

**Background:**

The British Columbia Economic Development Association (BCEDA) is presenting its 2018 Annual Summit in Kelowna, BC from June 10-12, 2018. This is an opportunity to highlight success stories, lessons learned, share cutting-edge ideas, and engage your colleagues at the premier event for economic development practitioners in British Columbia. The annual BC Economic Summit attracts over 200 local, regional, First Nations, national and international experts in the field of economic development and elected officials from various parts of our province. BCEDA is seeking compelling session proposals to ensure a comprehensive program. The Summit theme is **“Accelerate Your Economy.”**

In a competitive climate where the most dynamic communities succeed, it can be hard to keep accelerating, but it's necessary in order to keep your local economy strong and vibrant to ensure that you have a quality of life for all. Whether it is by supporting new entrepreneurs and start-ups, implementing social enterprises, working with the resources sector to create new opportunities, or by engaging our youth and local citizens, communities are starting to understand that accelerating your local economic development program is not only possible, but it is necessary. Accelerating a local economy cannot be done in isolation and every level of government, whether it is federal, provincial, regional, local, or Indigenous, must work together to ensure that everyone is part of the acceleration. Every sized community faces the challenge of having an accelerated economy and in developing programs that keep your economic development goals front and center. The 2018 BC Economic Summit will look at what is being done in BC and globally to accelerate local economies.

The BCEDA is BC's largest membership organization serving the economic development profession. From public to private, rural to urban and local to international, our members represent the entire range of economic development experience.

Each year we look for speakers to address a wide variety of current economic development trends. If you have a relevant topic you would like to present and feel that your subject will be of interest to our audience, we would like to hear from you. Whether you are associated with education, Local, Regional or First Nations Governments, or the private sector, we invite you to submit your presentation proposal for consideration.

Session proposals should address trends and topics that reflect the wide-ranging needs and interests of BCEDA's diverse membership. Concurrent sessions will be organized into four tracks:

1. Building and Supporting Entrepreneurial communities and Social Enterprises
2. Technology and Economic Development
3. Resources Industries Supporting Local Economies
4. Indigenous and Local Government Partnerships

If you would like to be considered as a speaker for the BCEDA 2018 BC Economic Summit, submit your proposal to [info@bceda.ca](mailto:info@bceda.ca) no later than February 2, 2018. To allow us to make decisions in a timely manner you are encouraged to submit your proposals sooner. Please note that we reserve the right to decide what sessions are selected and in some cases you may be asked to be on a different panel or session. All concurrent sessions are approximately 60 minutes in duration.

### **Guidelines:**

#### **Please read the following guidelines carefully before submitting your session proposal.**

- All organizations proposing sessions must be current members of BCEDA.
- Proposed speakers who are economic development professionals and/or consultants must be current members of BCEDA for the proposal to be considered.
- BCEDA reserves the right to accept only the topic, title, and to accept or reject one or more speakers and moderator or any combination of the above list.
- BCEDA reserves the right to add, edit or make changes to the session title, description, and mode of presentation, panel and moderator.
- All proposals become property of BCEDA upon receipt. Session topics or speaker recommendations not accepted for the Summit may be used in future BCEDA Summits, newsletters and resources.
- Each proposal must present **3 Key Takeaways** – these will be recorded by participants at the end of your session
- Strong proposals are respectful of diversity in terms of ethnicity, gender and geographic location.
- Any proposal not accepted for the Summit will be considered for other events and webinars for up to two years. This proposal will not be considered for the 2019 Annual Summit.
- Members may submit a proposal with a minimum of one speaker for the panel. BCEDA may confirm additional speakers and a moderator to complete the panel.
- Panels that include communities of multiple sizes are strongly encouraged. BCEDA does not recommend sessions composed of all consultants or representatives from just one community or region unless it is a case study.
- In order to keep membership dues and registration fees to a minimum for our members, BCEDA is unable to pay speaker's or moderator's travel expenses, honorarium or speaker's bureau fees.
- BCEDA reserves the right to combine session proposals on similar topics into one session.
- Speakers and moderators interested in attending the Summit will be expected to register and pay for the Summit.
- Speakers may only speak or moderate in one session during the Summit program. Speakers who are proposed for several sessions will be confirmed for only one session.
- It is BCEDA policy to allow only one speaker from each organization to participate in the Summit.

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If multiple speakers are proposed from the same organization, we will only be able to accept one of them.

- Members proposing sessions are responsible for confirming proposed speakers and moderators upon acceptance of session proposal.
- **Consultants and other Private Sector** who are submitting proposals will have a better chance if they are willing to be a Partner/Sponsor of BCEDA. For a Partnership package please email [dwheeldon@bceda.ca](mailto:dwheeldon@bceda.ca).

*BCEDA strives for speaker and moderator diversity.*

### **Submission Deadline: February 2, 2018**

#### **Proposal Submissions:**

Please send completed session proposal forms to [info@bceda.ca](mailto:info@bceda.ca) by February 2, 2018. No mail submissions will be accepted.

*Proposed speakers and moderator without biographies will not be considered.*

Please contact BCEDA at [info@bceda.ca](mailto:info@bceda.ca) via email with any questions regarding Summit proposals. For more details about BCEDA, please visit our website at [www.bceda.ca](http://www.bceda.ca). You will be notified via e-mail regarding a decision on your proposal in March 2018. All proposals will be kept on file for two years for consideration for future events and webinars.

If the session proposal and speakers are accepted, the person that submitted the proposals will be responsible for confirming the moderator and speakers before April 2018.

No substitutes for speakers or moderators can be made without permission from BCEDA.

### Proposal Form

Contact Information for Proposal: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a BCEDA Member or Partner?  Yes  No

Do you have a sponsor in mind for this session? If so, who? \_\_\_\_\_

If not, are you considering a sponsorship?  Yes  No

**Suggested Session Title (8 words or less):**

*Session Description (Please provide a 1-2 paragraph description of the session you are proposing. Please address why this topic is important, to whom is it important, and how your session will help the conference participants solve the problem/challenge that you have identified):*

**Marketing Description**

Please provide 50-75 word description of the session you are proposing:

**Please provide 3 bullet points that describe the key takeaways of this session:**

- 1. Takeaway 1: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Takeaway 2: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Takeaway 3: \_\_\_\_\_

**How does this session proposal offer a new or innovative understanding of this particular topic?**

**Suggested Mode of Presentation:**

- 1) Panel (3 presentations of 15-20 minutes each with 30 minutes for questions)
- 2) Town Hall (3-5 panelists for an open discussion, no presentations)
- 3) Learning Lab (1-2 speakers providing case study or in-depth presentation)
- 4) Interactive Workshop (2-3 facilitators with activities at the table and in larger group)
- 5) Other (please provide details such as stage set up, floor set up, and anticipated AV needs.)

**Geographic Audience Appeal (Please select all that apply):**

- Rural
- Urban
- Regional Organization
- Provincial

**Experience Audience Appeal (Please select all that apply):**

- Young Professional
- Experienced
- New to the Industry
- Economic Developer
- Other Local, Regional, or First Nation Government Staff
- Elected Official (Mayor, Chief, Council Members)
- Provincial Staff
- Other (please define) \_\_\_\_\_

**What level will the content be presented?**

- Basic: This session assumes the audience has no prior knowledge on the subject
- Intermediate: This session will assume the audience has a basic understanding of the concepts
- Advanced: This session assumes the audience has in-depth knowledge/experience of the subject and is geared towards taking the content to the next level

I acknowledge that I have read the Guidelines on page 2

**Suggested Session Moderator:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

LinkedIn URL: \_\_\_\_\_

Why did you select this person as a moderator? Please include specific examples of how he/she has demonstrated a significant understanding or contribution to the topic covered in this session.

Biography – please paste a 200 word biography below.

**Suggested Session Presenter(s):**

Presenter 1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

LinkedIn URL: \_\_\_\_\_

Why did you select this person as a speaker? Please include specific examples of how he/she has demonstrated a significant understanding or contribution to the topic covered in this session.

Biography – please paste a 200 word biography below.

**Presenter 2**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

LinkedIn URL: \_\_\_\_\_

Why did you select this person as a speaker? Please include specific examples of how he/she has demonstrated a significant understanding or contribution to the topic covered in this session.

Biography – please paste a 200 word biography below.

Please insert a page for each speaker you wish to include in this session.