

## Launch Event - October 28 & 31, 2022

### Day 2 Speakers Bio

#### Shane Thompson P.Eng. CEM MBA

National Practice Lead, Strategic Advisory Services, Associated Engineering



##### BIOGRAPHY

Shane is Associated Engineering's National Practice Lead, Strategic Advisory Services, based in Calgary. In recent years, Shane has been involved in delivering flood resilience infrastructure for the City of Calgary, energy management and GHG reduction programs for both the Cities of Calgary and Lethbridge, he is currently working with Parks Canada and the Assembly of First Nations to develop 20-year asset investment plans that consider climate adaptation and mitigation strategies to help ensure the long-term protection and sustainability of their natural and built environments.

Shane has over 22 years experience working with clients to better manage risk and uncertainty, improve value, resilience, and the sustainability of assets and services, for both private and government clients in Australia and Canada. He has a Bachelor of Environmental Engineering and a Master of Business Administration from Australia, and is also a Certified Energy Manager.

For more than seven decades, [Associated Engineering](#) (AE) has served as a respected and trusted advisor to many clients across Canada. [Strategic Advisory Services](#) aims to build on this reputation by collaborating with clients to help coordinate the activities of their organizations to better manage risk, improve value, resilience, and the sustainability of assets and services. They provide resilience, sustainability, and integrated asset advisory services to support government, private, and indigenous clients across Canada.

#### Patrick Michell

Former Chief of the Kanaka Bar Indian Band and resident of Lytton, BC.

##### BIOGRAPHY

Located 14 km south of Lytton, BC (Canada's hotspot), Patrick Michell of the Kanaka Bar Indian Band (one of the 15 indigenous communities that make up the Nlaka'pamux Nation) has lived in the Fraser Canyon all his life. Since 1978, with awareness of the growing changes within and upon their traditional territory caused by climate change, Patrick and his community worked to design and complete site specific programs and projects that re-establish sustainable community foundations in water, food, and shelter with supporting resilient systems like storage, energy, communications, transportation and waste; preparing Kanaka Bar and its residents for the environment and economy of today and more importantly – for tomorrow.

In 2018, Patrick was honored with a Clean Energy BC lifetime achievement award for his work in renewable energy project design, permitting, development and operations, and in 2021 was honored with a Clean50 Lifetime Achievement Award for his work on climate change awareness and action. Kanaka's 2021 Community Resilience Plan (or CRP) was also recognized as the Clean50 2022 Top national project.



On June 30, 2021, Patrick and his family lost their intergenerational home in the Lytton fire and have lived in response mode since. The same region has since had to manage the Atmospheric River in November 2021 that "wiped out" all but one road and in late December the Lytton region lived through never before experienced minus 32 degree temperature along with a snowfall event in excess of 4 feet. After 13 months of emergency response mode and recovery, Patrick, his family and the Lytton region are now currently dealing with the impacts of the Nohimin fire that started on July 14, 2022.

While the timeline to start rebuilding the town of Lytton's homes, businesses and essential support services and the supporting infrastructure remains uncertain - the people are working together to look after each other and gathering to plan, design and ultimately rebuild - an entire region.

## Maya Gislason, PhD

Simon Fraser University

### BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Maya Gislason is an Associated Professor of Health Sciences at SFU. Her areas of interest are social inequities in health, eco-social health, planetary health, ecosystem approaches to health, climate change, intergenerational climate equity, cumulative impacts of intensive resource extraction, Indigenous health and wellness, community participation, Patient-Oriented Research, critical pedagogy, public health, equity informed mixed methods evidence building, interplay between human, animal and ecosystem health, governance, structural and epistemic justice.



## Robing Cox, PhD

Royal Roads University

### BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Robin Cox and her ResilienceByDesign Lab (RbD) team, are cultivating climate action leadership through applied and arts based research, design thinking, and innovative curriculum design and education (e.g., MA in Climate Action Leadership; Adaptation Learning Network). The goal of her program of research is to enable and optimize the capacity of working professionals, youth, and communities to design and implement innovative, collaborative evidence-informed initiatives that contribute to climate resilience, disaster risk reduction, and empowerment.



## Katia Tynan

Manager of Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction with the City of Vancouver

### BIOGRAPHY

Katia is the Manager of Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction for the City of Vancouver. In this role she oversees the implementation of the Resilient Vancouver, a strategy structured around three pillars: Thriving and Prepared Neighbourhoods, Proactive and Collaborative City Government, and Safe and Adaptive Buildings and Infrastructure. She manages complex cross-departmental projects and holds a resilience advisory role on various processes and plans.

Since 2017, Katia has led the City's neighbourhood resilience portfolio. The foundation of this work is the Resilient Neighbourhoods Program - partnering with community-based organizations to identify and build on the services and networks that enable communities to



thrive day-to-day, and build capacity to respond to and recover from emergencies like extreme heat or earthquakes.

Before joining the City of Vancouver, Katia worked in the non-profit sector as a program manager and community developer. She holds a master's degree in Disaster and Emergency Management from Royal Roads University, a bachelor's degree in Geography and Political Science from the University of British Columbia, and is a certified Strategic Foresight Practitioner through Institute for the Future.

## Lilia Yumagulova, PhD

Program Director, Preparing Our Home

Lilia Yumagulova holds degrees in emergency management, risk analysis and a PhD in resilience planning. Lilia's passion is in building community resilience to climate change and disasters.

With over 20 years of work experience with government, NGOs, media, Indigenous communities and supranational organizations in Europe and North America, Lilia is the Program Director for the award winning [Preparing Our Home](#) Program that empowers Indigenous youth leadership in community resilience. She is currently a Banting Postdoctoral Fellow working on disaster displacement and community-led relocation planning.



## Johanna Wagstaffe

Meteorologist, Science Reporter, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

### BIOGRAPHY

Johanna Wagstaffe is the meteorologist and scientist for CBC Vancouver and CBC News Network. Wagstaffe's academic background in seismology and earth science has led her to cover major earthquakes, wildfires, hurricanes, floods and the Copenhagen, Paris and Glasgow Climate Change conference. She has hosted four award-winning CBC podcasts including: Fault Lines, 2050: Degrees of Change, and The Climate Changers. She is also the author of several children's science books.



## Sahar Safaie M.Eng

Sage On Earth Consulting Ltd.

### BIOGRAPHY

Sahar Safaie is Climate and Disaster Management Specialist and founder of Sage On Earth Consulting. She has more than 17 years of experience in Public and Private sector in Canada and internationally. Equipped with a strong technical background and years of exposure to policy and governance challenges of disaster and climate risk management at various levels, Sahar has a solid and broad understanding of multi-hazard risk assessment and disaster risk management. Her talent in strategic analysis of complex systems and developing consensus-based solutions has always been recognized and utilized by various employers and clients.

Sahar designed and led the development of the Resilience Pathways Report and co-authored the Summary for Policy Makers.

Among the highlights of her work are the coordinating the UN GAR15 global multi-hazard risk assessment and leading three guidelines for United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction



(UNDRR): Promoting synergy and alignment between climate change adaptation and disaster reduction in the context of National Adaptation Plans (2021), Words into Action Guideline on National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy (2019), Words into Action Guideline on National Disaster Risk Assessment (2017).

Prior to founding Sage Consulting, Sahar had worked at various international entities in the field of risk modeling and risk management such as Risk Management Solutions, The World Bank, Global Earthquake Model Foundation, and UNDRR. She has been collaborating with Associated Engineering Strategic Advisory Services since June 2022.

## Twyla Kowalczyk M.S., P.Eng.

Climate Resilience Specialist, Associated Engineering

### BIOGRAPHY

Twyla has extensive experience and a diverse background across the water management field with unique experience in disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and emergency response planning. Through Twyla's previous role at the City of Calgary as a river engineer, she played an integral role in development of the river flooding emergency response plan for the City of Calgary, which was put into action in the 2013 flood event. She has intimate knowledge of the interplay between engineered and non-engineered flood mitigation solutions, land use policies, emergency preparedness planning, design and data requirements, public communications and engagement. She specializes in systems and network thinking providing a bridge between technical, operational and strategic planning.

As Twyla's role expanded from flood management to climate resilience, she became involved at a national level for informing climate adaptation progress reporting and continues to work with the Canadian Standards Association on climate-related standards and guidelines. Twyla led the development and implementation of the climate adaptation program in the Water Utility at the City of Calgary and supported the development of the Corporate Climate Adaptation Action Plan and Calgary Resilience Strategy as part of the 100 Resilient Cities initiative through the Rockefeller Foundation.

Twyla's climate experience continues to extend across various industry sectors providing unique insights to the key connection points across sectors. She has developed curriculum on climate change and water management and through teaching has experienced the challenges and overwhelming opportunities of empowering young professionals. Now working in the consulting industry at Associated Engineering, Twyla provides strategic climate advisory services to clients across the country and across technical disciplines. Twyla utilizes her facilitation, education and communication experience to support industry in making connections of climate change to asset management, natural assets and risk reduction.



**Matt Osler** P.Eng, MBA

Sr Project Engineer, City of Surrey

## BIOGRAPHY

Matt Osler is a Senior Project Engineer in the Utilities Division at City of Surrey. He joined the Engineering Department in 2006 and currently oversees the implementation of the award winning [Surrey Coastal Flood Adaptation Strategy](#).

Through the Federal Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund, he has developed extensive partnerships to implement a wide variety of climate adaptation projects ranging from large-scale grey infrastructure to innovative nature-based solutions to prepare City of Surrey for sea level rise and increased flood hazards. He co-authored an [article on Coastal Floods](#) for the Resilience Pathways Project.

**Graham Watt** M.Sc.

Manager of Strategic Initiatives / Flood Recovery, City of Grand Forks

## BIOGRAPHY

Graham Watt is a watershed, land use and environmental planner with municipal and non-profit experience in watershed analysis, emergency management, disaster recovery, stakeholder engagement and hazard mitigation plans. He leads non-structural risk reduction in the City's Flood Mitigation Program, and long-range planning projects including the Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw.

Graham was previously the City's Senior Planner, Project Coordinator for the Kettle River Watershed Management Plan, Regional District of Kootenay Boundary, and Basin Planner, North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance in Alberta.

**Kathryn Forge**, MPA

Executive Lead, Disaster Risk Reduction – Emergency Management BC

## BIOGRAPHY

Kathryn Forge is the Executive Lead, Disaster Risk Reduction and leads EMBC's division responsible for disaster preparedness, disaster mitigation, and strategic reviews on behalf of the Province. In this role, Kathryn provides strategic direction to provincial disaster risk management policy, planning, training, exercising, cross-government business continuity management, strategic reviews to reduce future risk, and disaster mitigation strategy and funding programs to support communities in mitigating current and future risk to disasters.

Kathryn has held previous roles in emergency management and national security with the provincial and federal governments, including leading interagency strategic planning for catastrophic, health emergency management, intelligence analysis implementing the post-9/11 national security policy, and managing the operations centre of a Maritime Coastal Defense Vessel with the Royal Canadian Navy.

In recognition of her achievements she has received the federal Deputy Minister's Achievement Award for leadership, the national Emergency Management Exemplary Service Award, and the Pacific Federal Council Community Contribution Award for extraordinary community and public service.

