

Regulating in a Political World

The 2026 Vancouver Regional Symposium will explore how regulators across British Columbia and western Canada are navigating an increasingly complex political landscape. With major legislative reforms taking effect, shifting government priorities, rising public expectations, and evolving societal debates, regulators are being asked to adapt rapidly while maintaining public trust. Through a mix of presentations, panels, and discussion-based sessions, attendees will examine issues such as oversight and amalgamation, the influence of political ideology, mobility and workforce pressures, Indigenous reconciliation, and changing government–regulator dynamics. This one-day program offers a candid, pragmatic, and forward-looking exploration of how regulatory organizations can remain responsive, resilient, and effective amid political change.

Program Agenda

8:00 – 9:00	<i>Registration & Breakfast</i>
9:00 – 9:15	Program Welcome and Introductions
9:15 – 10:15	Regulation in a Changing Political Climate: Institutions, Pressures, and the Road Ahead Kennedy Stewart, PhD <i>Associate Professor, School of Public Policy, Simon Fraser University; Former Mayor of Vancouver (2018-2022); Former MP, Burnaby (2011-2018)</i>
10:15 – 10:30	<i>Break</i>
10:30 – 12:00	Panel Discussion: Governmental Relations in a Political World
12:00 – 1:15	<i>Networking Lunch</i>
1:15 – 2:30	Roundtable Discussions: Regulatory Transformation, Oversight, & Political Pressures in BC and Beyond
2:30 – 2:45	<i>Break</i>
2:45 – 3:45	Governing Through Change: Legislative Reform and the Evolution of Regulatory Mandates
3:45 – 4:00	Program Reflection & Closing Remarks