

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.

Agenda

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Registration & Breakfast
9:00 – 9:15 a.m.	Welcome & Introductions Dave Bhauruth Executive Director, Reconciliation & EDI, Strategy, Governance & Reconciliation, BC College of Nurses & Midwives
9:15 – 10:15 a.m.	Regulation in a Changing Political Climate: Institutions, Pressures, & the Road Ahead Kennedy Stewart, PhD Associate Professor, School of Public Policy, Simon Fraser University; Former Mayor of Vancouver (2018-2022); Former MP, Burnaby (2011-2018)
10:15 – 10:30 a.m.	Break
10:30 – 12:00 p.m.	Panel Discussion: Governmental Relations in a Political World Moderator: Louise Aerts Chief Officer, Strategy, Governance & Reconciliation, BC College of Nurses & Midwives Thomas Taller Director, Policy and Regulatory Programs, Financial Professionals Department, BC Financial Services Authority Will Morrison Manager, Governance, Policy & Government Relations, Engineers & Geoscientists of BC Kate Haines Chief Compliance Officer & Deputy Registrar, Forest Professionals of BC Corinne de Bruin Deputy Registrar, Licensing, College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC
12:00 – 1:15 p.m.	Lunch (provided) & Networking
1:15 – 1:45 p.m.	Beyond Regulation: Advancing Indigenous Cultural Safety in Professional Practice Len Pierre Owner & CEO, Len Pierre Consulting
1:45 – 2:45 p.m.	Roundtable Discussion: Regulatory Transformation, Oversight, & Political Pressures in BC and Beyond Graeme Keirstead Deputy Registrar, Chief Legal Counsel, BC College of Physicians & Surgeons
2:45 – 3:00 p.m.	Break
3:00 – 3:45 p.m.	Governing Through Change: Legislative Reform and the Evolution of Regulatory Mandates Tamara Richter Executive Officer of Business Services/Operational Integration, College of LPNs and HCAs of Alberta Carin Plischke Registrar & CEO, College of Complementary Health Professionals of BC
3:45 – 4:00 p.m.	Concluding Remarks Dave Bhauruth Executive Director, Reconciliation & EDI, Strategy, Governance & Reconciliation, BC College of Nurses & Midwives

