



The voice of business.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 16, 2025

Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce Welcomes New Board of Directors and Honours Lifetime Members at Annual General Meeting

Port Alberni, B.C. — The Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce proudly introduced its 2025–2026 Board of Directors and recognized two dedicated community leaders with Lifetime Memberships during its Annual General Meeting held Wednesday at McLean Mill National Historic Site.

“Our AGM is not only a chance to reflect on the progress of the past year—it’s an opportunity to look ahead with intention,” said Chris Washington, Chair of the Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce. “We’re thrilled to welcome this dynamic new Board of Directors, who will help lead our work to support local businesses, strengthen our economy, and build a more inclusive and prosperous Alberni Valley.”

To recognize their longstanding service and support, the Chamber presented Lifetime Memberships to Bob Cole and Bob Kanngieser. Both have been dedicated supporters of the Chamber and active contributors to civic life in the Alberni Valley, leaving a lasting impact through their leadership, advocacy, and volunteerism.

“Bob Cole and Bob Kanngieser have contributed immensely to our region,” said Washington. “Their longstanding involvement in civic affairs and Chamber initiatives has helped build a stronger, more connected Alberni Valley. We are truly grateful for their service.”

The Chamber also acknowledged outgoing board members Dave Heinrichs (Alberni District Co-Op) and Kate Smith (Port Alberni Port Authority) for their dedicated service. Special appreciation goes to Colin Minions (1st Vice-Chair) and Nicholas Metzger (2nd Vice-Chair), who stepped down during the term. Each played a valued role in guiding the Chamber through a time of growth and transformation.

The luncheon was catered by Chamber member V9Y Culinary Services, led by Megan York. Sincere thanks to Hullo Ferries and Xander France for generously sponsoring the event, and to our keynote speaker, Roberta Bowman, Executive Director of the Ladysmith Chamber of Commerce, for sharing her insights. Their support and presence helped make the gathering both meaningful and memorable.

The 2025–2026 Board of Directors were sworn in by Councilor Charles Mealey at the event, the list of Directors includes:

Executive Officers:

Chair – Christine Washington (Flandangles / Gibson's)

- Vice-Chair – Angela Skaley (Community Arts Council of the Alberni Valley)
- Second Vice-Chair – Abu Hasan Muhammed Jahangir (Agrohope Farms & Products Inc)
- Secretary – Katy Carlisle (SQSP Queen / Community Box)
- Treasurer – Alexandra Ashwood (Wildflower Café)

Directors:

- Dylan Ashwood – Wildflower Café
- George Gorton – Grassroots Cafe Inc.
- Alaina Nadig – World Financial Group
- Thomas Senecal – Ramsay Lampman Rhodes
- Erin Williams – West Coast General Hospital Foundation
- Evan Jolicoeur – Full Circle Consultancy
- Sarah Johnson – HFN Hospitality LP
- Denay Piatka – Re/Max Mid-Island Realty
- Pam Craig – Member at Large

As we look ahead, the Chamber remains committed to supporting local businesses, fostering economic growth, and strengthening community connections. We invite all business owners, entrepreneurs, and community leaders to continue supporting the Chamber's work—and if you're not yet a member, we encourage you to consider joining. Together, we can build a vibrant and resilient Alberni Valley.

-30-

About the Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce

The Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce is the voice of business in the Alberni Valley, dedicated to economic growth, advocacy, and business development. With a commitment to fostering a thriving business environment, the AVCC serves a diverse membership that includes entrepreneurs, small businesses, and large enterprises across the region. The Chamber also stewards the Port Alberni Visitor Information Centre and McLean Mill National Historic Site, contributing to tourism and local economic development.

As an active member of the Vancouver Island Economic Alliance, BC Chamber of Commerce, and Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the AVCC amplifies the concerns of local businesses at regional, provincial, and national levels—ensuring our business community has a strong voice in policy discussions and economic initiatives.

Media Contact

Jolleen Dick
Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce
250-724-6535
jolleen@albernichamber.ca

