



2025

Social Policy Forum

February 12, 13 & 14

Inn at Laurel Point | Victoria, BC



THE FEDERATION
of COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES of BC



BoardVoice
Leadership. Collaboration. Community.



BCAAFC | BC Association of
Aboriginal Friendship Centres



2025 Social Policy Forum Agenda

Tuesday, February 11

12:30pm - 5:00pm PARCA Meeting (Merino Room)

Wednesday, February 12

8:00am - 12:00pm PARCA Meeting (Merino Room)

8:00am - 4:00pm BCAAFC Membership Meeting (Spirit Rooms)

12:00pm - 4:00pm FCSSBC Board Meeting (Rogers Suite)

4:00pm - 5:00pm FCSSBC Island Regional Meeting (Merino Room)

4:00pm - 5:00pm Board Voice Members Welcome Gathering (Hunt Room)

5:00pm - 7:00pm Social Policy Forum Welcome Reception & Early Check-in
Mayor Marianne Alto, *City of Victoria* (Terrace Ballroom)

Thursday, February 13

8:00am - 9:00am Breakfast and Exhibitors

9:00am - 9:30am Welcome, Land Acknowledgement, and Conference Opening

9:30am - 9:45am The Honourable Jodie Wickens, *Minister of Children and Family Development*

9:45am - 10:45am Our Collective Responsibilities
Dr. Jennifer Charlesworth, *Representative for Children and Youth of British Columbia*

10:45am - 11:15am Refreshments, Networking, and Exhibitors

11:15am - 12:30pm Truth, Reconciliation, Decolonization and Indigenization
Dr. June Francis, *Simon Fraser University*
Dr. Cheryl Ward, *BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres*
Dave Ward, *Lu'ma Development Management*
Margaret Pfoh, *Aboriginal Housing Management Association*

2025 Social Policy Forum

Agenda

Thursday, February 13 (continued)

11:15am - 12:15pm	<p>Invest in Communities: A community-led approach to engagement, a vision, and 11 calls to action from B.C. communities Karla Verschoor, <i>Executive Director, Inclusion BC</i> Erika Cedillo, <i>Director of Public Policy and Programs, Inclusion BC</i> Moderator: Kim Lyster</p>
11:15am - 12:15pm	<p>Governance Training Tim Agg</p>
11:15am - 12:15pm	<p>Cybersecurity Essentials Richard Watt, <i>vCIO, Total Support Solutions</i></p>
12:15pm - 1:30pm	<p>Lunch Break, Networking, and Exhibitors</p>
1:30pm - 2:30pm	<p>Achieving Success in Changing Political Landscapes: BC and Federal Positioning Amber Ruddy, <i>Vice President, Counsel Public Affairs Inc.</i> Amanda van Baarsen, <i>Vice President, British Columbia, Counsel Public Affairs Inc.</i></p>
2:30pm - 3:00pm	<p>Coffee Break, Networking, and Exhibitors</p>
3:00pm - 4:00pm	<p>Government Relations and Advocacy Shane Simpson, <i>Retired MLA (Vancouver-Hastings) and cabinet minister (Social Development and Poverty Reduction). Chair, Community Living BC</i> Tim Agg, <i>Executive Director, Board Voice Society of BC</i></p>
3:00pm - 4:00pm	<p>Creating a Culture of Care: Wellness Exchange Program & Pulse Check Essentials Tigran Bajgoric, <i>Chief Executive Officer, Community Social Services Health and Safety Association</i> Suncha Satney, <i>Workplace Psychological Health & Safety Consultant, CSSHSA</i></p>
3:00pm - 4:00pm	<p>Get Well Canada Paul Kershaw, <i>award-winning tenured professor at the University of British Columbia, public speaker, regular media contributor and Founder of Generation Squeeze</i></p>
3:00pm - 4:30pm	<p>Potlatch: The Card Game Charla Huber, <i>Indigenous Communications Consultant, and Associate Faculty, Royal Roads University</i></p>

2025 Social Policy Forum Agenda

Thursday, February 13 (continued)

4:30pm - 6:30pm Fundraising Dinner

Friday, February 14

8:00am - 9:00am Breakfast and Exhibitors

8:00am - 9:00am Social Service Roundtable Reference Group Breakfast

9:00am - 9:10am Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

9:10am - 9:30am The Honourable Sheila Malcolmson, *Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction*

9:30am - 10:30am MCFD Update
Emily Horton, *ADM Policy Legislation and Litigation Division*
Fisnik Preniqi, *ADM Finance and Corporate Services*
Marnie Mayhew, *ADM Strategic Services Division*
Moderator: Tim Veresh

10:30am - 10:45am Conference Closing and Thank You

10:45am - 11:00am Refreshments and Networking

11:00am - 12:00pm FCSSBC General Meeting

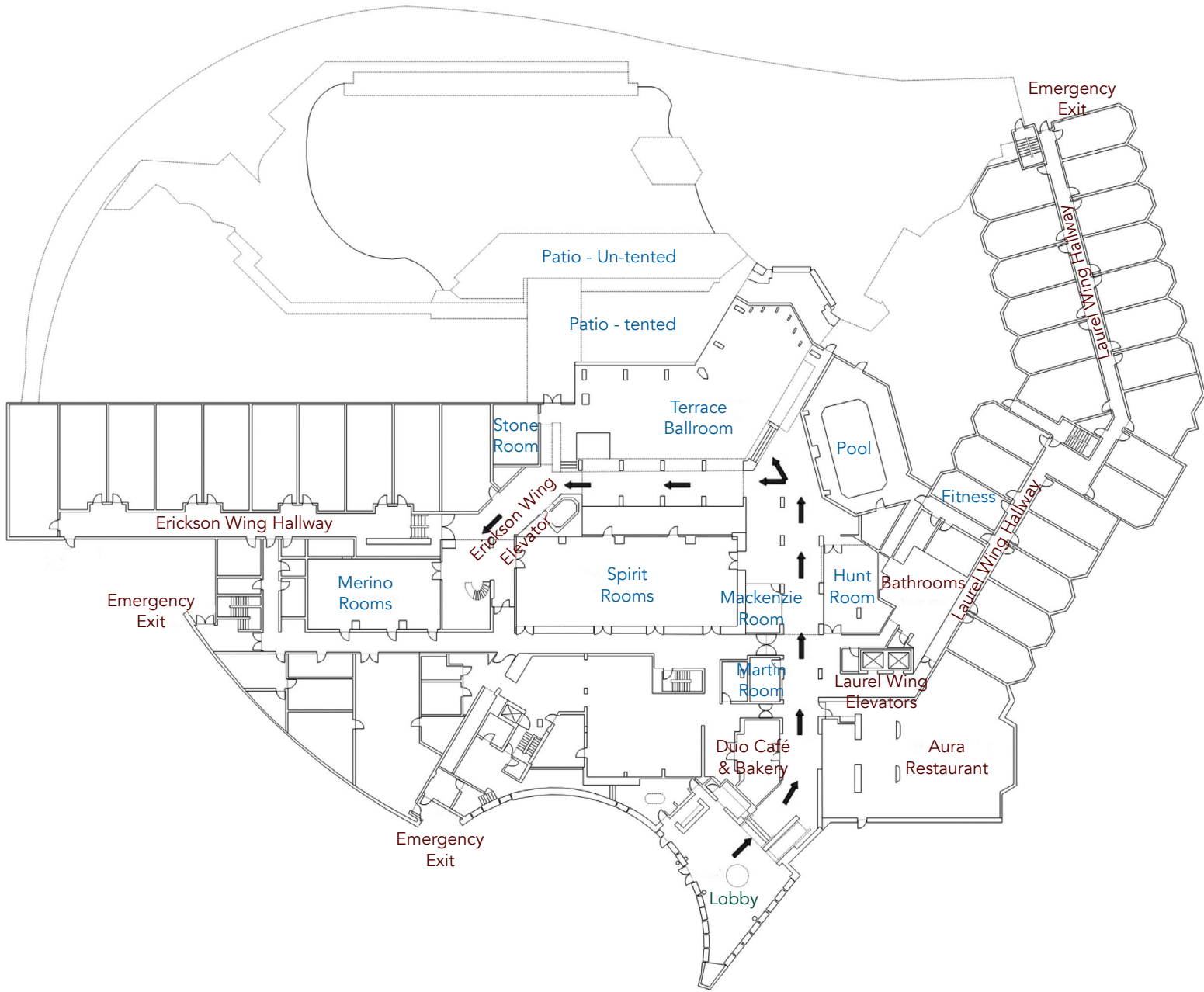
11:00am - 12:00pm Board Voice Meeting

ləkʷəŋən People (Esquimalt and Songhees Nations)

This is the land of the ləkʷəŋən People, known today as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations. The ləkʷəŋən People's connection with the land and the resources goes back thousands of years. We encourage you to learn more about the The Sacred Trust—the obligation that embodies the relationship between the land, water, and resources; community, family and individual; the cultural and spiritual path; and the Esquimalt Nation land treaty. www.esquimaltnation.ca

The Signs of Ləkʷəŋən. As you travel through the city, you will find seven carvings that mark places of cultural significance. To seek out these markers is to learn about the land, its original culture, and the spirit of its people. The markers are bronze castings of original cedar carvings that were conceptualized and carved by Coast Salish artist and master carver Butch Dick with his son Clarence Dick Jr. www.songheesnation.ca

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Quiet room available

Need a place to get away and relax in a tranquil, chatter-free space? Check out the Quiet Space, a dedicated room where delegates can decompress, get centred, and re-energize before diving back into the conference. We encourage a device-free zone to get the most out of this relaxing space.

Wi-fi password

What's the password? Each room has a unique WiFi password. Please look for the password signage in each room.

Support Our Youth

Please donate and help support two youth programs:

The FCSSBC Youth Education Bursary supports youth in care with their post-secondary education. We need these dedicated, caring, skilled young people in our field!

The BCAAFC Provincial Indigenous Youth Council connects youth across the province, implements initiatives that benefit Indigenous youth, and co-hosts *Gathering Our Voices*.

Social Policy Forum participants can support these programs in three different ways.

Attend the fundraising dinner: Tickets available at registration

Donate directly: Forms available at registration

Purchase books by Indigenous authors: Available at registration

Photography

A photographer will be on hand throughout the Social Policy Forum taking photos for future promotional purposes. Images may be broadcast, reproduced and/or made available in print publications, online or on mobile devices.

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2025 Social Policy Forum

Agenda

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