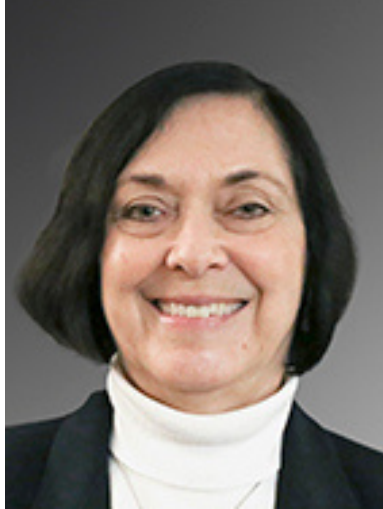


2025  **FVCPAA**
FRASER VALLEY CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS ASSOCIATION
13th Annual Conference

**Calm in the Chaos:
Leading with Clarity in Uncertain Times**
November 20, 2025



President's Message



Agatha Cluff

President, FVCPAA

Board of Directors

Agath Cluff, President

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Sonia Parmar

Barry McLean

Jennifer Willford, Executive

Coordinator

Welcome to the 2025 FVCPAA Conference: Calm in the Chaos. We're so pleased to have you with us today as we come together to learn, connect, and strengthen our professional community here in the Fraser Valley.

This conference reflects the heart of who we are as an association: a network of dedicated CPAs, students, speakers, partners, and supporters who believe in the value of shared learning and local professional development. The FVCPAA has thrived for years because of people like you: individuals who show up, engage, and contribute to building a strong and vibrant accounting community close to home.

Today's sessions are designed to inspire fresh thinking, provide practical insights, and give you space to reconnect with peers who understand the unique challenges and opportunities within our profession. As you participate throughout the day, I encourage you to take full advantage of the networking, conversation, and expertise in the room.

If you're not yet a member, I invite you to join us. FVCPAA membership opens the door to year-round professional development, monthly meetings with industry experts, and a supportive community committed to elevating the CPA profession in our region. Your involvement helps us continue offering high-quality learning experiences and investing in the next generation of CPAs through scholarships and mentorship initiatives.

Thank you for being part of today's event, and for your continued support of the FVCPAA. I hope you leave feeling informed, inspired, and equipped to find your own calm in the chaos.

Schedule

7:30am - 8:00am

Registration & Breakfast

8:00am - 9:00am

Managing Stress in Uncertain Environments

*Mike Willford, Sgt (Ret.), BA
(Crim/Policing)*

9:15am - 10:15am

GST and Real Estate

Mike Boven, CPA

10:30am - 11:30am

2025 Tax Updates, Estates & Succession Planning

*Daman S. Bhathal, CPA &
Varinder Chahal, CPA*

LUNCH

12:00pm - 1:00pm

Cross Border Business Landscape

*Orion Mark, CPA & Drew
Chapman, CPA*

1:15pm - 2:15pm

Current Workforce Metrics: Trends, Tensions & Talent Groups

Sandra Miles, Founder

2:30pm - 3:30pm

Practical AI for Accountants: Real-World Ways to Start Today

Barinder Hans

3:45pm - 4:45pm

Opportunities Knock in Uncertain Times

Jivi Saran, MBA, DBA(c)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

“Managing Stress in Uncertain Environments”

NOTES:



SPEAKER

Mike Willford, Sgt (Ret)

Mike Willford brings over 30 years of law enforcement experience, including 15 years with the RCMP and 7 years service with the Abbotsford Police Department, where he was recognized for his exceptional crisis negotiation skills. A former Gang Crime Unit Sergeant and member of the Lower Mainland Integrated Crisis Negotiation Team, Mike is also trained in hostage, ransom, and extortion negotiations through the elite “Red Centre” program.

Now pursuing his Master of Arts in Counselling Psychology, Mike is passionate about first responder mental health, advocating for openness, education, and support around psychological well-being. As an adjunct instructor, he trains Crisis Negotiators, 911 Communicators, and frontline responders in crisis de-escalation and Intervention.

He also serves as Co-Founder of VRFY Inc., an organization delivering AI-driven solutions for law enforcement and defence.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

"GST and Real-Estate"

NOTES:

SPEAKER



Mike Boven, CPA, CA

Mike has 34 years of experience in public practice, specializing in indirect taxes for the past 30 years. He led the indirect tax practice for BC's Interior Region and Western Canada Region at a national accounting firm. His area of expertise includes all aspects of Federal GST/HST as well as BC, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba PST. Mike has worked with many companies ranging from owner-managed businesses to mid-market and large enterprises in a broad spectrum of industries, including: manufacturing, construction and real estate development, agriculture, and transportation.

Currently, Mike consults exclusively with small and medium-sized CPA firms. Mike also advises on transactions and activities for special sectors, including non-profits, public sector entities, including municipalities, unions, professional accreditation bodies, and First Nations bands and companies.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

"2025 Tax Updates, Estate & Succession Planning"

NOTES:

SPEAKER

Daman S. Bhathal, CPA

Daman S. Bhathal, CPA is a Senior Tax Manager at Manning Elliott's Abbotsford office, bringing nearly a decade of experience supporting private companies across the Fraser Valley and Greater Vancouver. He specializes in Canadian tax, with expertise in personal and corporate planning, reorganizations, and estate and succession strategies. A graduate of the University of the Fraser Valley and the CPA In-Depth Tax Program, Daman is also an active community leader, serving as Director and Treasurer of the Fraser Valley Health Care Foundation.



SPEAKER

Varinder Chahal, CPA

Varinder Chahal, CPA is a Senior Tax Manager specializing in tax planning and compliance for owner-managed businesses, estates, and trusts. Known for her depth of knowledge in estate and trust filings, Varinder also serves on The Estate Planning Council of Abbotsford (EPCA)



CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

“Cross Border Business Landscape”

NOTES:

SPEAKER

Orion Mark, CPA

Orion joined Larson Gross in 2020 with a decade of experience in both private and public accounting. A Central Washington University accounting graduate, he specializes in international, federal, and state tax consulting for closely held businesses and high-net-worth individuals across industries such as manufacturing, real estate, construction, and technology. A former board member of the Millionaire Club in Seattle, Orion enjoys camping, concerts, and cheering on the Seahawks with his wife and two children.



SPEAKER

Drew Chapman, CPA

Drew joined Larson Gross in 2018 after earning degrees in Criminal Justice and Accounting from Washington State University. He supports clients with international, state, and local tax matters, bringing a calm, detail-oriented approach to problem-solving. Originally from Valdez, Alaska, Drew is an avid reader with a love of history and hopes to one day explore Italy's rich cultural and historical sites.



CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

“Current Workforce Metrics: Trends, Tensions, and Talent Gaps”

NOTES:



SPEAKER

Sandra Miles

Sandra Miles is a highly accomplished entrepreneur with over 25 years in staffing, talent acquisition, and workforce strategy. As Co-Founder and President of Miles HR, she has built one of British Columbia's leading independently owned staffing and talent management firms, employing more than 20,000 people across corporate, government, and academic sectors. A recognized business leader, Sandra is an Influential Woman in Business Award winner, a 40 Under 40 honouree, a YWCA Women of Distinction finalist, and an RBC Women Entrepreneur of the Year nominee. She has served on numerous boards, including as Chair of Small Business BC, Co-Chair of the Women's Enterprise Centre, and a member of the Federal Government's Pacific Region Supplier Advisory Committee.

Sandra is also a sought-after speaker on talent and workplace trends, presenting for organizations such as RBC, UBC, SFU, and the Vancouver Board of Trade.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

“Practical AI for Accountants: Real-World Ways to Start Today”

NOTES:



SPEAKER

Barinder Hans

Barinder Hans is the Founder and CEO of Red Rhino Networks, an award-winning managed IT service provider recognized for its leadership and technical excellence. With over 20 years in the tech industry and a computer science degree from UBC, Barinder has built Red Rhino into a trusted partner for BC businesses, helping organizations stay secure, agile, and competitive in today's fast-changing digital world.

Raised in the Fraser Valley, Barinder brings a unique balance of local roots and global vision. His focus is on guiding businesses to get more from their technology—transforming IT from a cost center into a driver of growth and resilience.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

“Opportunities Knock in Uncertain Times”

NOTES:



EA K E R

Jivi Saran, MBA, DBA (c)

Dr. Jivi Saran (PhD candidate) is an accomplished organizational and human behaviour specialist with over 35 years of experience in leadership development, strategic planning, and large-scale change management. Currently completing her Doctorate in Business at Royal Roads University, she also holds an MBA in Leadership Studies. At BDC, Jivi has supported hundreds of clients across British Columbia and the North, guiding them through complex business challenges with a highly experiential and interactive approach.

Before joining BDC, Jivi was a keynote speaker, organizational change specialist, and best-selling author of *Quantum Business*, *Permission to Be You*, *Corporate Soul*, *Heartfelt Leadership*, and co-author of *Peak Performance*. As a professor of leadership studies and organizational behaviour, she blends academic insight with real-world business acumen to help shape the next generation of leaders.

JOIN US

Interested in joining the Fraser Valley Chartered Professional Accountants Association?

FVCPAA brings local CPAs together for professional development, networking, and community-building right here in the Fraser Valley. Members enjoy events, access to regional expertise, and opportunities to stay connected and engaged in our growing professional community.

Learn more and become a member today, we'd love to welcome you.

www.fvcpaa.ca/membership



THANK YOU

Thank you for joining us.

Stay connected with the Fraser Valley CPA community all year long. Learn more about upcoming events, membership, and opportunities at fvcpaa.ca.



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