


Terms of Reference

The logo for the Capital Regional District (CRD), consisting of the letters 'CRD' in a white, sans-serif font, positioned on a dark, curved background element that resembles a stylized wave or a bridge.

SPECIAL TASK FORCE ON FIRST NATIONS RELATIONS

2017 TERMS OF REFERENCE

PREAMBLE

The Capital Regional District (CRD) Special Task Force on First Nations Relations (Task Force) is a select committee established by the CRD Board. Its role is to provide oversight to the Aboriginal Initiatives Division and to undertake the recommendations in the Task Force 2016 Year End Report.

The official name is to be:

CRD Special Task Force on First Nations Relations

1.0 PURPOSE

The mandate of the Task Force includes the following:

- To engage Chiefs and Councils of each of the 9 local First Nations on regional matters of common interest including greater inclusion in decision-making processes.
- To oversee the implementation of the recommendations from the 2016 Task Force report (Appendix A)
- To oversee the implementation of the Calls to Action (Appendix B) identified in the CRD's Response to Truth and Reconciliation Committee (Dec. 2016 Task Force report to the Board)
- To design and deliver Board training and education on First Nations traditions, culture, history and approaches
- To provide oversight to the Aboriginal Initiatives Division
- To provide quarterly reports to the Board
- To deliver recommendations for the future Board's consideration (2019-2022) regarding First Nations relations.

2.0 ESTABLISHMENT AND AUTHORITY

- The Board Chair will appoint the Committee Chair and Committee members

- The term of the committee shall expire December 2018, to coincide with the completion of the Board's 4 year term.

3.0 COMPOSITION

- Committee members will be CRD Directors
- The CRD Board Chair is an ex-officio member of the Committee.
- Through the Chair, the Committee may invite representatives from First Nations to sit as members on the Task Force.

4.0 PROCEDURES

- The committee shall meet at the call of the Committee Chair, in consultation with the Manager of Aboriginal Initiatives; and
- The Committee Chair shall determine the agenda or meetings, and any Committee member may request that a matter be placed on the agenda.
- At the request of a Committee member and with the consent of the Committee Chair guests or delegations may be invited to attend and participate in the meeting.
- The above procedures might not be followed when participating in meetings with First Nations to discuss participation in the CRD's governance framework.

5.0 RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

- The Manager of Aboriginal Initiatives will act as the liaison for the committee;
- Minutes and agendas are prepared and distributed by the Aboriginal Initiatives Division; and
- The Aboriginal Initiatives Division will provide additional administrative support as required.

6.0 RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER BOARD COMMITTEES

- Matters heard from First Nations by the Committee will often involve projects or programs which are to be considered by other committees. Similarly, matters considered by other committees may have relevance for the CRD Special Task Force on First Nations Engagement.
- The Manager of Aboriginal Initiatives will attempt to keep the Committee apprised of reports or initiatives with such implications. Every effort should be made to maintain a streamlined and efficient process, where it is appropriate for more than one committee to make joint or parallel recommendations to the CRD Board, the Manager of Aboriginal Initiatives, in consultation with both committee chairs, will so arrange.

Appendix A – Summary of Recommendations: 2016 Task Force Year End Report

1. To undertake a comprehensive review of the suite of policies and procedures bylaws for CRD Committees and Commissions with recommendations for proposed amendments that will allow for First Nations representation.
2. Continue to advocate, through UBCM, for changes to the Local Government Act that address complex legal issues raised for regional districts, with respect to non-treaty First Nation regional district membership.
3. At the next UBCM conference, host / facilitate an information / knowledge-share session with other local governments with First Nations participation within the governance structure, at the next UBCM conference
4. Dedicate a Committee of the Whole meeting, each year, to include First Nations Chiefs (and Councils where practical), with e agenda for that session to be co-developed with First Nations.
5. Direct staff to develop options for increased resourcing and financial implications to accommodate greater participation, engagement and reconciliation.
6. Extend the term of the Task Force to 2018, to coincide with the next Board strategic priority timeframe.
7. Expand the mandate of the Task Force to include support and oversight of the Aboriginal Initiatives office
8. Amend the Task Force Terms of Reference to include the possibility of First Nations representation
9. Change the name of the CRD Aboriginal Initiatives Office to First Nations Relations to better reflect the scope of the office and the focus on government to government relationship building
10. Expand the scope of the Aboriginal Initiatives Office to support municipalities in relationship building with First Nations in an effort to share emergent best practices, information sharing and efficiencies.
 - a. Activities and services could include:
 - i. Shared cultural training opportunities
 - ii. Facilitated inter-municipal and First Nations staff committee
 - iii. Clearinghouse for service agreements, contracts, protocols in the region; oversight and assistance in drafting agreements in support of consistency, equity and fairness
 - iv. Support for a collaborative approaches to Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
11. Direct CRD Staff to be directed to survey municipal staff for interest and needs assessment and to report back to the Board with a proposed approach, including resources.

Appendix B – Calls to Action: CRD's Response to the Truth and Reconciliation Report

Short term (2017)

1. That staff be directed to work with the Special Task Force on First Nations Engagement to draft a Commitment of Reconciliation Statement for the Board's consideration and acceptance as a guide for decision-making on matters of common interest with First Nations. This statement will refer to relevant articles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
2. That staff be directed to work with and support the Regional Outcomes Monitoring Collaborative to consider how it would provide its data to a National Centre for Reconciliation.
3. That AIO staff be directed to assist other departments and divisions in their respective responses to the TRC's Calls to Action.
 - a. That the focus of the actions respond to and support Indigenous resurgence and resilience through reconnection to the lands and waters, access to traditional food sources, knowledge transfer between youths and elders, employment and economic development opportunities.
4. That staff be directed to provide an annual report to the CRD Board, through to the completion of this Board's mandate (December 2018) on the progress of the various reconciliation initiatives.

Ongoing

5. That staff be directed to facilitate regional discussions with Douglas Treaty Nations to foster greater understanding of the current responsibilities of local government under the treaty.
6. That staff continue to offer training opportunities to meet the needs of staff and Directors.
 - a. That cultural training for Directors be undertaken through Community to Community Forums.
 - b. That cultural training be integrated into CRD New Employee Orientation.
 - c. That staff connect with UBCM and other municipalities to participate in wider training opportunities.
7. That staff be directed to collaborate with other municipalities that are undertaking their own responses to the TRC.

Longer term (2018 +)

8. That the CRD partner with public, private, and education institutions to develop an Indigenous training and hiring support program.
9. That the CRD support efforts for meaningful engagement with First Nations that strengthens the referrals process.

Resource considerations

10. That resources required to undertake this work be funded from the Aboriginal Initiatives reserve fund and that fund not to exceed \$50,000 through 2018.
11. That this work be overseen by the Task Force on First Nations Engagement.
 - a. That the Task Force's mandate be extended to 2018.
 - b. That the Task Force's Terms of Reference be amended to include representation from interested First Nations.

