

## Mayor's Report May 1, 2023

The City and Regional District of Nanaimo hosted the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities convention April 14th-16th. Delegates from 53 communities all across Vancouver Island and the north and central coast met to discuss resolutions, common goals and challenges. Here is a link to the resolutions, presentations and minutes:

<https://avicc.ca/2023/04/27/2023-resolutions-presentation-minutes/>



One of the highlights for me was the keynote address by Tomson Highway, renowned playwright, novelist, musician and member of the Order of Canada. Tomson grew up in northwestern Manitoba and regaled us with both hilarious and poignant accounts of his childhood as a member of the Cree Nation. His rapid fire comedic style is absolutely unique and he had the audience in stitches especially when explaining the similarities between Cree and Latin languages.



Another highlight was hearing Alberni-Clayoquot Regional Chair and Huu-ay-aht First Nations Council Member, John Jack, speak on Reconcile-Action. This discussion, regarding reconciliation and how to develop meaningful relationships between Indigenous communities and local governments, put an exclamation point on a convention that featured more participation by First Nations than in the past. "Your relationships with First Nations matter a lot now and they will matter more in the future." Jack said. All First Nations will move forward with asserting rights and title in the province. He advised that municipal and local government officials will likely have to "go more than halfway more than half the time" when trying to establish and build relationships. Ultimately, there will great value in working together and all the peoples of this province will benefit.