



PROTOCOL ON COOPERATION AND COMMUNICATION

Between the

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES (UBCM)

and the

FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT



WHEREAS:

1. The UBCM represents local governments in BC who have chosen to participate in the organization;
2. The First Nations Summit represents First Nations in BC who have chosen to participate in the organization;
3. The UBCM and First Nations Summit have common interests in the successful and timely conclusion of treaty agreements, which will benefit all BC communities;
4. The Parties also have common interests in cooperative intergovernmental relationships, including those between First Nation and local governments, before and after treaties are signed;
5. Cooperative working relationships between governments built on effective communication and trust, contribute directly to the health and well-being of communities by allowing collaborative action in areas such as economic development, natural resource management and service delivery.

THEREFORE:

This Protocol represents a commitment by the First Nations Summit and the UBCM to work together to promote cooperative local government – First Nations relationships.

PRINCIPLES:

The following principles pertain to this Protocol and the actions arising from the Protocol. These principles are:

- Mutual respect for each Party's mandates, policies and areas of jurisdiction and that the Protocol does not fetter the individual mandates of the parties;
- Cooperation in the exchange, development and distribution of information;
- Collaborative action in the development and implementation of projects or initiatives, such as the Community to Community Forum program, to maximize their effectiveness; and,
- Acknowledgment that good relations between neighbours are needed now, and will be of continuing benefit as treaties are signed and implemented.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES:

The First Nations Summit and the UBCM have the following mutual objectives:

- Promote understanding of the interests of First Nations and local governments in a province-wide context, including through inclusion of the Parties in each other's events wherever appropriate;
- Provide notice of actions to achieve changes in provincial and federal policy and regulations;
- Provide opportunities for relationship building between First Nations and local governments, such as through provincial and regional Community to Community Forums, which allow dialogue between community leaders on areas of common interest including relationship building, economic development, natural resource management, efficient and affordable service delivery and cooperative land use planning;
- Encourage dispute avoidance, reconciliation, and promote effective methods of resolving disputes between First Nations and local governments without resorting to the courts; and,
- Support the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action.

IMPLEMENTATION

The First Nations Summit and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities agree to ongoing communication between staff members to further the objectives stated in this agreement. Staff from both organizations will meet on a regular basis to review joint initiatives and projects as well as the general progress on goals and objectives.

UBCM's Indigenous Relations Committee and the First Nations Summit's Task Group agree to meet once per year, during a UBCM Executive meeting or at a time and place that is convenient for both organizations, to discuss issues of mutual concern.

TERM OF THE PROTOCOL

The Parties may agree to amend or terminate this Protocol at any time. The term of this Protocol shall be three years from the date of signing unless otherwise amended. At the conclusion of the term, both parties agree in good faith to mutually review the Protocol.

COMMITMENT:

In witness of this Agreement the parties have executed this Protocol on Cooperation and Communication on November 17, 2022.

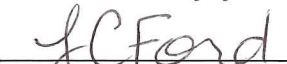
SIGNED on behalf of the FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT by:



Cheryl Casimer
Task Group Member


Robert Phillips
Task Group Member


Hugh Braker
Task Group Member

SIGNED on behalf of the UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES by:


Jen Ford
President


Trish Mandewo
Chair, Indigenous Relations Committee