

Meeting Minutes

First Nations Relations Committee

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

1:30 PM

6th Floor Boardroom
625 Fisgard St.
Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

PRESENT

Directors: M. Tait (Chair), P. Brent (for D. Howe) (EP), B. Desjardins (EP), K. Harper (for F. Haynes) (EP), B. Isitt (1:31 pm), K. Kahakauwila (for Ranns) (EP), C. Plant, K. Williams (EP)

Staff: R. Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer; N. Chan, Chief Financial Officer; K. Morley, General Manager, Corporate Services; C. Vernon, Manager, First Nations Relations; P. Kickham, Manager, Environmental Regulations; M. Lagoa, Deputy Corporate Officer; S. Orr, Senior Committee Clerk (Recorder)

EP – Electronic Participation

Regrets: F. Haynes, D. Howe, J. Olsen, G. Orr, J. Ranns, L. Seaton

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Capital Regional Board Chair Plant provided the Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda

**MOVED by Director Isitt, SECONDED by Director Plant,
That the agenda for the September 22, 2021 First Nations Relations Committee
meeting be approved.**

CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes

3.1. [21-694](#) Minutes of the May 26, 2021 First Nation Relations Committee

**MOVED by Director Plant, SECONDED by Director Isitt,
That the minutes of the First Nations Relations Committee meeting of May 26,
2021 be adopted as circulated.**

CARRIED

4. Chair's Remarks

Good afternoon all.

September 30th has been known since 2013 as Orange Shirt Day, a day to honour residential schools survivors and their families and also to remember those young people, removed from their family, taken from their community,

who never made it home. This year, the Canadian government has designated September 30th as a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Having a day for public commemoration of the history and ongoing legacy of residential schools was a recommendation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. With the recent findings of unmarked and undocumented graves on the former grounds of residential schools, many of us have been coming to terms with what survivors of residential schools have always known: that so many children never made it home. Since the 215 unmarked graves were found in Kamloops earlier this year, over 6000 graves have been identified at residential schools across the country, with more anticipated. Removing children from their families and forcing them to attend residential schools was Canadian government policy, in what has been recognized by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as attempted cultural genocide. As a level of government, we have an important role to play in the journey towards truth and reconciliation. I'd like to take a moment to honour each and every survivor of the Residential School system, their families and the memories of those who never returned. The responsibility of acknowledging the truth, and moving towards healing and towards reconciliation, falls to all of us. I am inspired by the First Nations who against tremendous odds have retained their Indigenous laws, languages, culture and governance protocols. As it says in our statement of reconciliation, we acknowledge, respect, and aim to complement the Indigenous laws, customs and systems of governance of the local First Nations. We will look to their leadership as together we journey towards reconciliation.

5. Presentations/Delegations

Board Chair Plant stated that next week, the Capital Regional District (CRD) will be flying an orange flag for truth and reconciliation, and in honour of all residential school survivors. The flag has been loaned to the CRD by Eddy Charlie, a survivor of the Kuper Island Indian Industrial School and organizer of Orange Shirt Day Victoria.

6. Committee Business

6.1. [21-671](#) 2022 Service Planning - First Nations Relations

K. Morley spoke to Item 6.1.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Staff archeologist scope of work
- Parks interpretation program
- Parks management plan

The Committee thanked staff for their work.

**MOVED by Director Isitt, SECONDED by Director Plant,
That the First Nations Relations Committee recommends the Committee of the
Whole recommend to the Capital Regional District Board:
That Appendix A, Community Need Summary - First Nations Relations be
approved as presented and form the basis of the 2022-2026 Financial Plan.
CARRIED**

6.2. [21-672](#) Ecological Asset Management Plan

C. Vernon spoke to Item 6.2.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Regional Parks Strategic Plan
- Budget impacts prepare vs initiating
- Place names; inviting First Nation input
- Park naming policy

Motion Arising

MOVED by Director Isitt, **SECONDED** by Director Plant,

That the Committee recommends that the Capital Regional District Board amend the description of Priority 3a-4 in the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan, so that it reads as follows:

Initiate ecological asset management planning that includes natural infrastructure, First Nations guiding principles, First Nations language & place names, historical uses & invasive species management.

MOVED by Director Plant, **SECONDED** by Director Isitt,

That the motion arising be amended as follows:

Replace the words:

"That the Committee recommends"

With:

"That the First Nations Relations Committee recommends that the Capital Regional District Board refer the following recommendation to the next strategic planning check-in:"

CARRIED

The question was called on the motion arising as amended:

That the First Nations Relations Committee recommends that the Capital Regional District Board refer the following recommendation to the next strategic planning check-in:

That the Capital Regional District Board amend the description of Priority 3a-4 in the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan, so that it reads as follows:

Initiate ecological asset management planning that includes natural infrastructure, First Nations guiding principles, First Nations language & place names, historical uses & invasive species management.

CARRIED

7. Notice(s) of Motion

There were no notice(s) of motion.

8. New Business

There was no new business.

9. Adjournment

MOVED by Director Plant, **SECONDED** by Director Desjardins,

That the September 22, 2021 First Nations Relations Committee meeting be adjourned at 2:28 pm.

CARRIED

CHAIR

RECORDER