

# #OurAssetsMatter

## AMBC NEWSLETTER



Sharing information, transferring knowledge, and building capacity for sustainable service delivery.

SPECIAL CONFERENCE EDITION – SUMMER 2024

### Asset Management BC Annual Conference: 'Today's Decisions – Tomorrow's Future'

We are doing it again. Another great conference is in the works. **The Radisson Vancouver Airport Hotel** will be the location of the conference. The annual **Asset Management BC Conference** is AMBC's largest on-site signature event of the year, comprised of presentations, plenaries, social functions and a mini trade show of exhibitors and, oh yes, a great networking opportunity!

**Today's Decisions-Tomorrow's Future** - The decisions we make today significantly shape our future. Yet, it's not always easy. Asset management often requires making difficult decisions now, to ensure sustainable service delivery in the future. These decisions are key to ensuring our current community service needs, and how those services are delivered in a socially, economically, and environmentally responsible manner without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Advance your asset management practice with the knowledge, information, and data necessary to transform these difficult decisions into sustainable service delivery. Don't miss this opportunity to network and share ideas with asset management champions, sustainability experts, CAO's, Local Government decision makers, front line operators and our First Nations delegates. Join the conversation about your progress towards Sustainable Service Delivery. Go to [assetmanagementbc.ca](http://assetmanagementbc.ca) for conference details. Check back regularly for updated conference information.

Wednesday, Nov 6 and Thursday, Nov 7, 2024.

2024 AMBC CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 5 - 7, 2024

RICHMOND RADISSON VANCOUVER AIRPORT HOTEL



## TODAY'S DECISIONS – TOMORROW'S FUTURE

Get the tools you need to advance your asset management practice at the 2024 AMBC Conference!

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS: NOVEMBER 5

Long-Term Financial Planning  
Levels of Service

CONFERENCE: NOVEMBER 6 - 7

Join us for:  
Cutting-edge keynotes  
Practical examples  
Insightful case studies  
Networking with your peers!

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LEARN MORE & REGISTER AT [WWW.ASSETMANAGEMENTBC.CA/CONFERENCE](http://WWW.ASSETMANAGEMENTBC.CA/CONFERENCE)  
FOLLOW ASSET MANAGEMENT BC ON TWITTER & LINKEDIN FOR UPDATES

Full Registration is \$649. There will be no single day registration rate. Young professionals 30 and under \$449. Student registration is \$199. GST extra on all. Go to [civinfo.bc.ca](http://civinfo.bc.ca) under events for registration for both the conference and the **pre-conference workshops**.

Book your accommodation at the Radisson Vancouver Airport Hotel in Richmond. Rates are \$209 single/double occupancy plus applicable taxes. Ask for the special rate for the Asset Management BC conference.

Call central reservations at 1-800-333-3333 or e-mail [reservations@radissonvancouver.com](mailto:reservations@radissonvancouver.com) or call the hotel directly at (236) 305-5339. The reservations block at this special rate expires Saturday, October 5th, 2024.

## Keynote Speaker, November 6

### Michael Blackstock

Indigenous Scholar and founder of the Blue Ecology™



#### Biography

During times of crisis, a few leaders always step into the spotlight with a new vision bridging conflicting worldviews. Michael Blackstock is one of these visionaries.

As an Independent Indigenous Scholar and founder of the Blue Ecology™ theory, Blackstock offers a unique First Nations perspective on the climate crisis, inserting water into the difficult debates about carbon emissions. He has published over two dozen peer reviewed papers, bridging Science and centuries old Indigenous ways of honouring nature. His ability to mediate grew out of a uniquely diverse background as a writer, a thought leader, and registered Forester. For the past 20 years, Blackstock has held senior positions in the BC Public Service. He also was the Senior Negotiator and Manager of Indigenous Employment and Training at BC Hydro.

### Topic: Blue Ecology, A collaborative Framework for BC

Indigenous elders taught five principles to their children as an ethos for taking care of Mother Earth. The five Blue Ecology principles, Spirit, Harmony, Respect, Unity, and Balance are shown in this [Circle of Life diagram](#) and stand at the core of Blue Ecology.

Blue Ecology is an ecological philosophy, which emerged from interweaving Indigenous and Western thought, that acknowledges water's (i.e. fresh and salt) essential rhythmical life-spirit and central functional role in generating, sustaining, receiving and ultimately unifying life on Earth Mother.

The highest sustainability test is water-first: planned development (e.g. real estate, urban planning, forestry, agriculture, mining, oil, and gas extraction) cannot impede the functional delivery of quality water to ecosystems in a healthy rhythm.

Blue Ecology is a means to bridge Indigenous wisdom and Western Science. Michael Blackstock will present how Blue Ecology was developed, and then how it can be implemented to address climate change. He will close his presentation with a new concept emerging from Blue Ecology, called Natural Intelligence (NI). Natural Intelligence is the theory and development of systems able to perform tasks that normally require the intelligence found in nature, such as the ability to adapt to changing environments, self-regulate life processes, and interact with the ecosystem in a sustainable way.

## Keynote Speaker, November 7

### Chris Barlow

Chief Administrative Officer, City of Castlegar

### Topic: When it comes to Asset Management, money isn't everything – but it's close.

*Castlegar's journey to fund the people, planning, and projects needed to make Asset Management a reality.*

The City of Castlegar undertook the asset management journey several years ago recognizing the value of the process to assist council with decision making and ultimately sustainable service delivery.



Chris will walk use through the journey to date, including communications with Council and the plans forward.

## Biography



Chris has been with the City of Castlegar since 2004. He started as an Engineering Technician and advanced through a number of roles including Utilities Manager, Director of Transportation and Civic Works before becoming the CAO in 2017. Before moving to Castlegar, Chris worked for the City of Red Deer in the Public Works and Engineering Departments for four years. Supplementing his local government experience, Chris has a Diploma in Geomatics Engineering and Certificates in Local Government Administration and Local Government Leadership Development.

Before finding Local Government, Chris had a varied career including logging, surveying in an underground coal mine and surveying and engineering for civil projects throughout western Canada and Washington State.

Chris loves the outdoors and when not fishing, hiking, or hunting he is on his tractor working on his hobby farm and vineyard.

## Pre-Conference Workshop Tuesday November 5, 2024

### Levels of Service (LOS) Training Workshop

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This workshop offers a practical one-day session that examines what Levels of Service (LOS) are, why they are important, and how to define and work with them for your community. Using a customizable, spreadsheet-based LOS tools, developed by a leading asset management expert

customized for use with our BC Local governments, you use your own data and information.

The workshop will be a full day session on Tuesday, November 5. The workshop will be a cohort of 15 to 30 participants from local governments and First Nations.

Your will learn to:

- Define your Levels of Service using an Excel-based template.
- Identify LOS objectives, performance measures, and LOS gaps.
- Discuss strategies to address your LOS gaps.
- Understand how to use LOS in your infrastructure planning and management processes.
- Understand how other local governments and First Nations are addressing LOS issues.

Should you attend? You achieve best value from the workshop if two to three staff from different disciplines attend together. Elected officials, interested in rolling up their sleeves, are encouraged to attend. While workshop material is tailored to smaller communities, it can be an excellent grounding in fundamentals for larger communities beginning to explore levels of service. After all, Council's job is service to the community.

#### Your trainer is Colwyn Sunderland of KWL Consultants.

Colwyn specializes in municipal and First Nations infrastructure management and leads KWL's Integrated Infrastructure Planning practice. He is a past President of the BC Water and Waste Association and the Canadian Water and Wastewater Association, and currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of the Alliance for Water Efficiency.

#### Cost and registration:

The cost for the workshop is \$675 + GST. Subsidy of up to 50% per registrant is available to qualified applicants. For registration, subsidy details and more information go to CivicInfo at [civicinfo.bc.ca](http://civicinfo.bc.ca) under Events.

## Pre-Conference Workshop Tuesday November 5, 2024 How to Write a Long-Term Financial Plan for Asset Management

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This workshop offers an informative and practical approach to how to write a long-term financial plan for asset management. From data collection, through core calculations to developing funding options and communicating findings, this hands-on course is a must for anyone involved in creating a long-term sustainability plan for asset management and having to prove their case with solid calculations. This will help get you to sustainable service delivery.

The workshop is a preconference workshop, a full day session on Tuesday November 5. An optional LTFP Overview session will be provided on October 24th, 9:30AM - 12:30PM for local government attendees and October 24th, 1:00PM - 4:00PM for First Nation attendees. Access to Microsoft Excel is required.

This is a pre-conference workshop for the 2024 AMBC Conference. Conference and workshop details are available on the Asset Management BC website at [assetmanagementbc.ca](https://assetmanagementbc.ca)

The workshops provide learning and experience of how to develop and implement long-term financial plans based on objectives established within the Guide. Preparing a long-term financial plan in a manner consistent with the Guide will accomplish the following:

- Highlight unsustainable funding levels that may result in intergenerational inequitable access to capital services or intergenerational inequitable funding levels,
- Demonstrate the lifecycle costing benefits to long-term financial planning, and
- Construct “course-correction” options to achieve sustainable funding levels.
- How to develop and present various funding options to governance decision makers.
- How to effectively communicate findings and recommendations, the most important step of the process.

Should you attend? This is designed for local government and First Nations staff. You will get best value from the workshop if a minimum of two people from different disciplines attend together – ideally finance and public works/engineering. Council members and Area Directors interested in rolling up their sleeves are also encouraged to attend. After all, the role of Council and Regional District Board of Directors is ultimately sustainable services to their communities.

**Your trainer is Christopher Paine, Principal of FIT Local Government Finance Consulting and prior Director of**

### Finance and Asset Management for the District of Oak Bay.

Christopher Paine developed and will deliver the Long-term Financial Planning course piloted at the 2022 AMBC Conference. The 2024 version has been expanded and upgraded based on the past two years experience and feedback.

#### Cost and registration:

The cost for the workshop is \$675 + GST. Subsidy of up to 50% per registrant is available to qualified applicants. For registration, subsidy details and more information go to CivicInfo at [civicinfo.bc.ca](https://civicinfo.bc.ca) under Events.

#### REGISTER NOW and BOOK YOUR ACCOMODATION

All information on [assetmanagementbc.ca](https://assetmanagementbc.ca) website

Registration on [civicinfo.bc.ca](https://civicinfo.bc.ca) website

## Upcoming Events



### Asset Management BC

November 5, 2024

Pre-conference Workshops

Radisson Airport Hotel – Vancouver

Richmond BC

Registration on CivicInfo: [civicinfo.bc.ca](https://civicinfo.bc.ca)

### Asset Management BC

November 6-7, 2024

Annual Asset Management Conference

Radisson Hotel, Richmond BC

[assetmanagementbc.ca](https://assetmanagementbc.ca)

Registration on CivicInfo: [civicinfo.bc.ca](https://civicinfo.bc.ca)

### Local Government Management Association of BC (LGMA)

June 11-13, 2024

Annual Conference and Trade show

Victoria, BC

[lgma.ca](https://lgma.ca)

### Union of British Columbia Municipalities

September 16-20, 2024

Annual Conference and Trade Show

Vancouver Convention Centre East

Vancouver BC

[www.ubcm.ca](https://www.ubcm.ca)

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