



Making a difference...together

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July 20, 2023

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Chief Abraham Pelkey  
Councillors: John Etzel, Samantha Etzel, George Horne, Blake Joseph, Stanley Sam, Harvey Underwood, Donald Williams, John Wilson  
STÁUTW First Nation  
7728 Tetayut Rd.  
Saanichton, BC  
*Via email: [apelkey@tsawout.ca](mailto:apelkey@tsawout.ca)*

Dear Chief Abraham Pelkey and Council,

**RE: CONGRATULATIONS ON SUCCESSFUL ELECTION, AND FORUM OF ALL COUNCILS – SAVE THE DATE, OCTOBER 2023**

On behalf of the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board, I wish to extend my congratulations on your successful election and re-elections to serve as the governing body for STÁUTW (Tsawout First Nation).

Working together with First Nations, on whose traditional territory the CRD and its member municipalities operate, remains a key priority for the CRD Board. The CRD is interested to explore and strengthen our government-to-government working relationship with STÁUTW (Tsawout). We are open to your suggestions for how to deepen our relationship and work cooperatively with your Nation. Though there is still plenty of work to do, we feel fortunate to be doing this work alongside your Nation.

Thank you for your leadership in representing your community. We look forward to continuing to build a respectful working relationship and collaborating together on future projects that benefit your community as well as the region as a whole.

I am also writing to invite you and your Councillors to participate in an upcoming 2023 Forum of All Councils. The Forum of All Councils brings First Nations and Capital Regional District (CRD) Board Directors and Municipal Councillors together to build relationships and explore ways to work together. Due to COVID-19, this is the first Forum of All Councils since 2019.

The Forum's proposed theme is **Indigenous Self-Determination** in the context of relationships with local governments. It will be held **on Saturday, October 14th, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm**, at the Songhees Wellness Centre. We will provide a light breakfast starting at 8:00 am and a catered lunch, and all attendees will receive an honorarium for participating.

Please save the date, and if you are interested in sharing your Nation's perspectives on this topic at the Forum, please get in touch with Caitlyn Vernon, Manager of First Nations Relations, by phone at (250) 360-3156 or by email at [cvernon@crd.bc.ca](mailto:cvernon@crd.bc.ca). To ensure this event succeeds, we request your input. Please do not hesitate to let staff know where opportunities may be to honour your Nation's protocols. Your information will enable us to continue this critical work positively.

The CRD operates on the territory of many First Nations and is committed to developing respectful government-to-government relationships based on trust, mutual respect, partnerships, and shared goals.

The following Nations will also be receiving this letter:

- BOKÉCEN First Nation (Pauquachin)
- MÁLEXEŁ Nation (Malahat)
- Sc'ianew First Nation
- Songhees Nation
- Spune'luxutth (Penelakut Tribe)
- P'a:chi:da?ahť First Nation
- T'Sou-ke Nation
- W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council, representing W̱JOŁEŁP & W̱SIKEM First Nations
- x̱wsepsəm Nation (Esquimalt)

The Forum is an opportunity to continue building our relationship governance-wise and personally. We hope to see you there.

Sincerely,



Colin Plant  
Chair, Capital Regional District Board

cc: Christine Bird, Band Manager, STÁUTW  
Ted Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD  
Kristen Morley, General Manager, Corporate Services, CRD  
Caitlyn Vernon, Manager, First Nations Relations, CRD