



Making a difference...together

Minutes of the SPECIAL TASK FORCE ON FIRST NATIONS ENGAGEMENT

Wednesday, May 24, 2017, at 12:00pm

Room 388, 3rd Floor, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC

Present: M. Alto, R. Windsor, M. Tait, B. Desjardins (ed-officio)

Staff: S. Hallatt, E. Nahser-Ringer

1. Chairs Remarks – deferred due to time constraints
 2. Approval of April meeting minutes
Minutes approved
 3. Roundtable - deferred to next month's meeting.
 4. Pacheedaht Presentation Follow-Up
The Pacheedaht delegation and presentation was well received and very much appreciated by the Board. FNRD staff will work with CRD Parks to prepare a staff report for the Board's consideration in September 2017.
 5. First Nations Relations Office Operations
The office is looking into getting supports and assistance with delivering the Reconciliation related actions, as well as much needed administration help.
Detailed summary of work deferred to next meeting.
 6. UBCM C2C Forum - September 2017 possible submission
Proposal to be drafted for feedback from the committee to be submitted by the June 23rd deadline. The Task Force would like to request another meeting with the Premier, Minister of MARR, and the Minister of CSCD.

There was a discussion regarding seeking the expertise of Dr. Robert Bish, an expert in Indigenous governance and local government, to provide a fulsome analysis on the barriers to First Nations participation in Regional decision-making, and to provide some options for solutions or approaches.
The Task Force directed staff to reach out to Dr. Bish and to report back to the Committee.
 7. WSANEC Leadership Committee June 12, 2017
CRD Directors to attend the morning session which will focus on knowledge sharing, values, issues and concerns in the spirit of building stronger government to government relationships. The afternoon will focus on technical issues; staff will be invited to attend to speak to content-specific agenda items.
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8. Update – Proposed Inter-governmental Technical Advisory Committee on First Nations Relations

Sue presented the draft Terms of Reference for the proposed Advisory Committee to the CAO's meeting on May 12th 2017. The attendance at that meeting was quite sparse, nevertheless there was a fulsome discussion on the merits of establishing a committee in support of relationship-building amongst local government and First Nations staff.

The consensus amongst the CAO's is that municipalities do not have the capacity in terms of human resources, to support and attend a committee of this kind. Further, there are not, as yet, staff positions assigned with the role of First Nations relations or liaison and as such the committee make up would be made up predominantly of CAOs.

The establishment of an Inter-governmental Technical Advisory Committee on First Nations Relations is on hold.

It was suggested, and staff agreed, that the CRD FNRD could support the CAOs in relationship-building with their First Nations administrative counterparts, by organizing and facilitating a luncheon in late November 2017.

9. New Business

Staff reported on the financial sponsorship of various National Indigenous Peoples Day (previously National Aboriginal Day) events: First Peoples Festival (lead by Victoria Native Friendship Centre and integrated into Carfree Day), the Westshore Aboriginal Day (lead by M'akola Housing and other Westshore partners) and the Aboriginal Cultural Festival (lead by Aboriginal Tourism and the Royal BC Museum)

Sue to follow-up with details and instructions for the CRD Chair to participate in the canoe protocol paddle with dignitaries as the opening ceremony of the Aboriginal Cultural Festival



Task Force Chair, Director Alto



Clerk, Erich Nahser-Ringer