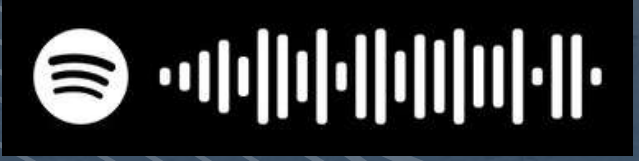




# Welcome to Day 2

Adaptation - Innovation - Resilience

- Please mute upon entering
- Introduce self in chat w/ location
- Program begins at 9:15



<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/1PECeZBeBMtdPIMJBo2pSg?si=0870d673b4ef4091>

THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS



# zoom - CHOOSING YOUR VIEW



To choose "Speaker View" on Zoom:

- **Click "View" in the top right corner of your meeting window**
- **Select "Speaker View" from the dropdown menu**

This will automatically display the video of the currently speaking participant prominently on your screen.

## **Key points about Speaker View:**

- **Access:** Click the "View" button in the top right corner of your Zoom window.
- **Function:** When in **Speaker View**, the video of the person currently speaking will take up the majority of your screen.
- **Alternative view:** "Gallery View" shows all participants equally sized on the screen.



DIFFERENT FEELING

GROW

INTEREST

**INSPIRED**

SHARE

AMAZING

CHANGE

POSITIVE

**RESOURCES**

REGIONALLY

EVERYONE

OPPORTUNITIES

LEARN

ANSWERS

ENCOURAGING

INTERESTING

INFO

COMMITMENT

ENTHUSIASM

BUSINESSES

PERSPECTIVES

KNOWLEDGE

**CONNECTION**

CONNECT

GREATER

SHARING

LEARNING

SKILLS

EVERYONE'S

ENTERPRISE

**GREAT**

DRIVE

**SPEAKERS**

COLLABORATION

RIEP **THANKS**

UNDERSTANDING

APPRECIATING

INFORMATION CONNECTIONS

PASSION TOGETHER

SHARED

2025



# Day 2 Program

- 9:15** Welcome Back, Land Acknowledgement
- 9:20** Connection Breakouts
- 9:40** Plenary: **Economic Reconciliation:** Identifying Ways To Further Support The Success of BC's Indigenous Economy
- 10:00** Reconciliation Breakouts
- 10:30** Break, Art Showcase
- 10:35** Plenary: **Ensuring Affordable Housing for All:** Rural Coastal Housing Initiatives
- 11:40** **Learning Exchange:** A Showcase of Resiliency Initiatives From Across the Region
- 12:20** Reflection
- 12:25** Forum Wrap Up

# Meet your host...



**Mitch Miyagawa**

Maji Events facilitates and organizes soulful, artistic, and transformational community events.



# Connection Breakouts

- What does resilience look like in your community?
- How can your community adapt or overcome current economic pressures?
- How will your work/business/profession be impacted by US trade war on Canada?

# PLENARY Speaker:

## **Economic Reconciliation: Identifying Ways To Further Support The Success of BC'S Indigenous Economy**



**Adam Olsen**  
Lead Negotiator,  
Tsarslip First Nation  
Former MLA

ADAM OLSEN, a dedicated leader and a true warrior for the greater good. He is a former MLA for Saanich & the Islands, where he served as a voice of integrity, compassion, and innovation for his constituents. As a member of the BC Green Party, he brings a unique perspective that blends his deep respect for the environment with a commitment to social justice and sustainability.

Adam is a proud member of the Tsartlip Nation, where his leadership is guided by the wisdom of his heritage and his unwavering commitment to the well-being of his community. His roots in the Tsartlip Nation not only shape his values but also his vision for a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable future.

Adam's tireless advocacy, his dedication to the environment, and his courageous leadership make him a true champion for the greater good. We are grateful for his service, his passion, and his continued efforts toward socio-economic well being, for all of us.

# Reconciliation Breakouts

- **Your key learnings from Adam's presentation**
- **How are you building bridges with First Nation peoples in your community?**
- **Share how your organization or community has, or is, actively contributing to the growth and sustainability of BC's local Indigenous economy?**



# Reconciliation Breakouts

- **Your key learnings from Adam's presentation**
- **How are you building bridges with First Nation peoples in your community?**
- **Share how your organization or community has, or is, actively contributing to the growth and sustainability of BC's local Indigenous economy?**

# Four Key Areas

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/indigenous-people/new-relationship/united-nations-declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-people>



# Islands Artist Showcase

## BIOGRAPHY

ADAM LEWIS WAS BORN IN 1982, AND RAISED IN THE CAPE MUDGE VILLAGE (WE WAI KAI) LOCATED ON QUADRA ISLAND.

THE VILLAGE ADAM IS FROM IS THE SOUTHERN MOST KWAKWAKAWAKW NATION. BEING A MEMBER OF THE WE WAI KAI NATION MAKES ADAM LIĠ<sup>w</sup>IĠDAĠ<sup>w</sup> WHICH IS THE THREE SOUTHERN MOST KWAKWAKAWAKW NATIONS. LIĠ<sup>w</sup>IĠDAĠ<sup>w</sup> TRANSLATES TO SEAWORM/ UNKILLABLE THING.

GROWING UP IN CAPE MUDGE ( WE WAI KAI ) ADAM WAS ENAMoured BY THE MUSEUM DIRECTLY ACROSS FROM HIS CHILDHOOD HOME. SPENDING HOURS ADMIRING ART ( AND PLAYING HIDE AND SEEK INSIDE THE 3 STORY BUILDING WITH OTHER REZ KIDS LOL)

ALTHOUGH ADAM WAS SURROUNDED BY BEAUTIFUL FORM LINE INDIGENOUS ART, HIS CREATIVITY LED HIM TO STREET ART. PAINTING MURALS FOR OVER 25 YEARS WITH AEROSOL PAINT, ADAM DEVELOPED HIS FREEHAND SKILL SET. UNIQUE COLOUR COMBINATIONS AND COMPOSITION.

ALTHOUGH ADAM WAS SURROUNDED BY BEAUTIFUL FORM LINE INDIGENOUS ART, HIS CREATIVITY LED HIM TO STREET ART. PAINTING MURALS FOR OVER 25 YEARS WITH AEROSOL PAINT, ADAM DEVELOPED HIS FREEHAND SKILL SET. UNIQUE COLOUR COMBINATIONS AND COMPOSITION.

ALWAYS DREAMING OF CREATING FORMLINE ARTWORKS...

IN LATE 2021 ADAM COMPLETELY SHIFTED FOCUS TOWARDS LEARNING HIS TRADITIONAL ART FORMS. MAINLY SELF TAUGHT ADAM CONTINUES HIS STUDIES AND CREATIVE JOURNEY CREATING CONTEMPORARY KWAKWAKAWAKW ART PIECES.

ART HAS BEEN A TRUE LOVE AND DEEP PASSION FOR ADAM. BLESSED TO CREATE DAILY, ADAM FORESEES CREATING ART AS A LIFELONG JOURNEY



**Adam Lewis**

Wei Wai Kai  
Campbell River /  
Quadra

**AdamLewisArt.com**



# Islands Artist Showcase

## Adam Lewis • [AdamLewisArt.com](http://AdamLewisArt.com)



### “Growth together”

The Idea of This carving was to use traditional formline shapes and have them flowing and growing together. Art imitating life. Growth symbolic of own achievements on the journey.

My fourth panel . A big one !!! 36x36x2. Old growth cedar, ethically harvested and obtained. This cedar naturally fell in a wind storm many many years ago.

Hand carved, hand sanded and finished with a natural bees wax!

Available for purchase !!



# Islands Artist Showcase

Adam Lewis • [AdamLewisArt.com](http://AdamLewisArt.com)



## Mothers - aand

I created this piece while listening to my son and his mother playing and laughing... I thought of a friend who lost his mother recently and my own mother who is healing from an operation and will be for a little while.

The love true Mothers bring to this world... they leave the world a better place than it was when they arrived... thank you to all the beautiful on the inside Mother's !! You're a blessing to the world!



# Islands Artist Showcase

Adam Lewis • [AdamLewisArt.com](http://AdamLewisArt.com)



Ocean Forest Kelp



Rising

**PLENARY Roundtable:**

**Ensuring Affordable**

**Housing for All:**

**Rural Coastal**

**Housing Initiatives**

# PLENARY ROUNDTABLE: HOUSING



**Mike Hoebel**

*President*

Galiano Affordable Living  
Initiative Society



**April Lewis**

*Administrator*

Hornby Island  
Housing Society



**Avi Bryant**

*Founder*

Galiano Cottage  
Co-op



**Elizabeth FitzZaland**

*Co-Chair*

Salt Spring Solutions



**Bruen Black**

*Project Manager*

Cortes Community  
Housing



**Adam Evanik**

*SSI Lead*

Housing Now



**Deborah Goldman**

*President*

Mayne Island  
Housing Society



**Simon Palmer**

*Director*

Denman Community  
Housing Society



## Salt Spring Solutions

Salt Spring Solutions was created in 2018 in response to an awareness of the fundamental and pressing need for change on Salt Spring Island. While blessed with fertile land, a temperate climate, an intelligent, engaged populace, and a unique governance model, we have not, as a community, effectively set in motion the necessary strategies to ensure a resilient island community in the future. We want to help evolve our community to become an effective community where diverse voices band together around common values to solve our most pressing problems.

**We envision a resilient Salt Spring Island community that works together to equitably care for the ecology and the community as one.**

With an increasing shortage of affordable and appropriate housing for our workforce, Salt Spring Island's housing crisis is worsening and impacting every aspect of our community – our seniors, families, businesses, hospital and schools.

To find a path forward to a more resilient, ecologically sustainable community, we published **Homes for Islanders: An Integrated Housing Solutions Framework for Salt Spring Island** which identifies five strategies for addressing our immediate housing problems.

Find out more here and support our work to create a community-led conversation about solutions.

<https://saltspringsolutions.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/HomesforIslanders.pdf>



## Housing Now (SGI)

### Overview

- Housing NOW is preparing to launch its enhanced Registry platform, designed to address key concerns of community members interested in the program. Outreach efforts are expanding, including the recent production of The Shelter SGI Podcast and participation in the housing segment of the SSI Film Festival and Social Justice Bazaar.

### Challenges

- Encouraging homeowner participation in the registry program remains a challenge, especially with the complexities of regional delivery across multiple islands. However, the enhanced security features of the new platform will build trust and support engagement. Coordinating outreach, addressing diverse community needs, and ensuring consistent program engagement require adaptable strategies and strong local partnerships.

### Insights

- Discussions and community gatherings consistently highlight a deep desire to strengthen local connections. Residents want to foster an interconnected, safe, and resilient community. When exploring the question, "What makes a home?", the conversation inevitably turns to the relationships and shared experiences that create a true sense of belonging.



## Cortes Community Housing Society

### Overview

- Started land clearing and infrastructure development for phase 1 of 24 townhomes. Planning to start building utility building in the spring and townhomes in the summer

### Challenges

- Not getting BC Housing funding for construction and rental subsidies has set-us back, but we have pivoted to a more grassroots, cortes style project.

### Insights

- Going with a phased, local approach can reduce a great deal of expenses and support a more Cortes appropriate solution.

Hornby Island Housing Society is a on-profit society with charitable tax status operated by a volunteer “working” Board.  
[www.hornbyhousing.org](http://www.hornbyhousing.org)

## Overview

We have two housing projects:

The Elder Village – in operation since 1996.

- HIHS manages eleven independent living studio and one bedroom homes for seniors, ages fifty-five and up, in ‘The Elder Village. The units were built and have been operated for over 20 years without government or BCH subsidy. We are a Community Initiative Partner of BCH which has assisted in securing a very favourable mortgage rate.

Beulah Creek – under construction with expected occupancy in early 2026.

- With funding from BCH, CMHC and CVRD, we are able to provide rental homes for residents of all ages including families and seniors with low to middle income. Hornby Island Housing Society (HIHS) has partnered with M’akola Housing Society (MHS) to build, operate and manage this rental unit project. The 26 homes are a combination of studios, apartments, and townhouses.

## Challenges

- Ageing Board members with a shrinking volunteer pool in the community.
- Limited rental income in order to keep the units affordable does not cover the operational costs, nor long term capital replacements.
- Working Board whose volunteers heavily subsidize the maintenance of the structures, infrastructure and grounds.
- Ageing buildings with limited options for funding major capital replacement.
- Securing funding for rural housing has been very challenging, a long and difficult process.
- After several years, we have secured the funding and subsidy for the Beulah Creek project, but at the expense of some building details that would have mitigated the urban “look” and “feel”.
- In a small community, we know the folks who are unhoused or precariously housed and it is painful to witness their waiting time for a home, knowing the impacts on their physical and mental health first hand.
- The current funding models do not meet the needs of rural communities:
  - infrastructure and building costs are considerably higher than for urban projects.
  - Building density and design do not match rural values.

## Insights

- Patience.
- Level of Need to advocate for rural voices to be present at the decision making tables.

## Overview/Status

Denman Green - 20 unit affordable housing project, two story apartment style, high performance (Step code 4, no GHG emissions, rainwater collection, greywater reuse, photovoltaic panels)

- Construction financing applications in 2023/24
- Applied to BC Housing, Community Housing Fund in 2023. Not selected, despite a “strong submission”
- Applied to CMHC Cooperative Housing Program. Not selected. Again, told a “strong submission”
- Both submissions included partner funding from FCM

## Challenges

- Funding awards are heavily weighted to urban, high-density projects.
- Island/rural v Municipal building costs are in the order of 10% higher
- Funders’ perception that an island’s “need” is less severe than that of a city or urban area
- Under the CMHC Cooperative Housing Development Program, a lower score is assigned to projects with fewer than 30 units.
- Lack of, or inadequate, funding to support the operations components of a rural project
- The urban lens applied to rural projects also limit design options.

## Insights

- We have a clearer understanding of our vulnerabilities as a small, rural project, and a more realistic sense of the barriers we face.
- In 2024 no Vancouver Island or Gulf Island rural projects were funded. Meaning, a strong political push is required so that a specific funding stream is allocated to our rural projects.
- If we are not successful with one of our 2025 applications, we will be obliged to reconsider our development and funding concept



## Overview

### Mayne Island Housing Society

MIHS is building Salish Grove: 10 units of affordable housing on 3 acres of beautiful land centrally located to commercial area, services, ferry and walking/biking pathway.

Mayne has no purpose built rental housing and no seniors housing.

A mix of 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms, these units will have a mixed rental model intended for families, work force and seniors.

MIHS working with Wiser Projects, specialist consultants in non-profit development.

# PLENARY ROUNDTABLE: HOUSING



**Deborah Goldman**

*President*

Mayne Island  
Housing Society

## Status

Working through predevelopment activities toward building permit:

- Completed zoning for 10 units multi-family affordable rental housing
- Housing Agreement with Mayne Island Local Trust Committee
- In administrative stage of subdivision leading to title transfer
- Conceptual building designs (architectural, structural, engineering, electrical), step code 4, energy modelling completed
- Water licence on drilled well, ample clean water
- Developing class B costing and designs for the septic system, water treatment system, civil engineering
- Procurement underway for construction managers/builders

## Challenges

- Obtaining pre-development funding has been a huge challenge for small non-profit society in rural area with a small housing project.
- Extra burden and significant barriers of being a small project in a remote location increased infrastructure development costs, and not in the target of strategic planning
- Re-zoning process through Islands Trust was expensive, unpredictable, and time consuming.

## Insights

- Patience – The learning curve is large for the society as well as the approving bodies and community. We needed to do a lot of education in the process to educate the trustees and community about the value and the complexities, reality of the non-profit housing development.
- Housing consultants and other engineering consultants are critical resource to obtaining funding and for educating the community, and approving bodies.



## Galiano Cottage Co-op

### Overview

- 4 x 2-Bedroom units ready for move in this summer
- Plans for 3-5 more over the next two years

### Challenge

- Cost of building. Even at market rents, purpose-built rental housing is hard to make pencil out.

### Insight

- Going with the flow of existing zoning can be a huge accelerator (but with tradeoffs).

## Project status

- Thuthiqut Hulelum' project - development of 20 affordable rental homes in four multi-unit buildings on 10 acres
- Project plans, contracts, and land were transferred to the Capital Regional District (CRD) at the building permit stage
- Major construction funding grants and mortgage financing are being secured by the CRD
- Site preparation and installation of power, water, and septic infrastructure have just begun
- GALI will be the housing operator when construction is completed in late 2026

## Challenges

- BC Housing and CMHC prefer to fund larger projects, that are operated by housing organizations with extensive housing management experience
- Cost of building on rural islands is higher due to transportation costs for labour and materials, and the necessity of constructing septic and water systems for each project
- Keeping rents affordable while also meeting operational costs is very difficult without ongoing subsidies

## Insights

- Obtaining regional district support at both staff and political levels can "open doors" to funding and backstopping local volunteer housing organizations, if the RDs recognize the need and create the policy framework



## Advocacy To BC Provincial Government

### RIEP Forum (Gabriola, 2023)

- Resolution asking provincial government to recognize that the lack of affordable housing in rural island and remote coastal communities is at a crisis level
- Called for the creation of a "Rural Housing Authority" to represent and support these communities

### Regional district advocacy (2024)

- Strathcona Regional District and the Capital Regional District wrote to the Premier and Minister of Housing calling for the creation of a "rural housing funding stream" and the provision of rural-specific support
- Minister of Housing replied that this funding stream would be considered, and offered to discuss how to connect rural communities with existing policy initiatives

# Reflections

**PLENARY**

# **Learning Exchange:**

**A Showcase of Resiliency Initiatives  
From Across the Region**

**Regional  
Collaboration**

**Food  
Security**

**Tourism  
Health**

**Climate  
Capacity Building  
Arts**

# Learning Exchange:

A Showcase of Resiliency Initiatives From Across the Region



**Jennifer Hewson**  
**HEALTH**  
Gabriola Health & Well-Being Collaborative



**Heather Picotte**  
**FOOD SECURITY**  
SSI-Farmland Trust-  
Neighbours Feeding  
Neighbours



**Max Thaysen**  
**CLIMATE ACTION**  
Cortes Climate Action  
Network



**Kelly Armstrong**  
**TOURISM**  
SGI-Tourism Partnership



**Roksan Parfitt**  
**ARTS**  
Galiano-Yellow House  
Arts Center



**Julie Sperber**  
**REGIONAL  
COLLABORATION**  
VIEA - Vision 2050



**NAMGIS**  
Business Development Corp.  
**Emily Wisden-Seaweed**  
**CAPACITY BUILDING**  
NBDC - Growcers



**Jennifer Case**  
**COMMUNITY EDUCATION  
ENGAGEMENT**  
North Island College

# LEARNING EXCHANGE: HEALTH

## Overview



**Maria Malmgren and  
Jennifer Hewson**  
Gabriola Health &  
Well-Being Collaborative

**Purpose: to create opportunities among Collaborative members for mutual support, knowledge exchange, shared advocacy, and improved use of funding resources in order to improve the health of all Gabriolans**

- **Started as a response to a specific community crisis**
- **Evolved into collaborative of over 50 members (charities, non-profits, public services, informal groups, and other subject matter experts)**
- **Not a legal entity, run by volunteers**
- **Through advocacy funds were provided by the RDN to hire a part-time coordinator**

***“you can’t do it alone”***

***“the power of the Collaborative”***

***“a healthy, thriving Gabriola community”***



**Maria Malmgren and  
Jennifer Hewson**

Gabriola Health &  
Well-Being Collaborative

## Challenges

- Identifying and prioritizing community issues
- Engaging community and Collaborative members to work together on key community issues
- Securing human and financial resources to support Collaborative work

## Insights

- Working together to address and respond to community issues is effective (e.g., extreme weather action table and poison drug action table)
- Having role clarity and clear plans (e.g., work, strategic, communications, and engagement plans) are vital to success
- Reminding ourselves of who our stakeholders are and who evaluates the success of the Collaborative



## **Seasonal & geographic visitor dispersion:**

Promoting off-season travel (October–April)

## **No high-season marketing:**

Instead, we invest in Visitor Education (water conservation, car-free travel, responsible wildlife viewing, trail etiquette).

## **Brand alignment:**

No summer imagery – only showcasing off-season experiences.

## **Changing perceptions:**

Overcoming outdated views of tourism

## **Collaboration roadblocks:**

Struggle to engage non-tourism organizations in mutually beneficial projects (e.g., visitor participation in conservation or local initiatives).

**Long-term relationships are key:**

Success in small communities depends on trust and collaboration.

**Proactive partnership-building:**

Shifting focus to create strong, equitable partnerships that align with our regenerative vision.



# Overview

## **Neighbours Feeding Neighbours: An Emergency Food Security (EFS) Planning Project on Salt Spring Island**

- Funded by a Stream 1 IAF FSPP grant to focus on research, relationship building, planning and capacity building.
- Launched early June 2024

**“Food security today for  
food sovereignty tomorrow”**



- Building public awareness of EFS and its connections to other pressing issues for islanders
- Strengthening connections and developing agreements between emergency pods and individuals for the purposes of EFS planning
- Take-over of two vital community services for food security and sovereignty:
  - **Friendship Garden** to serve populations at risk of food insecurity and malnourishment
  - **Invasive plant chipping program** to reduce wildfire risk and educate the public about EFS



## Challenges

- Choosing which partnerships and activities to prioritize, given that food security intersects with so many other causes and issues
- Using existing emergency communications channels (privacy & confidentiality concerns, growing suspicion of government)

## Insights

- Listen, listen, listen to the community
- Be flexible

## Overview

Community climate planning/organizing, with a focus on education, collective action and experiments like banning luxury emissions and enhancing democratic participation.

## Challenges:

- Vocal opposition to government initiatives dissuades community leaders.
- Apathy, distraction, and hopelessness weaken engagement.

## Insights:

- Success requires significant people power, 1-on-1 organizing, but mobilizing enough support remains a challenge.

## Encouragement:

- Ambitious climate pathways inspire those who understand the urgency, leading to increased engagement.



## Regional Economic Vibrancy

- **Vision 2050** is a long-term strategy for a resilient, sustainable, and thriving Vancouver Island economy.
- **Focus areas:**
  - Regional Supply Chains
  - Economic Reconciliation
  - Economic Diversification
  - Youth Engagement

## Challenges

- Fragmented decision-making
- Financial support

## Insights

- Collaboration is essential
- Data-driven strategies work
- Balance matters – Economic growth must align with community, social well-being and environmental sustainability.
- Inclusive Economic Growth: Greater participation from Indigenous communities and rural communities
- Sustainable Growth Metrics: A baseline of measurable metrics and an annual impact report to track progress, adjust strategies, and highlight emerging opportunities.

LEARNING EXCHANGE:  
REGIONAL COLLABORATION  
**Encouragement**



**Julie Sperber**  
VIEA - Vision 2050

- **A forward-thinking, unified approach** – Moving beyond short-term wins to long-term regional resilience.
- **Indigenous leadership & inclusion** – Centering reconciliation in economic strategy.
- **Action-oriented** – Not just a vision, but a roadmap leading to tangible change.



# Overview



Established 2019, Yellowhouse Art Centre Society fosters creativity, culture and community on Galiano Island through accessible, inclusive, year-round arts programming-workshops, exhibitions, and performances-that engage local and surrounding communities while promoting equity, decolonization and environmental awareness.



**Roksan Parfitt**

YellowHouse Art Centre  
Shxixnetun / Sturdies Bay  
Galiano Island

## Challenges

- Financial sustainability
- Low population - participation numbers & volunteer numbers
- Established during Pandemic

## Insights

- Face-to-face community building
- Challenging conventional perspectives
- Embracing diverse viewpoints and collaborating
- Organic / slow paced / community informed growth



**Roksan Parfitt**  
YellowHouse Art Centre  
Shxixnetun / Sturdies Bay  
Galiano Island

## Encouragement

- Created and sustaining a cultural hub that proves to be needed and wanted on our island
- Fostering creativity in our community and utilize the power of arts to support positive social change
- We have been building meaningful relationships with local youth and Indigenous communities.



# LEARNING EXCHANGE: CAPACITY BUILDING Overview



**Emily Wisden-Seaweed**  
'Namgis Business  
Development Corp. (NBDC) /  
Growcers

The NBDC Hydroponic Greenhouses initiative, in partnership with Growcer, focuses on establishing modular hydroponic farms to increase local food security, create employment opportunities, and support community engagement. Growcer, a Canadian vertical farming company, provides a turn-key solution that allows fresh produce to be grown year-round in any climate, using significantly less land and water compared to traditional farming.



# LEARNING EXCHANGE: CAPACITY BUILDING Challenges



**Emily Wisden-Seaweed**

'Namgis Business  
Development Corp. (NBDC) /  
Growcers

- **Initial Training & Onboarding:** While Growcer provides training, the current program is based in Ottawa, posing logistical challenges for local workers.
- **Scaling for Commercial Viability:** Transitioning from a successful pilot to full-scale commercial production requires securing sustainable market channels such as grocery stores, restaurants, and farmers' markets.
- **Expanding the Training Hub:** There is a need to establish a West Coast training hub to remove geographical barriers for other Indigenous Nations and communities wanting to adopt hydroponic farming.



# LEARNING EXCHANGE: CAPACITY BUILDING Insights



**Emily Wisden-Seaweed**

'Namgis Business  
Development Corp. (NBDC) /  
Growcers

- **Hydroponic Farming Benefits:** The system enables soil-free, controlled-environment farming, ensuring consistent yields while using 95% less land and 90% less water than traditional methods.
- **Community Impact:** The initiative offers fresh, nutritious produce, contributes to food sovereignty, and creates employment and training opportunities.
- **Productivity Metrics:** Weekly harvests include:
  - Romaine Lettuce – 787 mature heads
  - Spinach – 264 packages (90g each)
  - Bok Choy, Basil, Mint – Significant yields for local distribution

# LEARNING EXCHANGE: CAPACITY BUILDING Goals



**Emily Wisden-Seaweed**  
'Namgis Business  
Development Corp. (NBDC) /  
Growcers

- **Successful Pilot**
  - Onboarding and training of local workers. Growcer provides all the training.
  - Provide nutritious fresh greens to our community members
- **Commercial Production**
  - Subscription boxes
  - Local grocery retailers
  - North Island restaurants
  - Farmers markets
- **Future Training Hub**
  - Currently Growcer training occurs in Ottawa, NBDC would like to become the west coast training hub to remove further obstacles for other Nations and communities



# Overview

## Community Outreach Examples

- Office & Clerical Program
- Marine Guiding Foundations Program
- Project Coordinator Foundations Program

# Challenges

- Instructor recruitment for in-community delivery in remote & rural areas
- Accommodation for instructors
- Internet connectivity for remote delivery
- Funding for delivery of programs



## Insights

- Check the ferry schedules for dangerous cargo sailings and ensure instructors are aware of them.
- Being on-site at the beginning of programming in-community to troubleshoot any tech issues and ensure student supports are in place as planned.

## Encouragement

- Delivering programs outside of the main campuses that meet the needs of local businesses and the community
- Being able to develop programs quickly in response to community needs

# Learning Exchange **Breakouts**

Choose Your Own Adventure:



**Jennifer Hewson**  
**HEALTH**  
Gabriola Health & Well-Being Collaborative



**Heather Picotte**  
**FOOD SECURITY**  
SSI-Farmland Trust-  
Neighbours Feeding  
Neighbours

**CORTES  
CLIMATE  
ACTION  
NETWORK**

**Max Thaysen**  
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**SOUTHERN  
GULF  
ISLANDS**

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**Julie Sperber**  
**REGIONAL  
COLLABORATION**  
VIEA - Vision 2050



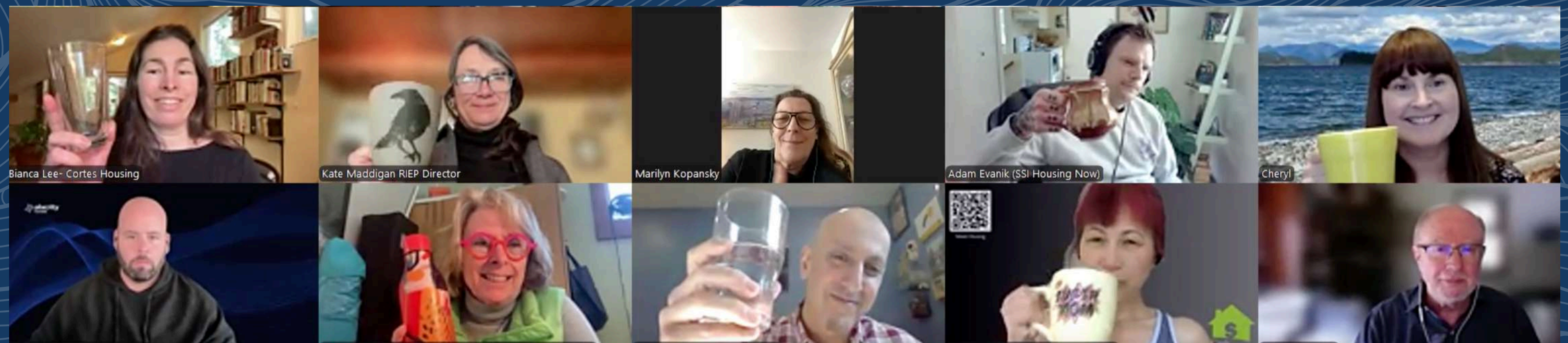
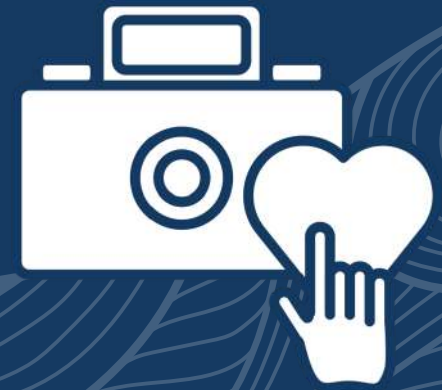
**NAMGIS**  
Business Development Corp.  
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**CAPACITY BUILDING**  
NBDC - Growcers



**Jennifer Case**  
**COMMUNITY EDUCATION  
ENGAGEMENT**  
North Island College



# Say Cheese!





Adaptation - Innovation - Resilience

**NETWORK + ADVOCATE + SUPPORT + ACT**

Empowering BC's Rural- Remote Coastal Communities

**ONWARD WITH GRATITUDE!**

PRESENTED BY:



**[RuralIslandsPartnership.ca](http://RuralIslandsPartnership.ca)**