## **PAAC National Conference 2025**



## Meeting the Moment *Agenda*

## **Conference Venue**

Simon Fraser University at Harbour Centre | Segal Centre (1400-1430) 515 W. Hastings Street Vancouver, BC

	Day 1 WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 12 <sup>™</sup> (Full Day)				
8:00 am	Breakfast and Registration Opens	SFU Harbour Centre – Segal			
8:30 am - 9:00 am	Welcome PAAC President (Alexis Easton)	Centre			
<b></b>	Tsleil-Waututh First Nations – Traditional Welcome Elder Margaret Geroge and her son Norman George (Confirmed)				
	Welcome from BC PAAC Co-Presidents (Nikki Hill and Nicole Brassard)				
9:00 am - 9:45 am	Keynote & Fireside Chat with Shachi Kurl (President, Angus Reid Institute)				
9:45 am - 10:45 am	Panel 1: Challenges of working with government during uncertain times				
	Moderator: Matt Smith (former CoS to Premier Eby; Executive Vice President West, Pollara) Mary Polak (former Minister and MLA, BC Liberals; CEO BC Care Providers Association) Shannon Phillips (former Minister and MLA, Alberta NDP; Meredith, Boessenkool & Phillips) Peter Julian (former Member of Parliament, NDP)				
10:45 am - 11:45 pm	Panel 2: Navigating productivity and trade headwinds				
	Moderator: Emma Macklem (Partner, Framepoint) Laura Jones (President and CEO, BCBC) Sussanne Skidmore (President, BC Federation of Labour) Alexa Young (Vice President Government Relations VFPA)				
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Awards of Distinction Luncheon  Award of Distinction Bruce Young  Emerging Leaders Award Sajjid Lakhani (Impact Public Affairs)	Delta Hotels Vancouver Mount Pleasant Room			





1:45 pm – 2:45 pm	Panel 3: Promise of Indigenous leadership in natural resources  Moderator: Allie Meeres (Executive VP & Partner at Sedgwick Strategies)  Todd Stone (President & CEO, Association for Mineral	SFU Harbour Centre – Segal Room
	Exploration)  Dallas Smith (President, Nanwakolas Council)	
2:45 pm – 3:45 pm	Panel 4: Canada US panel	
	Moderator: Sabrina Grover (Senior Advisor, NorthStar Public Affairs)  Diamond Isinger (Former Advisor to PM Trudeau)  Zara Rabinovitch (Vice President, Sustainability and Public Affairs, COFI)	
3:45 pm – 4:45 pm	Panel 5: Federal Budget debrief	
	Moderator: Nicole Brassard (Vice-President, British Columbia) Raj Sihota (Vice-President, British Columbia, Strategies 360) Allie Blades (Senior Advisor at Framepoint) Zita Astravas (Vice-President, Federal, Wellington Advocacy)	
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Evening Reception	HYDRA Wine Bar 475 Howe Street Vancouver, BC

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 13 <sup>™</sup> (Half-Day)				
9:00 am	Breakfast and Welcome Day 2	SFU Harbour		
		Centre - Atrium		
9:30 am -	Panel 6: Leveraging digital channels to amplify your public	SFU Harbour		
10:30 am	affairs messaging	Centre - Segal		
		Room		
	Moderator: Colin Aitchison (Director, Western Canada,			
	Enterprise)			
	Heather Stoutenburg (Digital Strategist and former Provincial			
	Director, BC NDP)			
	Chazz Clevinger (Founder and CEO, CiviClick)			
	Brett Thalmann (Founding Partner, Nexus Consultants)			



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10:30 -	Coffee and networking break	
11:00 am		
11:00 am to	Panel 7: In house and outside consultant panel	SFU Harbour
12:00 pm		Centre Segal
	Moderator: Dan Hurley (Head of Public Affairs,	Room - Section
	Communications, ESG, Navitas)	One
	Trevor Boudreau (Senior Director Government Relations, SFU)	
	Alexis Easton (Chief Public Affairs Officer - Royal Ontario	
	Museum)	
	Richard Truscott (Vice President, Prairie Sky Strategy)	
12:00 pm –	Closing (Lunch provided)	
12:30 pm		