
President, BCGEU

**Leadership in Transitioning Times** – We are in a time of transition. Global social, political and environmental developments – amplified by new media and effected by shrinking mainstream media resources – are changing our landscapes. In this Saturday morning plenary, our experts reflect on these transitioning times and the opportunities and challenges for those who lead.

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## PECHA KUCHA STYLE!

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*The women's  
march on  
Washington*

*Pay up  
Chevron*

*Zero waste:  
What it is  
and how to  
push for it*

*Combating  
hate: One  
community's  
journey*

*How  
Quesnel got  
its doctors  
back*

*Top asks  
for Climate  
Action*

*The future  
is here*

*Millennials  
and Political  
Change*

Innovative leadership showcased in fast-paced Pecha Kucha-style - that means 20 slides, 20 seconds.

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## PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

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**Media Intensive** – Join media guru Shannon Daub, Associate Director of Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, for a half-day media intensive that will help you focus on key media skills like how to get your message across (without sounding like a robot!). A necessary political skill for all locally-elected leaders. **Facilitator: Shannon Daub**



**North Vancouver Sustainability Tour** – North Vancouver's corporate emissions dropped 19% from 2007 to 2015 thanks to an aggressive sustainability campaign carried out by the city. Learn about the strategic planning involved in lowering GHG emissions and the work the city is doing to create and maintain publicly-owned space. We'll spend the morning touring North Vancouver's low carbon innovations. **Darrell Mussatto, Gary Penway**

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## SESSION SPOTLIGHTS

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**Engaging Citizens in Budget Decisions** - Participatory budgeting offers an innovative tool for engaging community members, deepening community understanding of budgetary trade-offs and clarifying community priorities. With roots in Porto Alegre, Brazil, participatory budgeting is an exercise that builds community participation and strengthens accountability through allotting a portion of the decision making budget to community members. This session explores participatory budgeting principles and shares how it works in Tofino, BC You'll also get an update on how the process has evolved in Guelph, ON since 1999. Could this be a tool for your community? **Janette Loveys, Josie OsbornE, Leanne Piper**

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**Economy in Transition** - A low carbon economy will mean building out green infrastructure and investing in public services. This session features practical ideas for building out a robust provincial jobs plan that respects our natural environment and generates good jobs. This overview is paired with a transitioning economy case study from New Westminster. New Westminster was hit economically with the mill closures that followed a significant provincial change in policy. Now New West is among the top 20 “wired” cities around the world, and is building up its art credentials with the first digital art gallery in North America. Workshop participants are invited to share their transitioning economy stories. **Seth Klein, Bill Harper, Chuck Puchmayr**

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**Top Asks for Climate Action** - Our 2016 report “Top Asks for Climate Action: Ramping Up Low Carbon Communities” lays out the federal and provincial policy asks local governments need to maximize action on the 60% of GHG emissions they influence. Local governments are showing both determination and success in addressing the issues emerging from our warming planet, and they could do much more with a little help from their (much larger) friends. This session will take participants through an overview of core public policy asks, an update from the Green Municipal Fund (GMF), a GMF funding case study, and an overview of the brand new provincial Step Code. **Karen Farbridge, Andrea Reimer, Robyn Wark**

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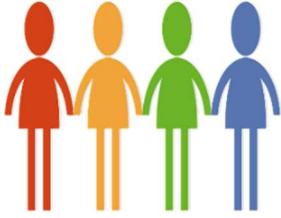
**Reconciliation in Action** – Reconciliation is a big word. The Elders remind us that it is a process, a journey without one single road or a final destination. It is not always easy or comfortable and it sometimes can be confusing and frustrating, yet worth every step. After working with over 5000 people in the Cowichan Valley, deepening our relationships with our country’s history and the impacts its legacies have brought to us, Cultural Connections has a story to share about reconciliation; its highs and lows, the emotions it stirs up and unimaginable gifts. The team will take you through the journey of Canada’s relationships with First Nations, into the era of reconciliation. Participants will laugh, reconsider, reflect, and deepen their understanding. **Cultural Connections representatives**

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**Public Responsibility, Public Control** - With a huge infrastructure deficit in communities across Canada and the advent of new federal funding, the question emerges, how do communities keep public control of their public infrastructure and services? An expert panel will take you through an analysis of federal funding, the central role of transparency in building public infrastructure, a point by point list of key questions to ask in the process, and the global trend toward bringing services back in house with a review of our *Back in House* report. **Rob Duffy, Keith Reynolds, Gaetan Royer**

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**Sanctuary Schools** – The Sanctuary Schools movement works to ensure children and families who are residents in a community, but have precarious or no immigration status, can access public education in our schools without fear. These values stand in stark contrast to a rise in exclusionary, racist and xenophobic incidents, rhetoric and policy currently being witnessed in the US and Canada. The right to participate in public education exists on paper in the BC School Act, but is not always demonstrated in practice. In this session, you'll hear perspectives and early lessons of building District and public will for embedding Sanctuary principles in policy and procedures from Trustees and community partners. In a climate of heightened refugee need, locally elected school boards make a difference. **Mark Gifford, Maya Russell, Baljinder Narang, Alejandra López Bravo**

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**Living Wage Gains Ground** - Living Wage is an international movement countering low wage poverty. A living wage allows for a family to participate in the economic, cultural, and social life of a community. In Canada, BC municipalities are a hot bed of activity. New Westminster was first; in 2015 the Huu-ay-aht First Nation became the first First Nations government to develop a living wage policy; then last year, Quesnel made history as the second municipality in BC to formally certify. Four other municipalities, including Vancouver, have living wage policies and are working on certification. How did these local governments make it happen? What barriers and solutions have they uncovered in the process? Moderated by Living Wage for Families campaign organizer, this session will offer insights to local government leaders that want to initiate living wage policies. **Bob Simpson, Geoff Meggs, Kathy Waddell**

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**Housing Leadership** – The issues of homelessness and affordable housing have local leaders on the front lines. “The mayor who ended homelessness” will tell the story of Medicine Hat's success in housing people first. What factors helped Medicine Hat pull this off? What have been the outcomes? Beyond advocacy and the clear need for Federal and Provincial governments to step up, what tools are available to local leaders on housing? The Mayor of New Westminster -- city planner by training --will share tools and best practices to add to your local government toolkits. **Jonathan Cote, Ted Clugston**

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**Public Communication for Women** – Women’s voices remain underrepresented in public policy debates, in mainstream media, and at elected tables. Women candidates are still in the minority. Gendered ways of communicating can shape how people hear what women have to say. Women often struggle with self-confidence or shy away from being public experts or leaders. Intersecting oppressions based on race, culture, sexuality, gender identity, body and ability heighten these challenges. When it is about advocating for progressive social change, it gets just that much harder. This is a space for sharing experiences and to help one another to be more confident, visible and effective public communicators. **Shannon Daub**

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**Schools and Intergenerational Dialogue** – Schools can play an important role in creating a lively intergenerational dialogue. Seniors are healthier when they are connected to their communities, and healthy communities engage all their citizens -- that's harder when community design encourages driving over walking and fewer community events accommodate all residents. The issue of senior isolation and corresponding health implications is in sharper focus as our senior population increases. This session features discussion and case studies of intergenerational dialogue between schools and seniors. **Kevin Watrin, Randy Cairns, Diana Muntigl, Victoria Martin, Brent Carbery**

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**Lessons from the Cauldron** – It's not always easy being an elected leader. Sometimes decisions are contentious. How do you know you are on the right track? In this workshop you'll hear case studies in leadership from elected leaders who've governed through challenging times. They'll share their stories and provide their observations about good leadership practices. Be prepared to join the conversation, and tell your own tales from the cauldron. **Don Mitchell, Patti Bacchus**

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