

**92nd Annual Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments (AKBLG)  
Convention and AGM**



**Strengthening Our Foundations**

<b>Friday April 25</b>	Unless otherwise noted all portions of the convention will take place at the Kimberley Conference Centre, 301 N Star Blvd, Kimberley, BC	
<b>7:30 am - 4:30pm</b>	<b>Registration Open - Breakfast on your own</b>	
<b>7:30 - 10:00am</b>	Set-up for Trade Show (North Star & Sullivan Rooms)	
<b>11:00am - 5:00pm</b>	Trade Show (North Star & Sullivan Rooms)	
	<p><b>Tour A: Downtown Kimberley Planning Tour</b></p> <p>Tour times: 8:00-9:00am, 9:10-10:00am, 9:45-10:45am, 10:30-11:30am</p> <p>Shuttle from Kimberley Conference Centre or walk/self-drive to Kimberley Public Library (approx. 15 mins).</p>	<p>Join members of the City of Kimberley Planning team on a tour through Kimberley’s pedestrian-only downtown core. In this 45-minute walking tour, guides will highlight some of the challenges and opportunities provided by this unique amenity.</p> <p>The team will share a background on the history of planning in Kimberley. Guides will also discuss the future of planning in Kimberley, such as the Downtown Urban Design strategy, which carries the values and spirit of the Platzl into the rest of Kimberley’s downtown.</p> <p>This <b>outdoor walking tour</b> will be approximately 45-60 minutes. Attendees should <b>wear comfortable shoes and appropriate clothing for the weather.</b></p> <p>The tour will begin and end in Kimberley’s shopping district. Attendees are encouraged to explore outside of the formal tour.</p> <p>Capacity: 20 people per tour</p>

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		<p>Catch the shuttle from the Kimberley Conference Centre or walk/self-drive to the Kimberley Public Library. Tour ends at the Kimberley Public Library, shuttle available back to the Conference Centre.</p>
	<p><b>Tour B: Sullivan Mine site tour</b></p> <p>Tour time: 8:15 – 11:30am</p> <p>Shuttle from the Kimberley Conference Centre.</p>	<p>The Sullivan Mine property in Kimberley, British Columbia is the site of a former silver, zinc and lead mine that operated from 1909 to 2001. The mine was critical to the social and economic fabric of the community, becoming one of the largest underground mines in Canada with almost 500 kilometers of tunnels. Over two decades since the mine's closure, Kimberley stands as a prime model of transitioning from a mining town to a thriving community and tourist destination. In 2020, the Sullivan Mine site was recognized with a BC Mine Reclamation Award by the British Columbia Technical and Research Committee on Reclamation for efforts to protect water quality. Water management and treatment will continue indefinitely to ensure protection of the area's water resources. The Teck Legacy Properties team is responsible for the management and use of this property.</p> <p>Learn about Teck's ongoing stewardship efforts post-closure and experience reclamation initiatives first-hand during this mine site tour for AKBLG guests. Teck representatives will share the history of the Sullivan Mine and insights into post-closure activities.</p> <p><b>Please wear weather appropriate attire, with closed-toed shoes or boots and long-sleeved shirts. An orientation, waiver signing, tally-in, and safety briefing are included and required.</b></p> <p>Capacity: 10 people</p> <p>Catch the shuttle from the Kimberley Conference Centre, tour ends at the Conference Centre.</p>
	<p><b>Tour C: Kimberley Underground Mining Railway Tour</b></p>	<p>Kimberley is the home of the historic Sullivan Mine and the Underground Mining Railway. The Kimberley</p>

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	<p>Tour times: 8:20 – 11:00am, 8:30 – 11:20am, 8:45 – 11:40am</p> <p>Shuttle from the Kimberley Conference Centre or drive and park at the Downtown Station (access off of Gerry Sorenson Way).</p>	<p>Underground Mining Railway is owned and operated by the Sullivan Mine and Railway Historical Society.</p> <p>Join our Mining Railway Tour and ride the rails through the beautiful Mark Creek valley as you listen to the history of Kimberley and the Sullivan Mine. Details of this tour will be weather-dependent; however, guides expect that participants will experience some or all of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Underground Interpretive Centre</li> <li>2. Sullivan Mine Powerhouse</li> <li>3. Spectacular scenery</li> <li>4. Amenities at the Downtown Station, including the Orpheum Theatre and Interpretive Centre, North Star Schoolhouse, Miner’s Cabin, and historical mining displays.</li> </ol> <p>This tour is run by volunteers with the Sullivan Mine and Railway Historical Society. Tour fees cover the hard costs associated with delivering the tour at this time of year.</p> <p><b><u>PLEASE NOTE:</u></b> Attendees should be prepared to be outside in cool weather. Train cars are covered, but not closed in. Attendees should wear comfortable shoes and weather-appropriate clothing. Attendees should expect that the tour will pass through tunnels, and some time will be spent underground.</p> <p>Washrooms are available at the Downtown Station before boarding the train. There will be no access to washroom facilities during the active part of the tour, which will be approximately 90-minutes.</p> <p>Capacity: 20 people per timeslot</p>
<p><b>11:45 – 12:30pm</b></p>	<p>Lunch &amp; Trade Show (New Dawn Ballroom)</p>	
<p><b>12:30 – 1:30pm</b></p>	<p><b>Convention Opening Ceremony + Opening Remarks</b> (New Dawn Ballroom)</p>	
<p><b>1:30 - 1:45pm</b></p>	<p>Bio Break</p>	

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<p><b>1:45 – 2:45pm</b></p>	<p><b>Opening Keynote</b> (New Dawn Ballroom)</p>	<p><b>Opportunities, Cooperation, and Connectivity for a dynamic Kootenay Region. A State of the Local Economy.</b></p> <p>Mike Bushore, Chief Risk Officer, Kootenay Savings Credit Union</p> <p>Kootenay Savings Credit Union (KSCU) mirrors the Kootenay region, offering valuable insights for elected officials. Like the region, KSCU is rooted in community and cooperation, yet faces familiar challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modernization pressures: Balancing tradition with modernization is crucial for both KSCU and the region's evolving industries.</li> <li>• Reinvestment needs: KSCU's infrastructure investments reflect the region's need to upgrade infrastructure for sustainable development.</li> <li>• Shifting economic landscape: KSCU's diverse membership reflects the region's evolving economic base, demanding adaptable services and support.</li> <li>• Forecasts: Kootenay Savings' economic forecast highlights steady growth in the Kootenay region, despite higher interest rates. Opportunities lie in real estate, sustainable industries, and tourism, with cautious optimism for continued economic stability.</li> </ul> <p>KSCU's experience provides a valuable case study for elected officials. Its success in navigating these challenges while upholding cooperative values and community well-being offers lessons in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic investment: Prioritizing investments that support both economic growth and social well-being.</li> <li>• Adaptability and resilience: Responding effectively to evolving economic forces and community needs.</li> </ul> <p>By understanding KSCU's journey, elected officials can gain insights to guide policy decisions and support a thriving and resilient Kootenay region.</p>
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<p><b>2:45 – 3:05pm</b></p>	<p>Sponsor Message - to be announced</p> <p>Refreshment Break &amp; Trade Show</p>	
<p><b>3:05 – 4:05pm</b></p>	<p><b>CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS</b></p>	<p><b>Align Your Procurement Process with Your Foundational Community Values</b></p> <p>Em Chapman, Social Procurement, Buy Social Canada          Robyn Peel, Community Economic Development Manager, Community Futures East Kootenay          Jenny Miles, Manager, Social &amp; Sustainable Procurement, BC Lottery Corporation</p> <p>Community values are the foundation of local government. They inform the goals outlined in Strategic Plans and are the backbone of community vision, priorities, and decision-making. At the same time, local governments spend millions of dollars annually while facing ever-increasing inflationary pressures, tightening budgets, and complex community needs. Local governments are exhausted, and how far you can make your dollars go matters more than ever. Social procurement acknowledges that every purchase has a social, environmental, cultural, and economic impact, whether intended or not.</p> <p>By implementing social procurement, local governments can incorporate their foundational community values into existing procurement processes, aligning with what matters most to the community without spending over budget. This session will explore how AKBLG members can use their existing purchasing as a significant lever to support their community values and contribute to commitments in their Strategic Plans.</p>
		<p><b>Leading with Heart: Building Relationships that Strengthen Governance</b></p> <p>Christina Benty, Strategic Leadership Solutions</p> <p>Governance in local government is about more than</p>

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		<p>policies and procedures—it’s about building relationships that foster trust, collaboration, and accountability. This workshop invites leaders to rethink governance as a relational practice that strengthens community connections and reimagines decision-making.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relational Accountability: How do we foster trust and collaboration at the governance table?</li> <li>• Rethinking Decision-Making: Is there room to complement traditional practices like Robert’s Rules with more collaborative frameworks?</li> </ul>
<p><b>4:05 – 4:25pm</b></p>	<p>Refreshment Break &amp; Trade Show</p>	
<p><b>4:25 – 4:55pm</b></p>	<p><b>CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS</b></p>	<p><b>Supporting Economic Development in the Southern Interior – Lessons Learned</b></p> <p>Laurel Douglas, CEO, ETSI-BC Paul Weist, Project Consultant, ETSI-BC</p> <p>Since re-launching as the Economic Trust of the Southern Interior (ETSI-BC) in April 2021, our regional economic trust has become a key resource for communities in our region, helping local economies grow and diversify by strengthening their economic development foundations. ETSI-BC’s 5 Strategic Pillars are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building Economic Development Capacity</li> <li>• Supporting Business Resilience and Competitiveness</li> <li>• Innovating and Advancing Key Sectors</li> <li>• Developing Human Capital</li> <li>• Creating Value for the Economic Development Ecosystem</li> </ul> <p>In this session, ETSI-BC will share lessons learned in supporting Southern Interior economic development and business support organizations through our funding streams. This will include sharing what is working well and reflecting on challenges encountered by recipients. We will share best practices in economic development and explore ways in which</p>

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		<p>communities are being creative and innovative in realizing their economic development dreams. Finally, we will discuss what to expect from ETSI-BC in future funding opportunities. Concrete deliverables for AKBLG members will include understanding of how other communities have increased their economic development prospects, ideas for economic reconciliation through joint projects and key success factors in funding proposals to ETSI-BC.</p>
		<p><b>The Working Forest – Interior Lumber Manufacturers Association</b></p> <p>Ted Dergousoff, President, Interior Lumber Manufacturers Association</p> <p>The ILMA is a very strong proponent of the Working Forest concept. The presentation will focus on the key factors required to have an effective Working Forest. Speaking through the lens of a Working Forest and discussing all of the essentials in terms of what needs to be done, how it needs to be done, the partnership engagements, and the expected results. With the information presented AKBLG members will be able to speak knowledgeably about the topic and provide support for future Working Forest initiatives.</p>
<p><b>5:00 - 5:30pm</b></p>	<p><b>CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS</b></p>	<p><b>Introducing Amenity Cost Charges: The Revenue Source You Didn't Know You Needed</b></p> <p>Timothy Luk, Lawyer, Young Anderson</p> <p>As part of its ground shifting Local Government Act changes aimed at alleviating BC's housing crisis, the province has provided BC local governments with a new power to impose "amenity cost charges" on developers to help pay for the cost of community centers, recreation facilities, libraries, daycares and other amenities that will benefit new developments as well as the existing populations. This presentation will explain the operation of the ACC scheme and consider the pros and cons of using ACCs to pay for amenities. And what of community amenity contributions? We will also discuss the scope for</p>

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		continued use of CACs, particularly in light of the provincial government’s mandatory zoning requirements for small scale housing, anticipated housing needs and transit-oriented areas.
		<p><b>The Value of Tourism</b></p> <p>Chris McCurry, Destination Development &amp; Sustainability, Kootenay Rockies Tourism</p> <p>BC's tourism industry is a key driver of economic success across BC—growing faster than the provincial economy as a whole, with increasing revenues, employment, wages, and visitors. There is ample opportunity for all people living in BC to learn about the importance of BC's visitor economy, how it enriches all our lives by contributing to our collective social, cultural, environmental, and economic well-being. Together, as we engage our broader communities and push forward, from the smallest rural adventure guide business to our city-based hotels, we recognize that deep, collaborative partnerships enhance the value of the tourism industry across the Kootenay Rockies region.</p>
<b>6:00pm</b>	Shuttle service begins from Trickle Creek Lodge to reception	
<b>6:30 - 8:30pm</b>	<p><b>Welcome Reception – hosted by the City of Kimberley</b></p> <p><b>Location:</b> Centre 64 (64 Deer Park Ave, Kimberley, BC)</p>	
<b>7:00 – 9:30pm</b>	Shuttle Service from reception to Trickle Creek Lodge	
<b>7:30pm - late</b>	Evening Options in the City of Kimberley	
<b>Saturday April 26</b>	Unless otherwise noted all portions of the convention will take place at the Kimberley Conference Centre, 301 N Star Blvd, Kimberley, BC	
<b>6:45 - 7:45am</b>	<p><b>Breakfast</b></p> <p>(New Dawn Ballroom)</p>	

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<b>7:45 – 5:30pm</b>	Trade Show	
<b>7:45 - 8:00am</b>	<b>Daily Opening Remarks</b> (New Dawn Ballroom)	
<b>8:00 – 10:30am</b>	<b>AKBLG Business Meeting</b> (New Dawn Ballroom)	
<b>10:30 – 10:45am</b>	Refreshment Break & Trade Show	
<b>10:45 - 11:00am</b>	<b>UBCM President's address</b> (New Dawn Ballroom)	Trish Mandewo, President, Union of B.C Municipalities
<b>11:05 – 11:08am</b>	Sponsor Presentation – to be announced	
<b>11:10 – 11:55am</b>	<b>PLENARY</b> (New Dawn Ballroom)	<b>Foundational relationships with First Nations and local governments</b>  Jared Basil, Cultural Framework Educator, Ktunaxa Nation
<b>11:55 - 12:00pm</b>	Sponsor Presentation – to be announced	
<b>12:00 – 1:00pm</b>	Trade Show	
<b>12:00 – 1:00pm</b>	Buffet lunch (New Dawn Ballroom)	
<b>1:00 – 1:45pm</b>	<b>CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS</b>	<b>Easy Methods and Best Practices to Build Ongoing Public Engagement Capacity in Your Community – And in turn Build Higher Public Trust</b>  Kent Waugh, Managing Partner, The W Group  Building ongoing public engagement capacity within local governments in small Canadian communities is crucial for gaining and maintaining public trust and enhancing residents' quality of life. At the core of this approach is the principle of 'Engage Once & Forever'.  The presentation offers actionable steps that local governments and elected officials can adopt to proactively build and maintain resident trust. By

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		<p>fostering an environment of engagement and transparency, local leaders not only prevent potential disruptions but also reinforce a stable and trustworthy foundation for community governance. Embracing these strategies empowers local governments to address challenges effectively, ensuring ongoing trust and the long-term well-being of the communities they serve.</p> <p>Even attendees who use DIY engagement platforms will gain significant insights and best practices from attending this session.</p>
		<p><b>Mental Health &amp; Elected Officials</b></p> <p>Presenters to be announced</p>
<p><b>2:00 – 2:45 pm</b></p>	<p><b>CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS</b></p>	<p><b>Fireside Discussion on Responsible Conduct in Local Government - Past, Present, and Future</b></p> <p>Paul Taylor, Director of Communications, Union of B.C Municipalities &amp; Shari-Anne Doolaege, President, SAGE Analytics Inc.</p> <p>Moderator: Aidan McLaren-Caux, Councillor, Village of Nakusp</p> <p>Join us for an engaging and informative dialogue about all things Responsible Conduct, where we will speak with experts from BC and Alberta and discuss some of the challenges and opportunities confronting local governments in addressing this worrisome trend. Learn about what our provincial government is doing in response to this issue and how it could apply to your community. Questions from the floor or via Slido are welcome.</p>
		<p><b>The New Confluence: Advancing Tourism, Sustainability, and Economic Development Through Collaboration and Partnership</b></p> <p>Tammy Verigin-Burke, Executive Director, Castlegar Chamber of Commerce</p>

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		<p>This presentation highlights how the Castlegar and District Chamber of Commerce, a not-for-profit organization, achieved success by forging partnerships with all levels of government and key stakeholders.</p> <p>These collaborations culminated in the creation of the new Confluence building—one of the first fully public spaces in Canada to incorporate Passive House standards with mass timber construction, achieving an impressive 85% reduction in emissions. This innovative building exemplifies how green infrastructure investments can simultaneously advance sustainability, enhance tourism, and drive economic development.</p> <p>By aligning regional strengths with provincial and federal support, the Chamber attracted funding, achieved sustainability goals, and unlocked significant opportunities for growth.</p> <p>Elected officials will gain insights into practical strategies for fostering partnerships, managing natural and built assets, and leveraging collaboration to drive economic development. This session offers a roadmap for balancing environmental stewardship with economic progress, empowering communities to replicate this success.</p> <p>With a focus on actionable outcomes, attendees will leave with ideas for building resilience, attracting investment, and achieving sustainability-driven growth in their own communities.</p>
<p><b>2:45 – 3:00 pm</b></p>	<p>Refreshment Break &amp; Tradeshow</p>	
<p><b>3:00 – 3:50 pm</b></p>	<p><b>PLENARY</b> (New Dawn Ballroom)</p>	<p><b>Building Resilient Homes and Local Economies Through Community Retrofit Programs</b></p> <p>Jeremy Johnston, Community Planner, Community</p>

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		<p>Energy Association            Jenna Annett, Built Environment Initiatives            Coordinator, Community Energy Association            Theresa Wood, Business Advisor, Columbia Valley            Chamber of Commerce            Andy Christie, Building Inspector, City of Kimberley            Geoff Kirkpatrick, Energy Advisor, CLEAResult            Canada            Meredith Hamstead, Co-Owner of thinkBright Homes</p> <p>This session will highlight the importance of cross-sectoral collaboration for achieving local government goals. Using specific examples from the Community Energy Association’s Kootenay Clean Energy Transition project, Contractor Collective Communities of Practice (CoP), and Retrofit Assist program, elected officials will hear from presenters and panelists about the power and importance of working with cross-sector stakeholders. This will include both the importance of networking for information sharing using the CoP example, and as part of program design and delivery using the Retrofit Assist example. The presentation will also touch on the importance of strategic communications and education efforts as part of these programs.</p> <p>The key learning outcome of this presentation will be for Elected Officials to understand the benefits of making connections with local groups and stakeholders. A secondary learning outcome will be for Elected Officials to better understand their role in the retrofit of existing buildings to achieve climate goals.</p>
<p><b>3:50 - 3:55 pm</b></p>	<p>Sponsor Presentation – to be announced</p>	
<p><b>4:00 – 5:10 pm</b></p>	<p><b>PLENARY</b> (New Dawn Ballroom)</p>	<p><b>Strong Towns: A Bottom-Up Revolution to Rebuild Prosperity</b></p> <p>Norm Van Eeden Petersman, Director of Membership and Development, Strong Towns</p>

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		<p>Why are so many cities and towns across North America going broke? Our roads are deteriorating. Our governments are in debt. No matter how much we increase them, our taxes aren't enough to fix it all. And no one seems to be able to agree on how we got here—much less how to change the course. This isn't just about numbers on a budget. This is about the fate of the communities we love most, and the real people that live there. This is about how to give our citizens, today and tomorrow, a chance at the future they deserve. If we want North American cities to be strong and resilient, we need to change everything about the way we plan and build our places. In this presentation, we explain, in plain language, how so many North American cities have found themselves in decline after decades of "growth." And then we show you a revolutionary way forward that could create enduring prosperity—if we just have the courage to change our minds.</p>
<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>Last Call for Nominations to the AKBLG Executive</b>	
<b>5:00 – 5:30pm</b>	<b>Trade Show</b>	
<b>6:30 - 10:30pm</b>	<b>AKBLG Banquet</b> <i>Kimberley Convention Centre</i> 6:30 - 7:00pm Cocktails 7:00 – 8:30pm Dinner 8:30 – 11:00pm Entertainment and bar remain open	
<b>Sunday April 27</b>	Unless otherwise noted all portions of the convention will take place at the Kimberley Conference Centre, 301 N Star Blvd, Kimberley, BC	
<b>7:45 – 8:30am</b>	<b>Breakfast</b> (New Dawn Ballroom)	
<b>8:30 – 9:30am</b>	<b>PLENARY</b> (New Dawn Ballroom)	<b>Regional Districts – Legislative Reform</b>  Don Lidstone, Managing Partner, Lidstone & Company  Presentation and consultation with members regarding proposals for reforming legislation on

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		<p>regional district powers, procedures, governance, finance, taxation, and services - current problems and options for the future.</p> <p>The existing Regional District legislation, crafted in 1966 and revised from time to time, has not kept pace with change to address things like emergency management, infrastructure, revenue, provincial approvals, decision making, Indigenous participation and representation, fringe-area servicing, wildfires/flooding/heat domes, and more.</p> <p>Attendees of this session will hear experts on the current problems and options for modernization, and be invited to participate in a Province-wide consultation on optimization of the legislation.</p>
<p><b>9:30 – 10:15am</b></p>	<p><b>AKBLG Business meeting continued</b> (New Dawn Ballroom)</p>	
<p><b>10:20am</b></p>	<p><b>Election Results</b> (New Dawn Ballroom)</p>	
<p><b>10:25 – 10:45am</b></p>	<p>Refreshment Break + Hotel Check out</p>	
<p><b>10:45 – 11:45am</b></p>	<p><b>Closing Keynote Presentation</b> (New Dawn Ballroom)</p>	<p><b>Leading Through Ambiguity: Cultivating Resilience for Kootenay &amp; Boundary Leaders</b></p> <p>Dr. Caroline Brookfield</p> <p>The future is not fixed; it's shaped by the choices we make today. In a world of rapid change and increasing complexity, Kootenay &amp; Boundary leaders must navigate evolving community needs, economic shifts, climate change impacts, and evolving relationships with First Nations. This highly interactive session will blend engaging evidence based content, stories and real-world case studies with facilitated discussion all designed to equip you with the awareness and tools to not only tolerate ambiguity but to find opportunity in the uncertainty, building a foundation for a stronger, more resilient tomorrow.</p>

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		<p>Key Takeaways -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Apply actionable tools and techniques to enhance your resilience and adaptability despite uncertainty and ambiguity.</li> <li>● Identify how to respond more effectively in ambiguity for better decision-making strategies when navigating complex challenges.</li> <li>● Implement practical strategies to increase their comfort with uncertainty and change, and explain the link between creativity and tolerance of ambiguity..</li> <li>● Describe the AmbiguiC 3-step framework to drive a culture of adaptability and resilience within your teams and communities; Catch on (awareness), Consider Data (mindful/data-driven), and Create (new solutions).</li> </ul>
<p><b>11:45am</b> – <b>12:00pm</b></p>	<p><b>Convention Closing</b> (New Dawn Ballroom)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Evaluations with clickers</li> <li>● 2026 Host Community Invite &amp; Showcase – Friday, April 17 – Sunday, April 19, 2026</li> <li>● Kevin McIsaac, President AKBLG Closing Remarks</li> <li>● Conclusion of Convention</li> </ul>