

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **BCEDA Announces 2025–2026 Board of Directors**

**Penticton, BC, May 20, 2025** - The British Columbia Economic Development Association (BCEDA) is pleased to announce its newly elected Board of Directors for the 2025–2026 term. The announcement was made during the Annual General Meeting held on May 7, with the positions taking effect on May 15, following the BC Economic Summit in Penticton.

The new board unites experienced professionals from across the province who are dedicated to fostering economic development and supporting the sustainable growth of British Columbia's communities. The board members represent a variety of regions, industries, and backgrounds, ensuring a strong and balanced voice for BCEDA's members.

#### **Executive Committee:**

- **Chair:** Rocio Zielinski, General Manager, Stó:lō Community Futures, Director at Large
- **Vice Chair:** John Perrott, Manager, Economic Development and Partnerships, City of Vernon, Director Thompson/Okanagan (Prince George)
- **Secretary:** Stacey Crawford, Director of Economic Development, City of Mission, Director at Large
- **Treasurer:** Deklan Corstanje, Manager, Economic Development, City of Prince George, Director for Northeast/Cariboo
- **Past Chair:** Brian Coombes, President, Chilliwack Economic Partners Corporation, Director for Lower Mainland/Southwest

#### **Directors:**

- Pete Bourke – Executive Director, Columbia Valley Chamber of Commerce, Director for the Kootenay Region
- Rose Klukas - Director of Economic Development and Indigenous Relations, City of Campbell River, Director for Vancouver Island/Coast
- Terese Finegan – Manager of Economic Development, Township of Esquimalt, Director at Large
- Siobian Smith - Director of Business and Economy, City of Vancouver, Director at Large
- Darrin McCormack – CEO, Kitselas Development Corporation, Director for North Coast/Nechako
- Gary Schatz - Director of Economic Development, Town of Princeton, Director at Large

“I’m honoured to serve as Chair of BCEDA and to help lead the organization at a time when economic development is more important than ever to the future of our communities,” said Rocio Zielinski, incoming Chair. “I also want to sincerely thank Brian Coombes for his outstanding leadership and dedication during his two-year term as Chair. His guidance has helped strengthen BCEDA and expand our impact across the Province.”

BCEDA remains committed to delivering resources, professional development, and advocacy for economic developers throughout British Columbia. The organization looks forward to a year of collaboration, innovation, and continued support for local and Indigenous communities.

For more information about BCEDA, please visit [www.bceda.ca](http://www.bceda.ca).

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**About BCEDA**

Established in 1981, the British Columbia Economic Development Association is the leading organization supporting economic development professionals in BC. Through training, advocacy, and resource sharing, BCEDA helps communities build resilient and prosperous economies.

To find out more about the Mission and the Goals of the Society, [click here](#).