



**RPLC**  
RURAL POLICY LEARNING COMMONS

**CAPR**  
COMMUNAUTÉ D'APPRENTISSAGE  
DES POLITIQUES RURALES

WEBINAR  
SERIES

# Eco-Assets for Rural Municipalities

Wednesday, March 14, 2018 @ 12:00pm CST

To Register click: <http://ow.ly/HpgK30ieSBU>

Questions: [Meghan Wrathall](mailto:Meghan.Wrathall@rplc.ca), 819-345-3777

## **ABSTRACT**

In the first portion of the webinar, the Town of Gibsons will share its experience in developing their Eco-Assets Strategy, including, economic and environmental benefits of including natural assets in asset management plans and policy, the use of principles of asset management, financial planning and ecology to maintain the ecosystems services nature provides, the operational changes required to accommodate the expanded focus on natural assets, and how arts, education and science can be used to improve the community's understanding of and appreciation for infrastructure. Secondly, you will hear about the Municipal Natural Assets Initiative (MNAI), which was subsequently developed to refine, replicate and scale up their approach. The initial focus on 18-month pilots in BC and Ontario communities has now expanded to 11 cities from coast-to-coast with additional projects slated to start in 2018. MNAI is also conducting research and a range of other activities that will help make municipal natural asset management a mainstream practice across Canada.

## **PANELISTS**



**Emanuel Machado**, is the Chief Administrative Officer of the Town of Gibsons. For over a dozen years, Emanuel has worked with communities throughout Canada, promoting a greater use of renewable energy, net-zero buildings, water strategies, social plans and sustainability frameworks, all with a focus on people, recognized with numerous awards including the Arbor Vitae Award from the Province of British Columbia and the Professional Award for Innovation in local government. More recently, Emanuel has been developing a program for the Town of Gibsons, called Eco-Assets, which recognizes the role of nature as a fundamental component of the municipal infrastructure system, leading to a greater understanding of the value of ecosystems services and improved financial and operational management plans of the community's natural assets.



**Michelle Molnar**, works at the David Suzuki Foundation as an Environmental Economist and Policy Analyst, where she focuses on the conservation of natural capital using various tools of ecological economics, policy analysis, and public outreach. She teaches Introduction to Ecological Economics at the British Columbia Institute of Technology through the Sustainable Business Leadership Program and sits on the board of the Canadian Society for Ecological Economics. Michelle has an M.A. in Public Policy from Simon Fraser University and in Philosophy from the University of Western Ontario.



**Roy Brooke**, has worked in Canada, Europe and Africa in fields including urban sustainability, national politics, international development and humanitarian affairs. divides his professional time between roles as Director of the Municipal Natural Assets Initiative (MNAI) and Principal of Brooke & Associates. He served as Director of Sustainability for the City of Victoria between 2011-2013. Between 2003-2011 he worked for the United Nations, including the World Health Organization, United Nations Environment Programme and UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, mostly based in Geneva, Switzerland, and also in Rwanda, where he was UNEP's Environment Programme Coordinator. Prior to this he served as a political advisor to a Canadian federal cabinet minister.