



Agenda

Wednesday, 25th October

Thursday, 26th October



October 25, 2023 09:00AM - 11:00AM

Speaker Series - Regional Development



Francine Carlin

Board Chair, Rural Islands Economic Partnership (RIEP)



Brodie Guy

CEO, Island Coastal Economic Trust



Lori Henderson

Director of Community Economic Development for the Vancouver Island & Coast region at PacifiCan

Stay updated: Connect with funders and regional organizations for opportunities.

9:00 - 9:30 am: Rural Island Economic Partnership

9:45 - 10:15 am: The leadership of Island Coastal Economic Trust is working on a transformative vision for sustainable and inclusive economic development across Vancouver Island and coastal communities.

10:30 - 11:00 am: Pacific Economic Development Canada

Sponsored by SW Event Technology (<https://www.sw-online.com/>)



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October 25, 2023 09:00AM - 11:00AM

Speaker Series - Impact Companies



Mark Anson

CEO/Founder, HFN Timber Tiles LP



Nancy Prevost-Maurice

Co-Founder, The Nùlla Project

Inspiring leaders: prioritizing social, environmental, and community impact in business.

9:00 am: Nancy Prevost-Maurice

10:00 am: Mark Anson

Sponsored by SW Event Technology (<https://www.sw-online.com/>)



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October 25, 2023 09:00AM - 11:00AM

Speaker Series - Change Makers



Joanna Buczkowska-McCumber

CEO and Principal Sustainability Strategist, Ideas for Impact Sustainability Agency



Creative Coast

Karen Bannister, Jenny Farkas and Denise Withers

Trailblazers: forging new paths and sharing their stories.

9:00 am: Creative Coast

10:00 am: Ideas for Impact Sustainability Agency

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October 25, 2023 09:00AM - 11:00AM

Speaker Series - Collaborative Projects



Jason Goldsworthy

Executive Director for the Centre for Ocean Applied Sustainable Technologies (COAST)



James Spencer

Founder, Shift Environmental Technologies Ltd.



Dr. Woo Soo Kim

Scientific Director, B.C. Centre for Agritech Innovation, a Simon Fraser University initiative

Uniting Strengths: Driving positive change through strategic alliances and mutual support.

9:00 - 9:30 am: Shift Environmental Technologies in partnership with Nanaimo Port Authority and Petroglyph Development Group

9:45 - 10:15 am: Centre for Ocean Applied Sustainable Technologies (COAST)

10:30 - 11:00 am: B.C. Centre for Agritech Innovation, a Simon Fraser University initiative

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October 25, 2023 10:30AM - 12:00PM

Business to Business Exhibitors and Networking

Sponsored by Array (<https://meetarray.com/>)



Meet with 35+ exhibitors while networking with delegates before the Opening Luncheon.



October 25, 2023 12:00PM - 1:30PM

Opening Lunch - VI meets AI



Graham Truax - Speaker

Executive Director & EiR, Innovation Island



Dr. Sean Mark - Guest



Lauren Evanow - Guest

Sponsored by Innovation Island (<https://innovationisland.ca/>)



The future is here! Ready or not... Advances in artificial intelligence will impact everything – period – full stop. Are we facing a true existential threat, or are we at the dawn of a wondrous utopia? With a brief flashback to “Futurescape” (VIEA 2017 & 2018) this plenary session promises to be lively! AI can now see, hear, speak, create art, make music, write code or poetry, and analyze billions of data points in the blink of an eye. We are at the precipice of a technological revolution that rivals the invention of the internet and the industrial revolution. As key decision-makers, you hold the power to either harness this change for unparalleled growth or watch from the sidelines.



October 25, 2023 01:30PM - 5:00PM

Action Lab Workshop 1: Regional Food Security



Scott Colbourne - Project Lead and Facilitator



Angela van den Hout - Facilitator

Principal, Seven Generations Indigenous Business Consulting

Sponsored by Island Coastal Economic Trust (<https://islandcoastaltrust.ca/>)



Join our facilitated discussion addressing regional food security challenges. This workshop will explore solutions for the interconnected issues of food production, distribution, and accessibility. Summit delegates, along with leaders, experts, and knowledge keepers in the agricultural sector, will collaborate to identify actionable steps to enhance systems and progress food security. Together, let's delve into the vital intersections of agriculture, environment, community, and economy to support our region for generations to come.

Read the backgrounder here (<http://viea.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Food-Security.pdf>).

This workshop runs from 1:30 pm until 5 pm with a 30 min break at 3 pm.



October 25, 2023 01:30PM - 3:00PM

Cultivating the Future: The Next Generation of Farming on Vancouver Island



Moderator - Darren Stott

Principal Consultant, Greenchain Consulting



Kyomi Ito

Land Matcher - Vancouver Island & Gulf Islands, Young Agrarians



Katie Underwood

Farmer, Peas n' Carrots Farm



Tom Hyde

Owner, Mill Bay Farms

Sponsored by B.C. Centre for Agritech Innovation, a Simon Fraser University initiative (<https://www.sfu.ca/agritech-innovation.html>)



The future of farming on Vancouver Island is evolving, with a new generation of farmers at the forefront of innovation and sustainability. In this dynamic session, we will explore the changing landscape of agriculture on the island. We'll delve into the human geography of farmers today, the evolving culture of agriculture, and the critical need to engage and support new generations. Join us to discuss knowledge transfer, community building, and the organizations and initiatives making strides in cultivating the future of farming on Vancouver Island.



October 25, 2023 01:30PM - 3:00PM

Out of Office: A New Era of Workplace Flexibility



Moderator - Pauline Stevenson

President, Excel Career College



Jocelin Caldwell

HR Consultant & Owner, Reimagine Work



Sheri Gauthier

VP Human Resources, Coastal Community Credit Union



Lisa Hemingway

Co-Owner, Director of Creativity and Opportunities, Iilo Creative Alliance



Todd Nicklin, President, Enex Energy

President, Enex Energy

Sponsored by BC Ferries (<https://www.bcferrries.com/>)



Converging factors have shifted expectations about how we work and where we work. Work from home has become the new normal, but is this a long-term shift or a short term blip? Can companies remain competitive if they require employees to be physically present? We will hear from businesses across the spectrum and explore implications for regional economic development.



October 25, 2023 01:30PM - 3:00PM

On the Trail to Success: Collaborative Approaches for Enhancing Recreation Opportunities on Vancouver Island



Moderator - Leah Knutson

Economic Development and Tourism Manager, City of Campbell River



Pam Jorgenson, RPF

Land Use Forester, Mosaic



Cathy Robertson

General Manager, Community Futures Cowichan Region



Adam Speigel

United Riders of Cumberland (UROC) Board Member



Jon Watkin

Owner, Panache Cycling Sports

Sponsored by CHEK (<https://www.cheknews.ca/>)



The allure of Vancouver Island's breathtaking natural landscape continues to attract growing interest in outdoor recreation. This session delves into the importance of embracing collaborative and flexible approaches to capitalize on the diverse recreational opportunities the Island offers. Join the panelists to uncover innovative strategies to encourage and maximize recreational offerings on the Island and in turn create economic vibrancy for the region.



October 25, 2023 01:30PM - 3:00PM

Swipe Right for Success: Building Strategic Business Partnerships



Moderator - Pat Deakin

Economic Development Manager, City of Port Alberni



Alissa Assu

Owner, West Coast Wildflowers and Bear Essential Oil and Co-owner RavenSong Soap & Candle



Valerie Lamirande

Founder and Creative Director of RavenSong Soap & Candle



Patrick Schmidt

CEO, Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses



Justin Viau

Partner, Scarlet Ibis Pub

Sponsored by Export Navigator (<https://exportnavigator.ca/>)



In today's dynamic business landscape, forming meaningful partnerships is essential for success. During this session, we will address critical questions that often arise in the realm of partnerships: How do you find the right partner for your organization? What does it take to be an exceptional partner and cultivate strong relationships? When is the optimal time to consider engaging in a partnership? We will delve into effective strategies that can guide you in identifying, nurturing, and evaluating partnerships that align with your organizational goals. Whether you're a seasoned professional or new to the world of partnerships, this session promises valuable insights and actionable takeaways to build strategic partnerships and explore best practices for partnership development.



October 25, 2023 01:30PM - 3:00 PM

Innovation Island - Digital EARTH



Moderator - Graham Truax

Executive Director & EiR Innovation Island



Dogu Taskiran

Head of Technology, LlamaZOO Inc.

Sponsored by Innovation Island (<https://innovationisland.ca/>)



Learn about cutting edge GIS, digital-twinning, data science, and how measuring key aspects of our biosphere are making remarkable advances in the care of our world.



October 25, 2023 03:00PM - 3:30PM

Business to Business Exhibitors and Networking

Sponsored by Array (<https://meetarray.com/>)



Meet with 35+ exhibitors while networking with delegates.



October 25, 2023 03:30PM - 5:00PM

Vancouver Island's Ocean Economy: Navigating a Course to Regional Leadership



Moderator - Stephanie King

Co-Founder / CEO, InWater Technologies



Jason Goldsworthy

Executive Director for the Centre for Ocean Applied Sustainable Technologies (COAST)



Brian Kingzett

Executive Director, BC Salmon Farmers Association



Mark Smith

President and CEO, Pacific Seaweed Industry Association

Sponsored by Nanaimo Port Authority (<https://npa.ca/>)



Vancouver Island's strategic geographical position presents a unique opportunity for the region to emerge as a leader in the flourishing ocean economy. In this session, we will explore the untapped potential of Vancouver Island's ocean resources and maritime assets. We'll discuss the challenges and opportunities that come with harnessing the ocean's potential and help chart a course to position Vancouver Island at the forefront of the rapidly growing blue economy. Collaboratively working towards a future where the region leads in sustainable ocean-based industries and economic prosperity.



October 25, 2023 03:30PM - 5:00PM

The Art of Economic Development: Unlocking Vancouver Island's Creative Potential



Moderator - Illana Hester

Executive Director, Old School House and Co-chair creativecoast.ca



Aunalee Boyd-Good

Designer and Director, Ay Lelum The Good House of Design



Kathleen Darby

Executive Director, Creative City Network of Canada



Brandon Lepine

Regional Production Services Manager, INFILM



David Warburton

Artistic Executive Director, Port Theatre

Sponsored by HA Photography (<https://www.haphotography.com/>)

HAPHOTO



Vancouver Island and the rural islands boast a vibrant creative economy, yet their full potential remains largely untapped. Our region teems with makers, artists, and creative businesses that not only enhance community well-being but also shape visitor experiences and lifestyle choices. In this session, we delve into how we can support and harness the economic strength of this creative sector to drive robust development. Join us as we explore how nurturing the creative economy can contribute to a prosperous, socially enriched, and culturally vibrant future.



October 25, 2023 03:30PM - 5:00PM

Small Business, Big Heart: The Resilience of Island Entrepreneurs in the Face of Uncertainty



Moderator - Kelly Masson

Business Advisor, WeBC



Erin Boggs

Co-owner, Robinson's Outdoor Store



Amy Ferris

Owner, White Rabbit Coffee and Black Rabbit Kitchen



Fred Jeffery

Owner, Lucid



Emese Toth-Haraszto

Owner, Freyja Croissant

Sponsored by Douglas Magazine (<https://www.douglasmagazine.com/>)

In this engaging session, we delve into the challenges confronting island entrepreneurs. These resilient individuals are at the forefront of the battle against an array of pressing issues, from staffing woes to COVID debt, surging inflation, and the relentless disruptions in supply chains.

Join us as we listen to firsthand accounts of island entrepreneurs who have encountered these hurdles head-on. They will share their stories of both adversity and triumph, offering valuable insights into the strategies they've employed to persevere.

The discussion will extend beyond the personal narratives, as we explore the critical role that policies and community support play in bolstering these island-based businesses. What measures can local communities adopt to lend a helping hand to these enterprises? What are the far-reaching consequences if these businesses are forced to close their doors?



October 25, 2023 03:30PM - 5:00PM

Not-For-Profits: The Economic Superheroes of our Communities



Moderator - Jolynn Green

Executive Director, Community Futures Central Island



Violet Hayes

Executive Director, Island Crisis Care & Nanaimo Bakery



Signy Madden

Director Government Relations, United Way BC



Kristi Riviati

Director, Partnerships and Programs, Scale Collaborative

Sponsored by Vancouver Island Conference Centre (<https://viconference.com/>)

In this session we shine a spotlight on the dynamic world of Nonprofit Organizations (NPOs). These organizations have long been integral to the economic fabric of our region, playing a pivotal role in addressing gaps, building community strength, and fostering innovation. In this session, we'll explore the diverse working models of NPOs, shed light on the profound impact they have through their dedicated workforce, volunteers, and the significant capital they mobilize to power this vital sector of our economy. Together, we can ensure a brighter future where nonprofits continue to play a pivotal role in shaping our shared prosperity.



October 25, 2023 03:30PM - 5:00PM

CANCELLED - Innovation Island - Vital WATER

Sponsored by Innovation Island (<https://innovationisland.ca/>)



Clean it, protect it, save it, manage it, we can't live without it! New technologies are providing on-the-ground solutions, here and abroad.



October 25, 2023 05:00PM - 6:00PM

Cocktails and Networking Opportunities

Sponsored by Fortis BC (<https://www.fortisbc.com/>)



Featuring Island Good wine, beer, cider and a special Island Good cocktail featuring Wayward Distillery.



October 25, 2023 06:00PM - 7:00PM

Appetizers and Plenary Speaker - Ken Coates



Ken Coates

Chair of the Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous Governance program, Yukon University



Moderator - Bruce Williams

CEO, Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce

Sponsored by Vancouver Island University (<https://www.viu.ca/>)



Future Unlimited: Vancouver Island and the Revitalization of Rural and Small-Town Canada

Rural and small-town Canada faces major challenges, ranging from the rise of city-state economies, the global shift from rural to urban areas, rapid technological change, the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and international political uncertainty. This is not a time for caution and delay. Competing successfully in a highly charged, fast-changing world requires a degree of boldness and creativity that has not always been a hallmark of Canadian life. Rural and small-town Canada must seize opportunities, pursue aggressive collaboration, find new strengths with First Nations partners, and make advances in technology truly work for communities. More than anything, these Canadian regions need to understand and project the unique qualities and advantages of rural and small-town life and rediscover find the confidence and determination to chart a new course in a crazy and chaotic world. Vancouver Island, almost uniquely in Canada and with world-leading potential, is well-situated to respond to community aspirations at a time of international turmoil and economic upheaval.



October 25, 2023 07:00PM - 9:00PM

Island Good 5 Year Celebration Dinner with Live Music

Sponsored by Vancouver Island University (<https://www.viu.ca/>)



Experience Island Good cuisine and drinks while enjoying the musical talents of the "Sarah Terlesky Quartet." They will be performing a diverse range of Jazz classics, spanning Swing, Latin, Blues, and more.



October 25, 2023 09:00PM - 10:00PM

Sparkling Dessert Reception and Networking Opportunities

Sponsored by RBC (<https://www.rbcroyalbank.com/business/index.html>)



Wrap up the first day of the Summit by mingling and savouring Island Good Unsworth Charme de l'île and delectable desserts courtesy of Freyja - the croissant story.

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