

## Special Task Force on First Nations Relations **FINAL REPORT**

October 10, 2018



Cover image features camas lilies in Beacon Hill Park. Double dragonfly image designed by artist Chris Paul (Tsartlip).

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The Special Task Force on First Nations Relations wishes to acknowledge the Coast and Strait Salish and Nuu-chah-nulth peoples on whose Territories the CRD spans. We thank the First Nations governments who met with us over the years, and informed the recommendations that are presented in this report.

The CRD's neighbouring First Nations include: Songhees, Esquimalt, WJOŁEŁP (Tsartlip), BOKEĆEN (Pauquachin), STÁUTW (Tsawout), WSIKEM (Tseycum), MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat), Sci'anew (Beecher Bay), T'Sou-ke, Pacheedaht and Pune'laxutth' (Penelakut).

The Task Force wishes to acknowledge the leadership and contributions of past Ex-Officio Chairs: Nils Jensen, 2015-2016; Barb Desjardins, 2016-2017.

We are grateful for the support of staff: CAO – Robert Lapham; GM, Corporate Services – Kristen Morley; First Nations Relations Division – Sue Hallatt, Erich Kelch, Tara Stott.



Task Force members: Steve Price (Ex-Officio), Maja Tait,
Marianne Alto (Chair) and Ryan Windsor.

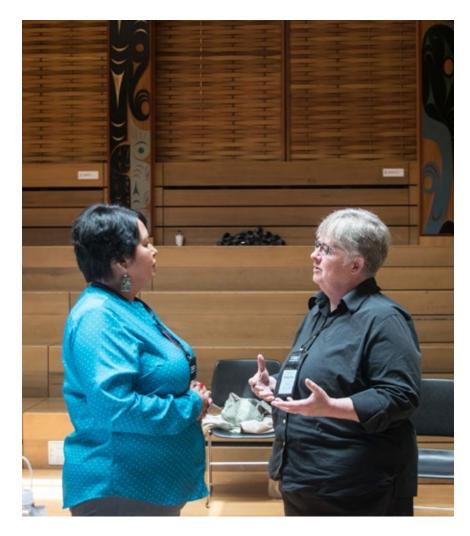
## Overview

The Capital Regional District's (CRD) Special Task Force on First Nations Relations was created in 2015, with a one-year mandate to recommend more inclusive models of governance and decision-making between the CRD and First Nations governments.

In 2016, the Task Force's term was extended to 2018 with its mandate broadened to explore ways the CRD could engage in Reconciliation.

This Final Report summarizes the Task Force's governance and Reconciliation findings and recommendations, and also documents the successes and some of the lessons learned over the past four years. Importantly, this report introduces the idea of "Reconciliation through Economic Development" as a mutually beneficial framework for building partnerships with First Nations governments.

Finally, this report proposes the creation of a Board committee structure to guide future relationship-building based on common interests and goals.



Tseycum Chief Tanya Jimmy speaking with Task Force Chair Marianne Alto

## Key Recommendations

The following suite of recommendations represents the Task Force's view of the optimal 'next steps' along the path towards more inclusive decision-making between the CRD and First Nations governments. These recommendations come out of extensive conversations and research into best practices and reflect the unique inter-governmental context of our region.

#### Governance

- 1. That the CRD Board commit to hosting an annual Forum of All Councils with political representation from all levels of government including 11 neighbouring First Nations, 13 municipalities, 3 electoral areas, the Federal government (represented by the Department of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada) and the Province (represented by the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs).
- 2. That the CRD Board support the establishment of and participation in an Inter-governmental Working Group with the Province, to foster stronger relationships between First Nations and Local Government.

#### **Reconciliation in Action**

- 3. That the Board adopt the proposed Statement of Reconciliation (Appendix A).
- 4. That the Board pursue a proposed First Nations Remuneration Policy, and direct staff to provide recommendations for consideration by the incoming Board (2018-2022).
- 5. That the Board direct staff to provide recommendations on eliminating barriers and systemic discrimination to ensure a corporate environment that promotes equity and diversity in the workplace, for consideration by the incoming Board.
- 6. That the Board direct staff to draft a program of future concrete actions to support the CRD's commitment to Reconciliation, for consideration by the incoming Board.

#### **Reconciliation through Economic Development**

7. That the Board direct staff to undertake a feasibility study for an Indigenous Economic Development Partnership Model to be considered by the incoming Board.

#### **Looking Ahead**

8. That the Board recommend to the incoming Chair, the establishment of a First Nations Relations Committee as a Standing Committee of the Board



## Governance Background

Songhees Nation Chief Ron Sam signalled his Nation's interest in having formal representation on the CRD Board during his address to the Board in October 2014. This request kicked off a Board discussion on First Nations membership (on the Board) and sparked the formation of the Special Task Force, with a mandate to meet with First Nations and bring back recommendations.

Alastair Bryson, CRD Chair, 2013-2015, with Songhees Chief Ron Sam

## Observations

#### Trends

The Task Force met with 8 of the 11 Nations that have Reserves within the CRD's boundaries to canvas their respective interests in engaging more fully with the Region on matters of common interest. Each Nation responded positively to the question, and although it was apparent that each Nation had a unique set of perspectives, capacities and approaches, collectively their ability to follow through on their interests was and continues to be hampered by limited resources and competing priorities. The CRD's desire to be more inclusive and engaging on its activities and planning processes has unintentionally resulted in an added administrative burden for the Nations.



From our delegations to Chiefs and Councils we heard a common and resounding 'yes' to greater participation in regional matters, but we also heard many different visions for how to proceed. What is required is the time and commitment to explore the options and take the journey with First Nations as partners.

Marianne Alto, First Nations Task Force Chair

Opposite, front: Pacheedaht Chief Jeff Jones speaking with First Nations Task Force member Director Ryan Windsor.

Opposite, in background: Councillor Murray Weisenberger (N. Saanich) and Councillor Herman Henry (Pauquachin Nation).

#### Challenges

**Legislative barriers.** As referenced in previous Task Force reports<sup>1</sup>, the *Local Government Act* (LGA) restricts regional board membership to "Treaty First Nations" (TFN).<sup>2</sup> Further discussions with Ministry staff and research undertaken by the CRD's First Nations Relations Division (FNRD) staff, confirmed that the definition of TFN was restricted to modern treaty Nations and does not include Nations with existing historic treaties.<sup>3</sup> The Ministry's rationale behind the exclusion is that "Indian Act" Nations under Canadian Law do not have the necessary powers or authority to make land-use (and various other) decisions without the Federal Government's consent. TFNs, however, are fully self-governing and therefore have the ability to make and vote on decisions that encumber their governments. Although the LGA has provisions that allow non-treaty or historic treaty Nations to participate in the regional governance model as non-voting / non-members in an "observer" or advisory capacity, the Task Force has heard from Indigenous leaders that this form of participation is seen as deficient and/or unequal and as a result, there has not been any real uptake from Nations on this approach.

**Appendix B** provides a summary of this situation including a list of the participation options for First Nations within the LGA governance framework.



Task Force meeting wtih the WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council

**Limited resources.** First Nations do not have dedicated resources to engage with referral requests, and any outreach or consultation that CRD staff undertake with Chief and Council, staff or community advisors, takes away from the core work of the Nation. The under-resourcing of First Nations, and subsequent limitation of Nations' capacity to respond to CRD referrals, also has an impact on the required resources the CRD needs to meaningfully consult. Many of the CRD referrals call for feedback on highly technical processes or projects that require consultation, with specific expertise held principally by elders or knowledge-keepers. Without additional financial resources, Nations do not have the capacity to hire experts to represent their interests on regional matters.



A critical conversation is taking place about Reconciliation regarding the recognition and implementation of Indigenous peoples in decision-making and governance in Canada.

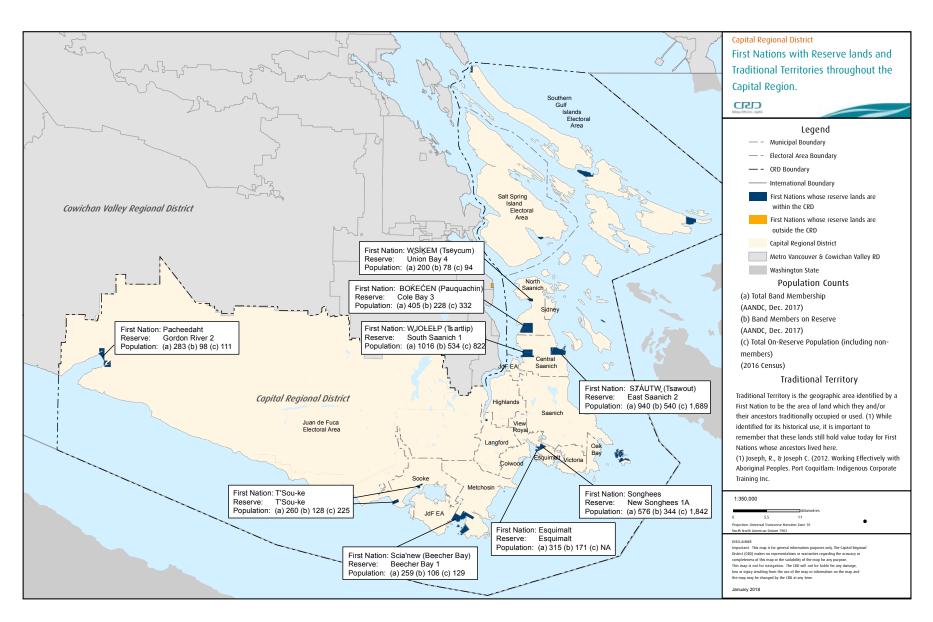


Judy Wilson-Raybould (Kwakwaka'wakw) Minister of Justice of Canada, address to the BC Business Council, June 2018

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> All Task Force reports are published on the CRD website: www.crd.bc.ca/about/board-committees/board-committees-and-commissions/special-task-force-on-first-nations-relations

<sup>2</sup> Part 24, Division 3.4 of the *Local Government Act* uses the term Treaty First Nation (TFN) to refer to Nations that are no longer Indian Act Bands as a result of finalizing a modern treaty through the BC Treaty process.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Treaties signed with First Nations in Canada between 1701 and 1923 are commonly referred to as historic treaties. In the south Island, seven of the neighbouring Nations have historic Douglas Treaties (also known as Vancouver Island Treaties). Pacheedaht First Nation does not have a historic treaty, however they are currently engaged in the BC Treaty process.



Map showing the locations and populations (Census 2017) of neighbouring First Nations

#### Challenges (cont.)

**Differing governance models.** In many ways, Indigenous laws and governance models starkly contrast with local government models. Ideally, collaborative decision-making would involve a jointly created approach to governance. The Task Force experimented with such a model in partnership with the **WSÁNEĆ** Leadership Council (WLC). A series of quarterly meetings were undertaken, with elected leadership, elders, knowledge-keepers and staff all at the same table, discussing common interests. The process was fruitful in fostering greater familiarity, forging respectful friendships and increasing understanding of specific topics. The approach functioned well as a relationship-building table, but it lacked the authority to make much-needed decisions on behalf of their respective governments.



Our elders, our knowledge-keepers – they are the equivalent of your consultants. We pay them for their time and their expertise as a matter of respect. When you ask us for our opinion, we seek the advice of our consultants. And there is a cost to us.



First Nation staff member

#### **Opportunities**

A gap remains in governance where First Nations are formally included in CRD decision-making processes. Although there is no single or simple path to resolving the collaborative governance issue, there are steps the CRD can take to bridge the gap.

**Inter-governmental Working Group.** The Task Force and First Nations want to see upper levels of government engaged in the governance conversation, to help navigate broader, practical solutions to the various barriers to greater collaborative decision-making. To that end, the Task Force and staff met with MLA Scott Fraser, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation to explore a model for a facilitated discussion. (Appendix C – Letter to Minister, Letter of support from Tseycum Nation).



Without Provincial support to provide resources to the Nations for engaging with Local Government, we can only get so far in our relationship-building efforts.



Steve Price, CRD Chair and Ex-Officio, First Nations Task Force

#### Opportunities (cont.)

Forum of All Councils. In 2016, the Task Force led a successful Forum of All Councils at UVic's First Peoples
House, with a focus on cultural education. Asix Nations were represented by their respective Chiefs and Councils. At the end of the event, Pacheedaht Chief Jeff Jones identified the need for and value of having regularly scheduled gatherings of all Nations and Local Governments. The Task Force recommends that the CRD commit to an annual event that is established on a consistent date each year, and that all municipalities, First Nations and other levels of government be included and compensated for their attendance equally. (See formal recommendation on page 15.) This commitment will continue building respect and familiarity, offer a forum to discuss emergent issues and provide a platform for a collective regional voice on common interests.



Pauquachin and Oak Bay administrators having a side conversation at the Forum of All Councils. Staff to staff relationship building is as important as at the leadership level.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The Forum of All Councils at the First Peoples House can be viewed on Youtube under the title "Forum of Councils - Indigenous Cultural Training"



## Recommendations

No. 1 That the CRD Board commit to hosting an annual Forum of All Councils with political representation from all levels of government including 11 neighbouring First Nations, 13 municipalities, 3 electoral areas, the Federal government (represented by the Department of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada) and the Province (represented by the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs).

No. 2 That the CRD Board support the establishment of and participation in an Inter-governmental Working Group with the Province to foster stronger relationships between First Nations and Local Government.





## Reconciliation in Action

## Background

The **Truth and Reconciliation Commission** (TRC) was established to redress the legacy of residential schools and to advance Reconciliation. In its final report, the Commission called upon all levels of government, institutions and individuals to take action on its *94 Calls to Action*. The actions cover a cross section of themes ranging from cultural awareness training for public servants, to support for the resurgence of language and culture, to food security and greater access to sports opportunities for youth. Although the report calls upon every citizen to undertake acts of Reconciliation, there are five actions that focus specifically on all levels of government and of those, three that fall within the authority of the regional government.

Calls to Action specifically relevant to the CRD:

- #43 Adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a guiding framework
- #47 Undertake de-colonization of laws, policies and approaches
- #57 Deliver cultural competency training to public servants

In December 2016, the Board directed staff, under the guidance of the Task Force, to provide a corporate response to the TRC's Calls to Action.



We are all in this together. Reconciliation will require leadership and the continuous and sustained efforts of all levels of government - indigenous and public leaders - working together.



Dr. Marie Wilson, Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission



## Observations

#### Trends

The CRD has several pre-existing programs that reflect the spirit of Reconciliation and respond directly to the TRC's *Calls to Action*, beginning with the creation of the First Nations Relations Division and followed by the Board's Special Task Force on First Nations Relations. These programs have sent signals to neighbouring First Nations that the CRD is serious in its commitment to relationship-building and Reconciliation. There are many other examples of incremental programmatic and policy changes across the organization that can be viewed through the lens of Reconciliation. *Appendix D* illustrates the list of actions that are either underway or under consideration. Below is a sampling of those initiatives:

TRC Action #43 - RECONCILIATION Adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

• Sea to Sea Traditional Use & Access Agreement Respect for T'Sou-ke Nation's spiritual and cultural attachment to its traditional lands through the development of a co-operative management approach.

**TRC Action #14 - LANGUAGE AND CULTURE** Aboriginal languages are a fundamental and valued element of Canadian culture and society and there is an urgency to preserve them.

• Regional Parks Naming Policy Integration of First Nations interests and traditional place names as a consideration in naming (re-naming) Regional Parks.





First Nations have let us know, in no uncertain terms, that the Douglas Treaty is a valid contract that the colonial government has never honoured. Local government has an obligation to understand its role in upholding this commitment.



Ryan Windsor, First Nations Task Force member

Over 400 CRD staff have undertaken cultural education including the Blanket Exercise which delves deeply and honestly into our shared history. **TRC Action #45 iii & #47 - RECONCILIATION** Renew or establish Treaty relationships based on principles of mutual recognition, mutual respect, and shared responsibility for maintaining those relationships into the future. De-colonize laws and policies.

• Leech Water Supply Access Agreement Respect for T'Sou-ke Nation's Douglas Treaty rights to "hunt and fish as formerly" in its traditional territory through the development of a cultural use access agreement.

**TRC Action #83 - COMMEMORATION** Establish a strategy for Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists to undertake collaborative projects and produce works that contribute to the Reconciliation process.

• Arts Champions Summit – (June 6, 2018) This event focused on equity, Indigeneity and collaboration.

**TRC Action #88 - SPORTS & RECONCILIATION**. All levels of government to take action to ensure long-term Aboriginal athlete development and growth.

 Indigenous-led Youth Summer Day Camp In partnership with Pauquachin Nation, three summer students are hired to develop and deliver culturally safe summer day camps for WSÁNEĆ youth.

**TRC Action #57 - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS** Provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, UNDRIP, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal–Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in inter-cultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights and anti-racism.

• Ongoing organization-wide cultural training workshops Between 2016 and 2018 over 400 CRD employees participated in cultural education programs.



Tsawout Nation hosts traditional pit cooks with neighbours and other guests out on the spit known as TIXEN.

**TRC Action #92 - BUSINESS & RECONCILIATION** Reference UNDRIP as a reconciliation framework and apply its principles, norms and standards to corporate policy and core operational activities involving Indigenous peoples and their lands and resources.

• First Nations Recycling Outreach Summer student position supporting stronger relationships between First Nations communities and Hartland Landfill operations.

#### Challenges

Although the CRD is moving Reconciliation actions forward internally, First Nations have identified their own priorities for Reconciliation that would require significant policy changes and a shift in business practices for the CRD. For example:

- **Parks Co-management**. The emergence of the concept of Tribal Parks, Indigenous Protected Areas<sup>5</sup> and Guardians programs has drawn attention locally with First Nations expressing interest in co-management of Regional Parks.
- **Employment Opportunities.** First Nations have identified systemic barriers to employment and have called upon the CRD, as an act of Reconciliation and mutual benefit, to create positions that would directly and intentionally hire community members, resulting in the integration of Indigenous knowledge into the CRD's workplans while supporting First Nations' capacity building.
- **Capacity and Resourcing.** First Nations have consistently identified that the key barrier to effective government-to-government relationships lies in the cost of responding to the large number of referrals received from the CRD, other levels of government and private industry. The CRD of invitations in the capacity of the capacity and private industry.



CRD Chair Steve Price with T'Sou-ke Chief Gordon Planes marking the signing of the Sea to Sea Cultural Use Agreement

the CRD, other levels of government and private industry. The CRD's invitations to First Nations to participate on committees or commissions or to engage in planning processes will continue to go unanswered until the respective Nations can be adequately resourced to cover their time, expertise and advice.



Full inclusion not only respects... [Indigenous peoples control over] how their lands are to be used, it is also a basic principle of democratic governance, is the pathway to real consent [and] meets both the letter and spirit of UNDRIP. It will move us away from conflict to co-operation. Full inclusion is a necessary step on the road to Reconciliation.



Geoff Plant, Counsel Delgamuukw v. BC, Former Liberal Attorney General responsible for Treaty Negotiations 2001-2005.

#### **Opportunities**

**Renewed commitment.** Actions that reflect the spirit and intent of Reconciliation are foundational to building trust and familiarity between and among local governments and First Nations. Although Reconciliation means different things to different people, the Board can signal to neighbouring First Nations the integrity of its intention by adopting a *Statement of Reconcilation* with an added program of actions to support that statement. A proposed *Statement of Reconcilation* (*Appendix A*) has been developed by the Task Force and offered to the Board for its consideration. The recommendations included in this report form the nucleus of a program of future action. This statement can be used to help guide the work of the future Board and CRD staff in undertaking the work of Reconciliation.

**Address employment barriers.** The CRD can set a framework for systematically reducing unintended employment barriers to First Nations (and others) by enshrining principles of equity, diversity and inclusion into its hiring practices. Taking it further, the development of an in-house Indigenous mentorship, training and recruitment program would build capacity and bridges both within the CRD and participating First Nations.

**Remuneration.** The issue of remuneration for First Nations representation and participation on regional committees, commissions and other processes such as referral responses to CRD plans and programs, must be addressed. Certainly, the financial burden cannot and should not be entirely borne by local government, but the CRD can play a role in bringing upper levels of government to the table. Action is stronger than words: the CRD can show leadership by contributing financially to ensure First Nations attend meetings as equal participants.

## Excerpt from the proposed STATEMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Appendix A):

The CRD's path to Reconciliation focuses on three recurring themes:

#### 1. Self-Determination

The CRD acknowledges the fundamental right of self-determination for Indigenous peoples.

#### 2. Shared Prosperity

The CRD recognizes the gap in wealth between First Nations and settler governments and will work towards a prosperous economic future for all residents.

#### 3. Relationship with the Land and Water

The CRD recognizes the integral relationship that First Nations have with the land and will work with First Nations to take care of the land in ways that respect traditional management practices.





## Recommendations

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No. 3 That the Board adopt the proposed **Statement of Reconciliation** (*Appendix A*).

**No. 4** That the Board pursue a proposed **First Nations Remuneration Policy**, and direct staff to provide recommendations, for consideration by the incoming Board.

**No. 5** That the Board direct staff to provide recommendations on eliminating barriers and systemic discrimination to ensure a corporate environment that promotes equity and diversity in the workplace, for consideration by the incoming Board.

**No. 6** That the Board direct staff to draft a program of future concrete actions to support the CRD's commitment to Reconciliation, for consideration by the incoming Board.



## Reconciliation Through Economic Development

## Background

In losing access to land and resources within their Traditional Territories, First Nations were placed at an unfair disadvantage in remaining economically competitive and self-sufficient. At contact, the Coast Salish and Nuu-chah-nulth peoples were rich with an abundance of food sources, and a robust trading economy with other Indigenous groups up and down the coast. Upon contact, the trading relationship expanded to include European settlers, to mutual benefit. With the introduction of colonial policies and laws and the establishment of small Reserves combined with generations of environmental degradation, the once vibrant Indigenous economy collapsed, leaving a legacy of fiscal imbalance, systemic poverty and social-political isolation.

First Nations' economic prospects are beginning to turn around. The Federal government has recently adopted principles that aim to transform Canada's relationship with Indigenous peoples through self-determination and the free pursuit of economic, political, social and cultural development. The Province too has signalled its intention to adopt a similar set of principles that will guide BC's support for Indigenous economic resurgence.



Tsawout ethno-botonist JB Williams: Indigenous resurgence depends upon access to healthy food and medicine sources.

### Observations

#### Trends

Increasingly sophisticated Indigenous entrepreneurship, in concert with Canada and BC's practical commitment to Reconciliation and UNDRIP<sup>6</sup>, is resulting in the emergence of a uniquely Indigenous economy - estimated to grow from the current \$32 billion<sup>7</sup> to \$100+ billion<sup>8</sup> annually.

As Canada, the Province and First Nations work collaboratively to develop new business models, the region is poised to step up as a champion of Reconciliation through economic development.



Indigenous communities are attracting a growing amount of public, private, and community investment. In 2017, investors directed \$1.2B towards Indigenous communities in Canada. \$13B in new capital (will be) accessible to Indigenous communities through ongoing land settlements.

UBC Sauder School of Business, Centre for Social Innovation and Impact Investing, Impact Investing in the Indigenous Context: A Scan of the Canadian Marketplace Executive Summary, March 2018



The future is bright: Gracie Blackwood (R) Pauquachin Nation, with her new friend Hannah Booth, Victoria resident. Gracie has opened several CRD events singing the 13 Moons song in SENCOTEN.

<sup>6</sup> UNDRIP - In her address to the BC Business Council, Attorney General Wilson-Raybould, discussed the issue of "certainty" and the changing nature of business practices in light of Canada's commitment to the principles of UNDRIP: Rights-based recognition will provide clarity and predictability about the basic elements of decision-making regarding lands and resources.

 $<sup>^{7}</sup>$  See TD Economics Special Report: The Long and Winding Road Towards Aboriginal Economic Prosperity

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Vancouver Sun, March 2, 2018 Op Ed, Carol Anne Hilton

**Challenges** While job creation is not the work of government, it is at the core of economic development objectives. Where legislative requirements restrict First Nations representation at decision-making tables, social enterprise ventures are free to be structured as required and can generate resources for referrals, consultation and participation. The business model for effective relationship-building provides the necessary capacity funding for First Nations participation, with the return on investment bringing prosperity back to the community.



Weekly on-site progress meeting of the Grace Islet Deconstruction project (2016). The CRD provided project management for the Province, in partnership with 13 First Nations.



Chief Jeff Jones with Director Mike Hicks on National Indigenous Day (June 21, 2018) celebrating the return of Pacheedaht's origin site in Jordan River, known as diitiida.

#### **Opportunities**

Many of the relationship challenges identified in this report can potentially be addressed in the context of an economic development framework. The concept of economic Reconciliation is captured in the term "Indigenomics", which is gaining traction with significant private and public investment funds that focus on ventures that are Indigenous-led or have equal partnership structures and where business practices are grounded in Indigenous values, worldview and knowledge. Indigenomics aligns with CRD's commitment to sustainability and triple bottom line accounting. A cursory scan of the CRD's activities suggests ample opportunity for innovative partnerships in social enterprise ventures that would serve to benefit all parties. For example:

- · Partnership with private business and First Nations to deliver "last mile" fiber optics to remote areas of the CRD
- Environmental monitoring and data collection services
- Food farming, post-production and marketing
- Wildlife management
- Marine transportation services
- Building inspection services
- Parks interpretation
- Contracts for services
- · Prospects of federal and provincial government support
- Prospects of private and philanthropic financial support

As the CRD continues to advocate for more inclusive governance models, there is an opportunity to join the emerging Indigenous economy as a partner, a customer or advocate of innovative business ventures - ones that are inherently sustainable, equitable, build understanding and tackle systemic poverty.



Indigenomics is a process of claiming our place at the economic table of this country. This modern claim to our existence, is facilitated as a right to an economy, a right to our modernity, a right to be consulted and it is further interwoven with the establishment of legal pressure points for higher standards of stewardship and reciprocal prosperity.



Carol Anne Hilton, CEO and Founder of The Indigenomics Institute

## Recommendation



**No. 7** That the Board direct staff to undertake a feasibility study for an Indigenous economic development partnership model to be considered by the incoming Board.





# Looking Ahead Background

The Board's decision to establish the First Nations Task Force in 2015 has afforded the opportunity for the CRD to make tremendous strides in building relationships with the region's neighbouring First Nations. It has also provided a deeper understanding of First Nations interests, their challenges and barriers to resurgence and revealed areas and opportunities for potential partnership. The experiment of creating a political entity of the Board with the intention of fostering stronger relationships has proven to be invaluable.

## Observations

#### Trends

The Task Force reinforces the Board's original assertion<sup>10</sup> that the region is stronger and more resilient when it is governed as a whole – with First Nations at the decision-making table as equal partners – not as "observers" nor in an advisory capacity. The Government of Canada and the Province of BC have each made commitments to Indigenous self-determination and economic resurgence, representing a monumental shift in governance and associated investment in economic development. The outcome of the Crown's focus will undoubtedly affect how local government operates in relation to First Nations interests, although it is early days yet.



We are in an age of Reconciliation and Nation-building – and local governments need to get on board. The Region will be stronger and more cohesive when decisions are made with both the Indigenous and Western worldviews collaborating, problem-solving and re-imagining how we do business. It is time to follow through on our original contract of true partnership with the first stewards of this land.

Director Maja Tait, First Nations Task Force



#### Challenges

We have heard, loud and clear, from neighbouring First Nations governments that they want to be more actively engaged in local decisions that affect their communities, but there are a number of barriers to making that happen such as legislative restrictions, strained capacity, limited financial resources and differing governance models and decision-making approaches. This report recommends an approach to engaging all levels of government in a collaborative working group (Recommendation No. 2) to systematically and pragmatically address the barriers and to build an inclusive governance model. This process will take time, but in the meantime, the CRD must carry on with the good work of relationship-building at the leadership level.

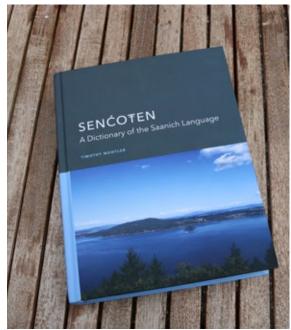
#### **Opportunities**

The Task Force recommends establishing a Standing Committee of the Board to oversee and guide First Nations relationships. The permanence of the committee sends a signal to First Nations that the CRD is committed, in the long-term, to co-creating a working relationship and governance model. The committee could also serve as a portal through which a number of initiatives can be directed, such as:

- Oversight of organizational Reconciliation efforts and actions
- Representation on and reporting out from the proposed Inter-governmental Working Group (Recommendation No. 2)
- · Reporting body of the First Nations Relations Division
- Potential political vehicle for First Nations representation and participation
- Voice of the Board on regional matters as they pertain to the First Nations Relations Division
- · Board representation on Treaty matters as they relate to local government interests
- Host and sponsor of the annual Forum of All Councils event (Recommendation No. 1)
- · Accountability and oversight for all other adopted recommendations of this report

Elements of a Terms of Reference for the proposed Standing Committee could include:

- · Chair position to be elected by the Board
- Quarterly meetings
- First Nations representation
- Facilitation and support through Corporate Services



The recent publication of the SENCOTEN dictionary, the result of 40 years of dedication, is a powerful sign of Indigenous resilience and resurgence.

## Recommendation



**No. 8** That the Board recommend to the incoming Chair the establishment of a First Nations Relations Committee as a Standing Committee of the Board.



## **Appendix A** | Proposed Statement of Reconciliation

#### Preamble

The work of Reconciliation falls to all segments of Canadian society. The Capital Regional District (CRD) is committed to Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. It is understood that a commitment alone is not enough and that action is needed to show that the CRD is taking measurable steps towards a better relationship with Indigenous peoples.

This statement of commitment to Reconciliation can guide decision making for the organization for many years to come. It is understood that Reconciliation is a long term goal with no defined end point. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) is the reference framework for the CRD's commitment to Reconciliation, which aims to address activities within the scope of the CRD's authority. This statement is a work in progress which acknowledges that mistakes will be made and provides for adjustments to accommodate emergent practices.

#### Statement

The CRD's boundaries span the Traditional Territories of over 20 First Nations, whose ancestors have been taking care of the land since time immemorial. The CRD believes that a positive working relationship with First Nations is good for the whole region. For the CRD to have a positive relationship with First Nations we need to acknowledge, respect and complement their Indigenous laws, customs and systems of governance.

The CRD is part of a national movement towards Reconciliation with Canada's Indigenous peoples, informed by:

- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action
- The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Sec. 35 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
- The Douglas Treaties and the BC Modern Treaty process

The CRD's path to Reconciliation focuses on three recurring themes:

#### 1. Self-Determination

The CRD acknowledges the fundamental right of self-determination to Indigenous peoples. In the spirit and intent of inclusivity, the CRD is committed to working with First Nations through the governance systems they choose. When First Nations wish to participate in our decision-making process then we will support them. The CRD will look to First Nations for leadership in understanding how to create new decision-making systems together on their Traditional Territories.

#### 2. Shared Prosperity

The CRD recognizes the gap in wealth between First Nations and settler governments. The CRD will work towards a prosperous economic future for all of its residents and believes that improving the lives of the most vulnerable citizens creates a stronger and more resilient region for everyone. The CRD will seek partnerships, share information and deliver fair and equitable services in working with First Nations on achieving their economic goals.

#### 3. Relationship with the Land and Water

The CRD recognizes the integral relationship First Nations have with the land; often the names for the people of the land and the land itself were one and the same. The CRD will work with First Nations on taking care of the land while providing space for cultural and ceremonial use, food and medicine harvesting, traditional management practices and reclaiming Indigenous place names.



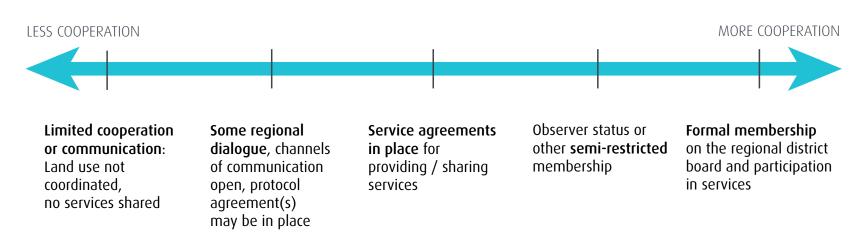
## **Appendix B** | Options for First Nations Participation in Regional Governance

This appendix presents a high-level summary of the range of participation options available and currently in use for First Nations involvement in regional governance, and a discussion of the benefits and considerations of expanded participation by First Nations in the CRD.

#### Introduction

Whether a First Nation is involved in the BC Treaty Process (modern treaty), is a Douglas Treaty Nation (historic treaty) and/or is pursuing additional avenues towards self-governance and expanded land management authority/responsibility, there are a variety of options for collaboration and participation with local governments. Here in BC, there are many examples of First Nations participation and collaboration with local and regional governments. Given the evolving and growing nature of First Nations governance, planning and land management, new approaches and methods are emerging and being explored by regional districts and First Nations across the province.

#### Spectrum of cooperation between First Nations and regional districts



The partnership examples presented in this appendix consider a variety of contexts (urban, rural), and a variety of considerations, including:

- · Ways to improve and expand service delivery, both in First Nations communities and leasehold properties/developments on reserve land
- · Accommodation of changes in First Nations governance through modern Treaty developments and details of the implementation agreement
- Approaches that contribute to building better relationships and improving communications
- Processes that support more effective and strategic inter-governmental coordination and collaboration, particularly around regional land use planning and management
- · Ways to advance the common goal of greater regional sustainability planning efforts
- The creation of a stronger voice for regional interests

Note: The partnership options in this appendix do not reference co-developed options that respect Indigenous laws and integrate Indigenous ways of governing. This area of governance is emergent.

## **Participation Options**

**Protocol Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MOU):** Formal protocol agreements and MOUs are typically a first step towards deeper participation and collaboration. They are usually high-level agreements between two or more parties to work together on areas of mutual interest. Often they acknowledge the history and rights of both parties and may include specific points like a certain number of meetings per year to ensure continued dialogue. In some cases, these protocol agreements have led to further agreements and deeper regional participation. An example of this is the 2008 MOU between CRD and T'Souke Nation which ultimately led to the 2016 and 2017 cultural use and access agreements for the Leech Watershed and Sea to Sea Regional Park.

**Service Agreements**: Formal or informal service agreements are common practice between local governments and First Nations. They outline the terms of service provision and payment for services provided by the local government and/or First Nation. Servicing agreements can be between local governments and treaty or non-treaty First Nations. The CRD has numerous service agreements with First Nations including fire, water, sewer and animal control.

**Regional Board Participation - Observer status**: Observer status is an unofficial (i.e., it is not outlined in the *Local Government Act*) method of participation where a First Nation representative can participate in regional district board meetings, but cannot vote on, second or move motions. Observer status can take many forms, from an occasional appearance at regional district meetings to regular ongoing involvement. Typically observers are not permitted at in-camera sessions, however, where appropriate and relevant, non-disclosure agreements can make that possible. Observers can participate in sub-committees as a way to gain further understanding of the local governance process. Observer status provides opportunities for relationship building, two-way mentorship and capacity building, and generating interest in, and understanding of, regional governance as well as First Nations governance. However, and importantly, participation as an observer does not include First Nations in final decision-making.

**Regional Board Participation - Non-voting member**: Westbank First Nation is a non-voting member of the Central Okanagan Regional District (CORD). Westbank's appointed representative sits at CORD board meetings, and by invitation attends closed (in-camera) board sessions. Services are provided under a 15-year general servicing agreement that includes all the services of a typical municipality. The terms and services provided under the agreement are discussed once a year, and the parties meet every five years to review the agreement as a whole. Although the CORD provides the majority of services, the agreement also stipulates the provision of services by Westbank First Nation to participating areas of the regional district.

**Regional Board Participation - Full membership**: A growing number of First Nations have become, or plan on becoming full members of the regional district in which the majority of their lands are located. Full membership requires that they are either BC Treaty First Nations or have a self-government agreement in place. Neighbouring Nations whose modern treaties are pending (Te'mexw<sup>11</sup> and Pacheedaht Treaty Nations) are not obligated to join the regional district as a condition of their respective Treaties. However, it is a mandatory requirement for the Treaty First Nation to join the regional hospital district.

With more First Nations completing the Treaty Process, the following changes in provincial legislation were made (prior to Tsawwassen's 2009 effective Treaty date) to allow for treaty First Nations to become members of regional districts and receive regional services:

- Part 24 (Regional Districts) of the *Local Government Act* was amended with the creation of a new Division (3.1) called "Treaty First Nations and Regional Districts".
- The Local Government Act (and the Community Charter to the extent it applies to Regional Districts), applies to a treaty First Nation provided that the final agreement includes provisions for membership of a treaty First Nation in a Regional District as if it were a municipality and the treaty First Nation regional Board Director has the same functions, powers, duties and obligations as a municipal director (except with a few modifications), including using the same process to determine the number of Board Directors and votes.
- · Changes to legislation also permit supplementary letters patent (or bylaws) to be deemed amended to include the treaty First Nation.

### **Emergent Options -Authorities**

The Federal government has amended the Indian Act to allow for the establishment of the *First Nations Fiscal Management Act* (FMA), which gives First Nations the option and authority, outside the confines of the *Indian Act*, to pass bylaws related to financial administration, revenue generating taxations and financing for infrastructure and economic development. FMA institutions include: the First Nations Financial Management Board (FMB), the First Nations Finance Authority (FNFA) (the equivalent institution to the Local Government Finance Authority) and the First Nations Tax Commission (FNTC).

The BC Provincial government could amend the Local Government Act to extend full membership to "non-treaty Nations" (which includes Douglas Treaty

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> The Te'mexw Treaty Association is a society formed of five Coast Salish First Nations- Songhees, Nanoose (Snaw-Naw-As), Beecher Bay (Scia'new), T'Sou-ke and Malahat. They have joined together to support one another in the modern treaty negotiation process.

Nations) that have the necessary authorities (as described above) to ensure compatibility with local government decision-making authorities.

These governance tools open up opportunities for innovation in collaboration with local government in "ways that could not have been anticipated when the Provincial legislation allowing only Treaty and Self-Governing First Nations to become members of regional districts was passed" (Dr. Robert L. Bish). Further research and specific engagement with FMA member Nations is required to understand the implications, opportunities and extent of the authorities of First Nations governments, relative to the business undertaken by local governments

The following local First Nations, with populated Reserves in the region, that are participating in the FMA include: Beecher Bay, Esquimalt, Songhees, Tsartlip, Tsawout, Tseycum and T'Sou-ke.

## **UBCM** Resolutions

## 2016 UBCM Resolution Re: Non-treaty First Nations Participation in UBCM

Whereas the Union of British Columbia Municipalities recognized and receives membership from treaty First Nation governments in BC; And whereas non-treaty First Nation governments should be recognized the same as treaty First Nations, municipalities and regional districts when it comes to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities: Therefore be it resolved that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities formally recognize that both treaty, and non-treaty First Nation governments may meet the following UBCM membership criteria: a) elected representation; b) ability to tax; and c) ability to exercise regulatory power or provide local services; And be it further resolved that UBCM, in the spirit of reconciliation and relationship building, inform First Nation governments of the UBCM membership criteria; and advise those First Nations that meet the criteria and agree to pay annual dues, that they may apply to join the UBCM.

### 2017 UBCM Resolution Re: First Nations and Closed Meetings

Whereas section 90 of the Community Charter stipulates matters that may or must be considered in closed meetings; And whereas there is no inherent authority to close meetings to the public to consider information received and held in confidence from First Nations: Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to consider amending section 90 of the Community Charter to allow local governments to close meetings to the public to consider information received and held in confidence from First Nations governments.

## **Appendix C** | Inter-governmental Collaboration Letters



#### **Capital Regional District**

625 Fisgard Street, PO Box 1000. Victoria, BC, Canada V8W 256 T: 250.360.3000 www.crd.bc.ca

November 29, 2017

The Honourable Scott Fraser
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4

Dear Minister:

We are requesting a meeting with yourself to offer an update and to seek assistance with recent activities undertaken by the Capital Regional District's (CRD) Task Force on First Nations Engagement.

Over the past two years, we have met with the majority of First Nations governments in the south island to discuss how they might like to be involved in regional decision making. Last year we approved a report with recommended actions for addressing the issues raised in those discussions. Some of the recommendations require further conversations with provincial officials in order to realize the opportunities that exist around sharing governance with First Nations.

We are requesting a meeting to discuss the following issues:

- Obstacles faced by First Nations and local governments for deep engagement and meaningful relationship building
- Legislative barriers for First Nations to participate as full voting members on the CRD Board
- Current provincial understanding of the responsibilities to pre-confederation treaties such as the Douglas Treaty.

We understand that scheduling can be a challenge and we would be looking to sometime in the New Year when you are already in Victoria on other business. Our staff can follow up to arrange a time. We look forward to this discussion and to working together with you on these issues.

Sincerely,

Steve Price

Board Chair, Capital Regional District

Cc: Director Marianne Alto, Chair, First Nations Task Force, CRD Bob Lapham, CAO, Capital Regional District



### Tseycum First Nation

1210 Totem Lane Sidney, BC V8L 5S4 Phone: (250) 656-0858 FAX: (250) 656-0868

August 21, 2018
The Honourable Scott Fraser
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4

#### Dear Minister Fraser:

Tseycum First Nation is focused on working with other governments towards a better relationship that places the emphasis on moving forward together. We want to be involved in decision making that affects our territories, our rights and our people. It is important for the work of healing and reconciliation that we are able to be in partnership with those decision makers who are active in our territory.

To this end, Tseycum is interested in exploring a workable solution for the governance gap that exists with the current Regional District system where First Nations who have not signed modern treaties are not offered a formal voice at the table. Decisions Regional Districts make have the possibility to affect our rights and so we are looking for a way to be included in the process. We are looking for a respectful solution that incorporates our governance structure and allows us to meaningfully engage with the Capital Regional District.

We are looking forward to hearing from you as to what this could look like and would like to set up a meeting to discuss possibilities at your earliest convenience.

HÍSWKE

Chief Tanya Immy

Cc: Director Marianne Alto, Capital Regional District

# **Appendix D** | CRD Truth & Reconciliation Calls to Action Dashboard

	Department / Division	Reference to TRC Call to Action / UNDRIP Article	Timing		
A	ARTS AND CULTURE				
•	<b>CREATION OF THE EQUITY GRANT</b> – aimed at breaking down barriers experienced by Indigenous individuals and organizations in accessing arts funding, by facilitating partnerships and collaborations with member organizations.	➤ Commemoration #83: Establish a strategy for Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists to undertake collaborative projects and produce works that contribute to the reconciliation process.	Current		
•	ARTS CHAMPIONS SUMMIT – (June 6, 2018) This event focused on equity, Indigeneity and collaboration.	► Commemoration #83	Past		
В	UILDING PERMITS AND INSPECTION				
	<b>PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL FIRST NATIONS</b> – building on the successful contract for services between the CRD Building Inspections office and various First Nations, the office is exploring a business case that would enable mentorship and training opportunities for First Nations members to undertake building inspections in anticipation of the pending influx of new builds taking place on First Nations lands.	▶ Business and Reconciliation #92-ii: Ensure that Aboriginal peoples have equitable access to jobs, training, and education opportunities in the corporate sector, and that Aboriginal communities gain long-term sustainable benefits from economic development projects.	Future Consideration		
El	NVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION				
	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PARTNERSHIPS</b> – First Nations have an interest in being informed of monitoring activities taking place in their Territories as well as having opportunities to train members to undertake the monitoring. There is a further interest in introducing additional but related monitoring and data collection related to shellfish harvesting.	<ul> <li>Business and Reconciliation #92 ii</li> <li>Canadian Governments and UNDRIP #43: We call upon federal, provincial and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples as the framework for reconciliation.</li> <li>UNDRIP Article #29</li> </ul>	Future Consideration		
El	NVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT				
•	<b>FIRST NATIONS RECYCLING OUTREACH</b> - summer student hired for 4 months in 2017 to provide outreach and engagement to First Nations communities on issues regarding solid waste education and programs.	▶ Business & Reconciliation #92-ii	Past and Future Consideration		
	<b>EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS</b> – First Nations focused tours, presentations to the Tribal School, recycling campaigns and education.	➤ UNDRIP Article #29	Future Consideration		

	Department / Division	Reference to TRC Call to Action / UNDRIP Article	Timing
	WILDLIFE STEWARDSHIP – Deceased eagles transferred to First Nations	► UNDRIP Article #26	Current
•	<b>COMMUNITY CLEAN UP FUND</b> – Amendment of the existing Community Clean- up grant to qualify clean-up initiatives on First Nations Reserve lands for grant subsidy.	► UNDRIP Article #29	Future Consideration
FI	NANCE AND TECHNOLOGY		
•	<b>EQUIPMENT DISPOSAL</b> – donation of CRD computers and other technology equipment to Indigenous serving agencies.	► UNDRIP Article #21	Future Consideration
Н	UMAN RESOURCES		
٠	<b>CULTURAL TRAINING &amp; EDUCATION</b> - Indigenous themed Lunch & Learn sessions, integration of First Nations awareness in Orientation Sessions, ongoing Indigenous cultural safety and competancy training.	▶ Professional development & training for public servants #57: Provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, UNDRIP, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal–Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.	Current
•	<b>JOB SHADOW AND MENTORSHIP</b> - The CRD is partnering with the Victoria Native Friendship Centre and Service Canada to co-develop and deliver a pilot project that supports Indigenous peoples interest in government sector jobs.	▶ Business and Reconciliation #92 II: Ensure that aboriginal peoples have equitable access to jobs, training and education opportunities in the corporate sector, and that aboriginal communities gain long-term sustainable benefits from economic development projects.	Current
IN	ITEGRATED WATER SERVICES		
•	<b>LEECH WATER SUPPLY ACCESS AGREEMENT</b> - Respect for T'Sou-ke Nation's Douglas Treaty Rights to "hunt and fish as formerly" in its traditional territory through the development of an access agreement.	▶ Reconciliation #43 and #47 as above also #45-iii: Renew or establish Treaty relationships based on principles of mutual recognition, mutual respect, and shared responsibility for maintaining those relationships into the future.	Current
•	<b>COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION</b> - First Nations representation on the Saanich Peninsula Water Commission	► UNDRIP Article #32	Current
•	<b>CONTRACT FOR SERVICES -</b> Drinking Watershed Brush Clearing Contract – T'Sou-ke Nation.	► BUSINESS & RECONCILIATION #92-ii	Current

	Department / Division	Reference to TRC Call to Action / UNDRIP Article	Timing
P/	ANORAMA RECREATION		
•	INDIGENOUS-LED YOUTH SUMMER DAY CAMP - In partnership with Pauquachin Nation, three summer students are hired to develop and deliver culturally safe summer day camps for WSÁNEĆ youth	• Sports & Reconciliation #88: All levels of government to take action to ensure long-term Aboriginal athlete development and growth.	Current
RI	EGIONAL HOUSING		
•	<b>FIRST NATIONS HOUSING FORUM</b> – Support for a regional Forum focused on finding solutions to Indigenous housing needs in partnership with other housing agencies	► UNDRIP Article #21	Current
RI	EGIONAL PARKS		
٠	<b>TRADITIONAL USE &amp; ACCESS AGREEMENT</b> - Respect for T'Sou-ke Nation's spiritual and cultural attachment to its traditional lands through the development of a co-operative management approach.	<ul> <li>Reconciliation #43 - adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).</li> </ul>	Current
	эчегоринент от а со орегатие тивнадетнент арргоаст.	► UNDRIP Article #26	
	<b>PARKS NAMING POLICY -</b> Integration of First Nations interests and traditional place names as a consideration in naming (re-naming) Regional Parks. Include First Nations names on maps and GIS products.	▶ Language and Culture #14 i: Aboriginal languages are a fundamental and valued element of Canadian culture and society and there is an urgency to preserve them.	Current
	FIRST NATIONS INVOLVEMENT IN RESTORATION PROJECTS – concept under development	► UNDRIP Article #25, 28 and #29	Future Consideration
•	INTEGRATION OF FIRST NATIONS STORIES, NAMES AND OTHER INFORMATION ON NEW SIGNAGE AND PRINTED MATERIAL – in consultation and with permission of local First Nations.	• UNDRIP Article #31	Current
	HIRE FIRST NATIONS INTERPRETERS / GUARDIANS - concept under development	• UNDRIP Article #21	Future Consideration
	<b>HARVESTING POLICY</b> – Develop a policy that supports and respectfully manages Indigenous Harvesting rights in CRD Parks.	• UNDRIP Article #26	Future Consideration

	Department / Division	Reference to TRC Call to Action / UNDRIP Article	Timing		
	<b>CULTURAL ACUMEN TRAINING –</b> Parks staff to receive training to better understand Indigenous harvesting rights, practices and related activities CRD Parks.	▶ Professional Development and Training for Public Servants #57:	Current and Future Consideration		
	<b>INCORPORATION OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE</b> into land acquisition processes and other management decisions through outreach and engagement with community knowledge keepers.	► UNDRIP Article #32	Current		
	<b>BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS</b> – Build management relationships with CRD campgrounds.	► Business and Reconciliation #92	Future Consideration		
•	<b>PARK ACQUISITION STRATEGY –</b> Integration of First Nations interests into the identification of future lands considered for conservation as regional parks.	► UNDRIP Article #32	Current		
RI	REGIONAL PLANNING				
	<b>INCORPORATION OF INDIGENOUS WORLD VIEWS</b> into strategies that support regional food production.	► UNDRIP Article #24 and #26	Current		
•	<b>TRANSPORTATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT</b> – Greater engagement and more inclusive processes to bring First Nations transportation needs into the regional transportation planning discussion.	► Business and Reconciliation #92	Current and Future Consideration		
•	<b>SONGHEES WHEELNESS</b> – Partnership and mentorship to Songhees Nation in promoting active transportation amongst membership.	► Sports & Reconciliation #88.	Current		





Above: Orange Shirt Day 2018. Staff and First Nations partners acknowledge the legacy of residential schools and celebrate the resurgence of the SENCOTEN language. Opposite page: Items used in the Blanket Exercise for staff cultural training workshops.

Back Cover: Graphic Recording of the Forum of All Councils Cultural Training Event, June 11, 2016. Artist Michelle Winkel, Unfolding Solutions.



