



The Future Is Local: UNITE At The RIEP Forum

Since RIEP's founding Forum in 2019, our organization has been actively promoting and providing solutions for **self-reliant, sustainable communities** where economic benefits circulate within the region and social benefit is a key economic indicator.

Six years later, we are hosting our fifth Forum, bringing together leaders in our local communities that are creating and championing innovative solutions that celebrate our Forum theme: **Adaptation - Innovation - Resilience**

Times such as these are a powerful reminder of the importance of regional collaboration and the necessity of supporting small business and community-based organizations. We must look to one-another for inspiration and ingenuity as we build a just economy that provides for the dignified livelihoods we all deserve.

Our 2025 Virtual Forum promises to elevate the many voices that will help to shape a positive vision of our collective futures.

Our strength lies in our capacity to build our social capital and to strengthen our community connections with each other!

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[Rural Islands Economic Partnership](#)

• **3 REASONS TO ATTEND** •

RIEP 2025 VIRTUAL FORUM

ADAPTATION - As technologies like AI rapidly evolve and challenge business models, we will examine perspectives on what we know today and provide insights for tomorrow.

INNOVATION - We'll highlight innovative—and time-tested—models that

support community-based solutions, driving a balanced bottom line of people, planet, and profit.

RESILIENCE - Focusing on economic reconciliation and strengthening connections with Indigenous businesses and communities, we aim to foster meaningful partnerships. Through our 'learning exchange,' we will weave together our collective knowledge to advance regenerative and inclusive economies.

Thursday, March 6 - Friday, March 7
9:15 AM - 12:30 PM

[Purchase Tickets Here](#)

Early Bird Pricing Until February 22: \$35.00

Standard Pricing: Feb. 23 – March 6: \$40.00

FEATURED PROGRAM SPEAKERS - *TO DATE*

**Day
1**

ADAPTATION & INNOVATION: **Shaping the Future for Our Collective Well-Being**

★ AI INSIGHTS

Integrating AI for Business & Non-Profit Success

- Lauren Evanow *CEO, Results Team Communication*
- Jennifer Hufnagel *Principal, Hufnagel Consulting*
- Charley Jarrett, *Senior Digital Consultant, HJC*

★ WHO ARE WE?

Economic Snapshot of BC's Rural and Coastal Communities

- Jolynn Green, *Community Futures, Central Island, Executive Director*
- Maria Malmgren, *Change Works Principal; RIEP Board Director*

★ SHARED SERVICES

Pooling Resources For Socio-Economic Well-Being

- DELVI (Deliver Vancouver Island +)
- VIEA's Island Good
- Sooke Business Co-op
- RIEP's Rising Tide Business Services

Day
2

RESILIENCE:

Working Together To Build Resilient Communities

★ ECONOMIC RECONCILIATION

Identifying Ways To Further Support The Success of BC's Indigenous Economy

- Adam Olsen, Former MLA and Lead Negotiator for the Tsartlip Nation

★ ENSURING AFFORDABLE HOMES FOR ALL

Rural-Coastal Housing Initiatives

Featuring Housing Activists Representing:

- Cortes Housing Society
- Denman Community Housing Society
- Gabriola Housing Society
- Galiano Affordable Living Initiative
- Housing Now!

★ COMMUNITY LEARNING EXCHANGE

A Showcase of Initiatives From Across the Region

Featuring Community Builders Representing:

- The Arts
- Climate Action
- Food Security
- Health & Well-Being
- Regenerative Tourism
- Regional Collaboration

Rural Islands Economic Partnership

RIEP serves to empower British Columbia's rural islands and remote coastal communities by honouring reconciliation and by collaborating and convening to share information, resources, and opportunities. We network, advocate, support and activate communities towards achieving enduring socio-economic well-being together.

NETWORK	ADVOCATE	SUPPORT	ACTIVATE
Re-connecting and making new connections	Raising awareness, influencing, educating, and promoting policies to meet the essential needs of BC's rural coastal communities	Learn about innovative solutions and opportunities for advancing inclusive regenerative local economies	Utilizing our shared knowledge, resources, and perspectives for taking actionable steps towards good change

With Gratitude To RIEP 2025 Forum Sponsors



Follow 2025 Forum On Facebook Here!



RURAL ISLANDS
ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP
CULTIVATING RESILIENT PARTNERSHIPS

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RURAL ISLANDS ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP | c/o McKimm & Lott Unit 201-118 Fulford-Ganges Road | Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2S4 CA

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