



## JOINT NEWS RELEASE

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### **Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities conference returns to Nanaimo**

#### *Local governments meet to improve lives of people they serve*

The City of Nanaimo and the Regional District of Nanaimo are pleased to host the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) 2023 Annual General Meeting and Convention. The convention runs April 14 to 16, and is open to elected representatives from member communities and to members of the public who register.

The primary purpose of the convention is to bring together AVICC members to discuss proposed resolutions that are aimed at improving the lives of the people we serve as local governments. Resolutions that pass at the AVICC convention are voted on by Union of BC Municipalities members in the fall.

The convention's business and social sessions will take place at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre in downtown Nanaimo. Tomson Highway will be delivering the keynote address on Friday, April 16. Highway is a renowned playwright, novelist and musician. He is a member of the Order of Canada and holds 10 honorary doctorate degrees; he has shaped literature and theatre in Canada and internationally.

The Association represents 53 cities, towns, villages and regional districts from Haida Gwaii to the southern tip of Vancouver Island and other local governments of Vancouver Island, Sunshine Coast, qathet/Powell River, the North Coast and the Central Coast.

Convention hosts and attendees gratefully acknowledge that this event is being held on the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation.

### **Quotes**

"I am thrilled that the AVICC is returning to Nanaimo. With the rest of Council, I am looking forward to celebrating our successes, sharing ideas on how to overcome the challenges we all face, and working with others to build stronger communities together."

Leonard Krog  
Mayor  
City of Nanaimo

"The RDN is delighted to be a co-host for the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities convention. The event is an opportunity for our board members to connect in person with other elected officials from around the region to discuss common goals and challenges, learn from knowledgeable speakers, and come back with new ideas we can use to improve our region for all."

Vanessa Craig  
Chair  
Regional District of Nanaimo

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