



# Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

2022

TRANSITION BINDER

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## Organization – Who Are We?

### Ministry Profile

**A/DM Responsible: Tom McCarthy**

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The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation guides the Province of British Columbia's priority to achieve lasting and meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. These efforts are advanced through transformative actions and collaboratively developing related legislation, policy and practices, and negotiating and implementing treaties, agreements, and partnerships that affirm self-determination. Strengthening relationships with Indigenous communities is key to growing B.C.'s modern, inclusive economy and improving social, health and cultural outcomes for Indigenous Peoples and everyone in B.C.

### Ministry Vision

British Columbia is a place where Indigenous communities are healthy, prosperous, sustainable and self-determining founded on positive, lasting relationships between Indigenous Peoples and all British Columbians.

The ministry works closely with all ministries and is closely associated with the Declaration Act Secretariat, which is a stand-alone organization from the Ministry.

### Ministry Mandate

Achieving true government-to-government relationships is a shared responsibility based on respect, recognition and exercise of Aboriginal title and rights, and reconciliation of Aboriginal and Crown titles and jurisdiction. The Ministry leads this work in alignment with:

- The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), through implementation of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, which guides Crown-Indigenous relations in B.C., and the Declaration Act Action Plan, which outlines government actions designed to achieve the objectives of UNDRIP;
- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's (TRC): Calls to Action;
- Relevant case law, including the landmark 2014 decision by the Supreme Court of Canada which granted a declaration of Aboriginal title to a portion of Tsilhqot'in territory; and
- The Draft Principles that Guide the Province's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples.

True and lasting reconciliation calls for the Ministry to partner with Indigenous governments, urban Indigenous organizations, Métis, and treaty partners. The Ministry's focus is to build lasting relationships with Indigenous Peoples by working toward flexible agreements that can evolve over time and developing collaborative approaches to policy making. The Ministry also engages federal and municipal partners, stakeholders, and the public. While reconciliation is a shared responsibility, the Ministry provides guidance and leadership to other areas of government.

**Ministry of  
Indigenous Relations  
and Reconciliation**

**2022/23 – 2024/25  
SERVICE PLAN**

**February 2022**



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## Minister's Accountability Statement



The *Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation 2022/23 – 2024/25 Service Plan* was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Murray Rankin".

Honourable Murray Rankin  
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation  
February 22, 2022

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## Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (the Ministry) guides and helps coordinate the Province of British Columbia's efforts to achieve true and lasting reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples<sup>1</sup> by working in respectful partnerships that recognize inherent rights.

Reconciliation is important to everyone as we work together to address historic wrongs through the lens of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada: Calls to Action. These efforts create a better province for all British Columbians.

As the first province in Canada to recognize Indigenous Peoples' human rights in law through the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act), British Columbia is implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) as our shared framework for reconciliation. The Ministry leads these efforts in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples, working closely with other organizations across government.

The Declaration Act supports government in deepening relationships with Indigenous Peoples by requiring that provincial laws be aligned with the UN Declaration, providing new direction around shared decision making, and allowing flexibility for the Province to enter into agreements with a broad range of Indigenous governments.

The Ministry achieves its reconciliation commitments by prioritizing collaboration and engagement with Indigenous Peoples through trauma-informed and culturally safe practices. Strengthening relationships with Indigenous communities<sup>2</sup> and leveraging Indigenous knowledge and perspectives improves social and economic outcomes for Indigenous Peoples and all British Columbians.

The Ministry furthers reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples by collaboratively developing policy and practices, and negotiating and implementing agreements, partnerships, and treaties. The Ministry's focus is to build lasting relationships with Indigenous Peoples by working toward flexible agreements that can evolve over time and developing collaborative approaches to policy making.

The Ministry engages with Indigenous governments, communities, and organizations, as well as federal, municipal and treaty partners, stakeholders, and the public. While reconciliation is a whole-of-government responsibility, the Ministry provides guidance and leadership to other areas of government on establishing and enhancing relationships with Indigenous Peoples.

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<sup>1</sup> The term "Indigenous" used throughout this document is intended to be inclusive of all peoples of Indigenous ancestry, including First Nations (status and non-status), Métis and Inuit.

<sup>2</sup> The term "communities" means the diversity of Indigenous communities as defined by Indigenous Peoples and includes descriptions such as urban, rural, metropolitan, land-based and reserve.

## Strategic Direction

In 2022/2023, the Government of British Columbia will continue its whole-of-government response to the COVID-19 pandemic with a focus on protecting the health, social and economic well-being of British Columbians. Building on our economic, environmental, and social strengths while looking to seize opportunities to improve outcomes for all British Columbians will be an important aspect of each ministry's work as we respond to COVID-19 and recover from devastating floods and wildfires. The policies, programs and projects developed over the course of this service plan period will align with the five foundational principles established by Government in 2020: putting people first; working toward lasting and meaningful reconciliation; supporting equity and anti-racism; ensuring a better future through fighting climate change and meeting our greenhouse gas reduction targets; and supporting a strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone.

This 2022/23 service plan outlines how the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation will support the government's priorities including the foundational principles listed above and selected action items identified in the [November 2020 Minister's Mandate Letter](#).

## Performance Planning

### Goal 1: Advance equitable social and economic outcomes of Indigenous Peoples

The Ministry is committed to advancing social and economic outcomes in Indigenous communities in comprehensive and holistic ways that are determined by and organized around each community's priorities. These efforts include sharing the benefits of economic development with Indigenous communities and increasing opportunities for the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the economy.

#### Objective 1.1: Partner on shared initiatives that improve the quality of life of Indigenous Peoples

The Ministry works with Indigenous, provincial, and federal agencies and partners to advance opportunities that improve the health and wellness of Indigenous communities through community-focused initiatives.

#### Key Strategies

- Support First Nations-led investigations into former residential school sites and enhance health and wellness resources to address the trauma of residential school findings.
- Work with other ministries on initiatives that support First Nations and Indigenous partners to address the health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Partner with the BC Assembly of First Nations to promote Indigenous-led economic development opportunities.
- Work with the Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women and the First Peoples' Cultural Council to advance solutions that support their respective mandates.
- Expand support to Aboriginal Friendship Centres and other urban Indigenous organizations that support Indigenous People living in urban areas B.C.

Performance Measure	2019/20 Baseline	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
1.1 Cumulative number of community <sup>1</sup> well-being initiatives	16	22	24	28	32

Data source: Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

<sup>1</sup>The term *community* is inclusive of all First Nations, Métis, and urban Indigenous communities

## Linking Performance Measure to Objective

Community well-being initiatives are reconciliation processes where Indigenous communities and the B.C. government work in partnership to identify and implement socio-cultural priorities. These partnerships invest in economic development, cultural revitalization, human resource capacity building, education, justice, health and family services, and institutional and infrastructure development.

### Objective 1.2: Support Indigenous communities in advancing self-determination and governance building

The Ministry works with Indigenous Peoples to advance self-determination and governance building, supporting economic, social, and cultural initiatives aligned with the priorities of individual communities and transitioning delivery of public services to Indigenous governments.

#### Key Strategies

- Co-develop a new fiscal relationship in partnership with Indigenous Peoples and the Ministry of Finance.
- Work with partner ministries to advance CleanBC objectives, including collaborating with Indigenous communities and businesses to identify and implement new energy efficiency and clean economy opportunities and to help Indigenous communities adapt to and recover from the impacts of climate change.
- Make space for an increased role for Indigenous communities and organizations in delivering services to Indigenous Peoples.
- Collaborate with, align, and leverage opportunities with the federal government.
- Partner with First Nations on further opportunities for revenue sharing.

Performance Measure	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
1.2 Number of new opportunities <sup>1</sup> for First Nations to participate in revenue sharing	2	4	4	4

Data source: Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

<sup>1</sup>This includes new revenue-sharing opportunities negotiated into particular agreements.

## Linking Performance Measure to Objective

Sharing revenue with First Nations communities is an important reconciliation tool that supports implementation of the UN Declaration and the self-determined pursuit of economic, social, and community development. Like all governments, First Nations require sources of revenue to support capacity and service delivery. Ensuring First Nations share in the wealth generated by economic opportunities helps support economic growth in First Nations communities and for all British Columbians.

## Goal 2: Work in partnership to achieve true and lasting reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples

True and lasting reconciliation is a cross-government priority requiring collaboration with ministry partners and transparent engagement with all British Columbians.

### Objective 2.1: Implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action, and the Tsilhqot'in Supreme Court decision.

All ministries are accountable for implementing Provincial reconciliation commitments. Supporting this, the Ministry works to develop cross-government tools and approaches that achieve the objectives of the UN Declaration and implementation of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

#### Key Strategies

- Support government ministries and agencies to integrate reconciliation into their policy and operations, including cross-government implementation of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and the *Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples*.
- Work in partnership with Indigenous Peoples, in line with government agencies, to implement the Action Plan required under the Declaration Act.
- Work with ministry partners to support efforts to engage with Indigenous Peoples to advance reconciliation initiatives within their respective ministry mandates, including alignment of provincial policy and legislation with the Declaration Act.
- Establish a Secretariat to assist government to achieve its alignment of laws obligations under the Declaration Act.
- Ensure that the diversity of Indigenous voices are brought into government planning, processes, policies, and practices.

Performance Measure	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
2.1 Delivery of reporting obligations related to the Declaration Act	1	1	1	1

Data source: Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

#### Linking Performance Measure to Objective

The Declaration Act requires government to work in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples to align provincial laws with the UN Declaration, develop and implement an action plan to meet the objectives of the UN Declaration, and deliver an annual report that details progress to implement the Declaration Act. Through delivery of its reporting commitments, the Ministry outlines on an annual basis measures taken towards implementing the Action Plan and alignment of laws.

The Ministry will be reviewing opportunities to develop a performance measure in line with the Declaration Act for future reporting years. This effort will include reviewing potential measures aligned with the action plan and supportive or complementary to the function and role of the Secretariat, as identified in the Minister's Mandate Letter.

**Objective 2.2: Negotiate and implement treaties and other constructive agreements with Indigenous Peoples**

The Ministry works with Indigenous Peoples and other ministry partners to establish treaties and other agreements that affirm self-determination and support new approaches to developing a framework for cooperation and co-existence of Indigenous jurisdiction.

**Key Strategies**

- In partnership with Indigenous Peoples, develop new approaches to negotiations to move from short-term, transactional arrangements to long-term agreements that recognize and support reconciliation, self-determination, and economic independence.
- Develop a whole-of-government approach to recognize and enter into decision-making agreements with Indigenous governing bodies as outlined in the Declaration Act.
- Engage with partner agencies and the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations to identify implementation priorities and develop new approaches that improve treaty relations in British Columbia.
- Develop a cross-sector approach to strengthen and promote collaborative negotiation and agreement processes that advance reconciliation objectives in partnership with Indigenous Peoples.

**Discussion**

The Ministry had committed to reviewing its performance measure under this objective in the [2021/22 Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Service Plan](#). This work has not yet resulted in a measure that is ready for the current reporting year.

The Ministry is considering additional opportunities for consultation to develop and refine the upcoming performance measure and is working to prepare this measure for the 2023/24 reporting cycle and will begin reporting on it as soon as is practicable.

The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation will continue to report on outcomes of the work committed to under this objective in the Annual Service Plan Report.

## Financial Summary

Core Business Area	2021/22 Restated Estimates <sup>1</sup>	2022/23 Estimates	2023/24 Plan	2024/25 Plan
<b>Operating Expenses (\$000)</b>				
Negotiations and Regional Operations Division	15,341	15,341	15,341	15,341
Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives Division	18,337	18,439	18,441	18,443
Reconciliation Transformation and Strategies Division	3,260	3,260	3,260	3,260
Executive and Support Services	12,498	12,775	12,791	12,791
Treaty and Other Agreements	117,063	115,629	130,760	123,057
Declaration Act Secretariat	0,000	3,213	4,394	4,441
First Citizens Fund	1,642	1,686	1,672	1,664
First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund	9,268	7,576	7,170	7,295
<b>Total</b>	<b>177,409</b>	<b>177,919</b>	<b>193,829</b>	<b>186,292</b>
<b>Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)</b>				
Executive and Support Services	1	3	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Other Financing Transactions (\$000)</b>				
British Columbia First Nations Gaming Revenue Sharing Limited Partnership Receipts	(58,059)	(101,000)	(109,000)	(110,000)
British Columbia First Nations Gaming Revenue Sharing Limited Partnership Disbursements	58,059	101,000	109,000	110,000
Land Transfers Disbursements	32,570	34,260	18,574	22,945
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>(58,059)</b>	<b>(101,000)</b>	<b>(109,000)</b>	<b>(110,000)</b>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>90,629</b>	<b>135,260</b>	<b>127,574</b>	<b>132,945</b>
<b>Total Net Cash Requirements (Source)</b>	<b>32,570</b>	<b>34,260</b>	<b>18,574</b>	<b>22,945</b>

<sup>1</sup> For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2021/22 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2022/23 Estimates.

\* Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the [Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates](#).

## **Appendix A: Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Tribunals**

As of February 22, 2022, the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation is responsible and accountable for the following:

### **BC Treaty Commission<sup>3</sup>**

The BC Treaty Commission is an independent body responsible for facilitating treaty negotiations among First Nations and the governments of Canada and British Columbia.

### **First Peoples' Cultural Council**

The First Peoples' Cultural Council is a First Nation-run Crown corporation that supports the revitalization of Indigenous languages, arts, culture, and heritage in British Columbia.

### **Haida Gwaii Management Council<sup>4</sup>**

The Haida Gwaii Management Council is a strategic-level joint decision-making body for land and natural resource decisions on Haida Gwaii, as set out in the Kunst'aa guu – Kunst'aayah Reconciliation Protocol.

### **Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women**

The Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women provides advice to the Government of British Columbia on how to improve the quality of life of Indigenous women across B.C. through collaborating with government to guide implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action that affect women. The Council also supports the inclusion of Indigenous Gender-Based Analysis+ across government and is working to support the development of B.C.'s Action Plan to end gender-based violence.

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<sup>3</sup> With reference to the BC Treaty Commission, responsibility and accountability is limited and defined through the Treaty Commission Act.

<sup>4</sup> With reference to the Haida Gwaii Management Council, responsibility and accountability is limited and defined through the Kunst'aa guu – Kunst'aayah Reconciliation Protocol.

## Organization – Who Are We?

### Executive Member Biography

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#### A/Deputy Minister

##### Tom McCarthy



Tom McCarthy is Acting Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. Prior to being appointed to this role in early December 2022, Tom was the Assistant Deputy Minister for the Negotiations and Regional Operations Division. Tom has also held various Chief Negotiator roles for the Province, including responsibility for the North area of BC.

Before joining the Provincial government in 2017, Tom worked for ten years with Tsawwassen First Nation, including in the capacity of Chief Administrative Officer. During that time, Tom led the implementation of the Tsawwassen treaty, and negotiated several major economic development projects on behalf of the Nation, including the Tsawwassen Mills development.

Tom has also worked for the Government of Canada, including with Privy Council Office, Treasury Board, and Department of Finance. He holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy from Simon Fraser University and an undergraduate degree in Public Affairs and Policy Management from Carleton University.

## Organization – Who Are We?

### Executive Member Biography

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#### Assistant Deputy Minister, Reconciliation Transformation and Strategies Division

##### Ann Marie Sam



Ann Marie Sam was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation in June 2022.

Ann Marie is from Nak'azdli Whut'en (Fort St James) and is a member of the Lhts'umusyoo (beaver clan).

Ann Marie joined the ministry from the senior management team at the Planning and Priorities Secretariat in the Premier's Office, where she supported ministries and Cabinet on priority initiatives and mandate commitments. Prior to that, Ann Marie was Senior Ministerial Advisor to former MIRR Minister Scott Fraser between 2018 and 2021.

With roots in community advocacy and leadership, Ann Marie has deep knowledge of the connection between land, protocol, and the history of Indigenous communities. She has provided support and services to Indigenous and northern communities throughout her career, including as an elected councillor and as a school trustee in Nechako Lake. As a councillor, Ann Marie guided negotiations on behalf of her community for major infrastructure projects. Ann Marie also has been active in many non-profits, including as a leading author of the Indigenous Communities and Industrial Camps Report which brought attention to the impacts of major projects on women and vulnerable populations and informed critical changes to the Environmental Assessment Act.

Ann Marie holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Northern British Columbia and has studied in the Master of Applied Science program at the Norman B. Keevil Institute of Mining Engineering at the University of British Columbia.

## Organization – Who Are We?

### Executive Member Biography

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#### **A/Assistant Deputy Minister, Negotiations and Regional Operations Division**

#### **Alexandra Banford**



Alexandra Banford is Acting Assistant Deputy Minister for the Negotiations and Regional Operations Division within the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.

Alexandra has been with MIRR for eleven years, serving in various roles across the Division. Over the past five years in Chief Negotiator roles, Alexandra has had the privilege of working with Indigenous, federal, and local government partners to achieve unique reconciliation agreements across the province.

Before joining MIRR, Alexandra worked in various provincial ministries. Federally Alexandra has also worked with Global Affairs Canada. She is passionate about modern art, pilates, potatoes, and community-building in her backyard – including restorative justice and community block watch.

Alexandra graduated from the University of Victoria with a Bachelor of Arts, and Royal Roads University with a Masters of International & Intercultural Communications. Alexandra was raised in Daajing Giids on Haida Gwaii, and is now grateful to live and work in the territories of the Lkwungen speaking peoples in Victoria, B.C.

## Organization – Who Are We?

### Executive Member Biography

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#### Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives Division

##### Jennifer Melles



Jennifer Melles was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) in the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation in August 2019, following more than a decade of experience within the BC Public Service.

In her career, Jennifer has worked in both the private and public sectors, specializing in organizational development and strategic orientation. She has worked with governments, industry, and communities to develop creative solutions to complex problems and advance change.

Currently, Jennifer plays a key leadership role in advancing reconciliation with partners both inside and outside of government.

Jennifer holds a bachelor's degree and pursued master's studies in Public Administration at the University of Victoria. Of Dutch ancestry, Jennifer was born in Ontario and has lived in various locations across Canada, now she is grateful to live and work in the territories of the Lkwungen speaking peoples (Victoria).

## Organization – Who Are We?

### Executive Member Biography

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#### **Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Ministries**

##### **Ranbir Parmar**



Ranbir Parmar is one of the Assistant Deputy Ministers (ADM) for Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Ministries (CSNR) and the Executive Financial Officer (EFO) for the Ministries of Agriculture and Food; Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation; Environment and Climate Change Strategy; and Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. He is also the lead for the Financial Services Branch and the People and Workplace Strategies Branch supporting those ministries.

Ranbir started his career in the public service in 1994 with the Ministry of Transportation. He has also worked in a variety of roles for the Ministries of Small Business and Revenue, Finance, and Ministry of Forests and Range (MoFR). As the Chief Financial Officer in MoFR his responsibilities included financial planning and reporting, financial operations and systems, and procurement and supply services for the ministry. Ranbir was permanently appointed as the ADM and EFO on April 1, 2022, has a Bachelor of Commerce Degree in Finance from the University of British Columbia, and is a Chartered Professional Accountant, CGA.

## Organization – Who Are We?

### Executive Member Biography

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#### Executive Lead, New Fiscal Framework

##### Richard Purnell



Richard Purnell was appointed Executive Lead, New Fiscal Relationship, in October 2021. This new position has a dual reporting relationship to the deputy Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and the Deputy Minister of Finance.

Richard has more than 18 years of experience in the public service with most of his time spent in the Tax Policy Branches at the Ministries of Finance in both BC and Alberta.

Currently, Richard plays a leadership role in co-developing a new fiscal framework with Indigenous governments. A key focus in the near term is co-designing and implementing a new forestry revenue sharing model.

Richard was born and raised in the Shuswap area, the traditional territory of the Secwépemc peoples, and is now happy to live and work in Greater Victoria, the territories of the W̱SÁNEĆ and Lkwungen peoples. Richard holds a master's degree in economics from the University of Alberta.

## Organization – Who Are We?

### Executive Member Biography

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#### Communications and Public Engagement Office Director, Leanne Ritchie



Leanne Ritchie joined the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation as communications director in April 2022, following five years with the Ministry. She brings more than two decades experience working as a journalist and communications professional in and with B.C. and First Nations communities.

Leanne's work as journalist in northern BC includes coverage of Supreme Court rulings on Indigenous rights, the evolution of constructive agreements like treaties, and bringing awareness to the issues of murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls along the Highway of Tears. As a government communications professional, she spent many years in the field of engagement working in Indigenous relations, local government, climate change, and emergency management.

Currently, Leanne plays a key leadership role in government communications, providing support and education to her colleagues across government.

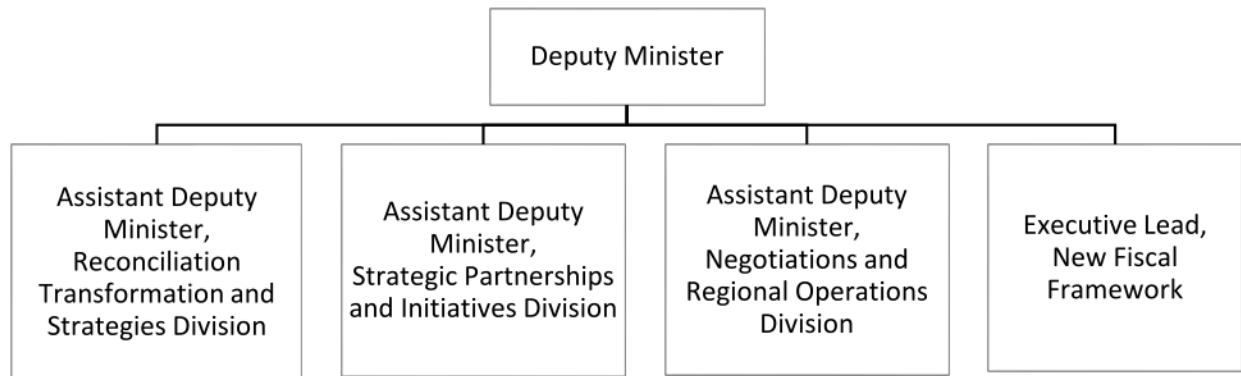
Leanne holds a master's degree from Royal Roads University in Professional Communications with a focus on critical discourse analysis, crisis communications and emergency management.

Born and raised in the territory of Tseshah people, Leanne is grateful for the privilege to live and work in the territories of the Lekwungen peoples (Victoria).

## Organization – Who Are We?

### Ministry Organizational Chart

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# Budget Overview – Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation

Funding Source	2021/22 Budget (restated)	2021/22 Actuals	Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information
Ministry Operations	49.436	49.436	
Treaty & Other Agreements	117.063	117.063	
First Citizens Fund	1.642	1.630	
First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund	9.268	8.453	
Schedule D (inventory)	32.570	0.001	
Schedule E (gaming)	58.059	91.175	
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>268.038</b>	<b>267.758</b>	
Contingency			Government Financial Information
<b>Total Ministry Budget</b>			

## Budget 2022 Highlights:

- \$0.312M over the fiscal plan (1FTE) under the CleanBC Roadmap to build capacity to support the development of forest carbon offset projects to finalize a new Forest Carbon Offset Protocol (FCOP 2.0)
- (\$1.304M) per fiscal transferred to Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship for the Strategic Consultation Initiatives Team (5 FTEs) and the Transforming First Nations Consultation Information (TFNCI) System as part of the NRM reorganization.

## Budget 2023 Invites:

- Identify key challenges related to natural resource permitting delays (joint with LWRS, ENV, FOR & EMLI)

## Agreement Funding Sources 'tools'

- Base Funding - (Bluebook/Estimates)
  - Treaty & Other Agreements - base funding for signed agreements, Includes Treaties, Revenue sharing agreements, LNG, SEA & RAs.
  - Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Intergovernmental Communications
  - Schedule D (Financing Transactions) - private land purchases held as inventory over fiscal years until a final agreement is reached; Land is expensed at the time of transfer to Nation.
- Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Government Financial Information ; Intergovernmental Communications

## Organization – Who Are We?

### Negotiation Plan

**A/ADM Responsible: Alexandra Banford**

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- The Ministry's Negotiation Plan is a dedicate contingency envelope which funds priority, multi-year reconciliation agreements with First Nations. It is a three-year spending forecast for implementation of signed agreements, including Reconciliation Agreements, Comprehensive Reconciliation Agreements, and Treaty Related Agreements.
- The Negotiation Plan allows for strategic planning to prioritize and pace negotiations to reach milestones within a set fiscal framework allowing negotiation teams and First Nations to achieve reconciliation objectives incrementally.
- Advice/Recommendations
- The Negotiation Plan is not intended for short-term, 'transactional' agreements or those eligible for funding from other sources such as the Intergovernmental Communications or MIRR's base budget. It does not include natural resource sector-wide commitments (e.g., Liquefied Natural Gas Pipeline Benefits Agreements) nor negotiations that are in preliminary stages of development where financial needs cannot be anticipated with certainty.
- Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications
- While Crown Land is the Province's primary contribution to reconciliation negotiations, in some circumstances Crown land is not readily available or the available Crown land does not meet the interests of a First Nation.
- Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences
- Budget 2022 allocations for the Negotiation Plan and Schedule D, include:

Contingency Envelope	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
<b>Negotiation Plan</b>	Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications		
<b>Schedule D</b>			

## Organization – Who Are We?

### Divisional Overviews – Deputy Minister's Office

**A/DM Responsible: Tom McCarthy**

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Serving the office of the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, the executive team including a new executive lead role dedicated to advancing the Province's new fiscal relationship with Indigenous peoples, three ministry divisions, and eight regional offices. The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation's (MIRR) Deputy Minister's Office (DMO) is responsible for corporate services and strategic planning and provides services and support across the ministry. Because MIRR is a relatively small ministry, the MIRR DMO provides leadership and expertise to deliver a wide range of corporate services, strategic planning, and programs, most of which are often stand-alone units in other organizations.

The DMO staff serve primarily as a liaison function for Minister's and Premier's Offices, and Government Communications and Public Engagement. The DMO corporate planning team is responsible for developing the ministry's service plan and strategic plan, as well as implementation of these plans; ministry performance monitoring, measurement and reporting, including ministry and division business planning; and the ministry's risk management program. The DMO also leads other strategic initiatives such as innovation, change management, culture/engagement, and human resources projects. Communications services provided by the DMO include issues management, internal communications, public information (1-800 line and internet), and writing and editorial services.

The corporate services team includes management of the ministry's submissions process and coordination of decision documents to Minister, Treasury Board and Cabinet; process and responses related to Freedom of Information and privacy management; all executive correspondence (DM, Minister, and Premier); litigation, central records and information management; and facilities, corporate training, and supply services. The corporate services team also plans and delivers the annual BC Cabinet and First Nations Leaders' Gathering.

## Organization – Who Are We?

### Divisional Overviews – Reconciliation Transformation and Strategies Division

ADM Responsible: Ann Marie Sam

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#### Indigenous Economic Development (IED)

- The Indigenous Economic Development Branch (IED) facilitates cross-government co-ordination to support Indigenous economic opportunities and to root economic sector work in the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.
- IED brings government and Indigenous rights-holders together to advance reconciliation through collaborative, sustainable and self-determined economic prosperity.
- IED works across government to ensure provincial policies and programs prioritize Indigenous reconciliation and equitable economic recovery
- IED is uniquely positioned to provide guidance, advice and connection to leaders, partners and colleagues both internally and external to government on Indigenous economic development.
- IED's initiatives support the advancement of government's commitment to reconciliation, the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation's (MIRR) [Service Plan](#) and the Reconciliation and Transformation Strategies Division's Strategic Plan.

#### Joint Office on Indigenous Economic Development (JO)

- IED is also part of the Joint Office on Indigenous Economic Development (JO). The JO was formed in 2017 and is a partnership between MIRR and the Ministry of Jobs Economic Recovery and Innovation (JERI).
- The JO aligns Indigenous economic development work across government providing coordinated and efficient support to Indigenous partners.
- The JO both leads foundational projects and supports inclusive Indigenous economic development to advance government commitments.
- JO work is informed and guided by the [Declaration Act Action Plan](#) (DAAP) and the [StrongerBC Economic Plan](#) (StrongerBC).
- The JO is working with the National Consortium on Indigenous Economic Development (NCIED) to advance DAAP Action 4.4.2 to co-develop baseline data and metrics to provide a wholistic set of indicators to measure Indigenous economic wellbeing and track progress overtime.

#### National Consortium of Indigenous Economic Development (NCEID)

- The National Consortium for Indigenous Economic Development (NCIED) is an initiative of the University of Victoria Peter B. Gustavson School of Business and Faculty of Law.
- The NCIED focuses on independent and collaborative research, building capacity for economic development in Indigenous Nations and their communities, and serving as a convenor of partnerships to sustain research and action.
- The NCIED endeavours to enable Indigenous peoples to develop their own economies and their own approaches to economic self-sufficiency, sustainability and success.

## **Organization – Who Are We?**

### **Intergovernmental Relations and Stakeholder Engagement (IGRSE)**

- Strengthens Ministry-led engagement in alignment with the implementation of the Declaration Act, and as it relates to treaties, negotiations, operations, legislation, stakeholder engagement, and government-to-government interaction.
- Ensures the Ministry's engagement with Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners and stakeholders reflect government priorities, corporate structure, and mandate letter direction.
- Supports staff across government in their work to make engagement more efficient and consistent.
- Encourages staff across government to increase knowledge and skills in engagement to strengthen relationships and build trust with Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners and stakeholders.
- Leads government-to-government relations by serving as a liaison with the Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat and by managing relationships with other levels of government including upholding the Memorandums of Understanding with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, BC Hydro, and the Oil and Gas Commission.

## Organization – Who Are We?

### Divisional Overviews – Negotiations and Regional Operations Division

**A/ADM Responsible: Alexandra Banford**

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The Negotiations and Regional Operations Division (NROD) is one of four divisions in the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. The Division is responsible for negotiating and working with First Nations and Indigenous peoples to create lasting agreements and relationships that contribute to reconciliation in BC.

Located in Victoria as well as eight regional centres, NROD's regional structure reflects the Natural Resource Ministries regional areas to ensure a strong integration with other provincial agencies and to provide presence in provincial engagements with First Nations at the local level.

NROD is responsible for all major reconciliation negotiations including treaty, economic, and socio-cultural agreements.

NROD also leads and participates in key negotiations and provides the overall administration of several agreement programs which support natural resource sector permitting and authorization processes as well as specific sector projects (Strategic Engagement, Economic and Community Development, and Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreements). In addition, NROD plays a key role in cross-ministry integration in relation to First Nations issues.

## Organization – Who Are We?

### Divisional Overviews – Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives Division

ADM Responsible: Jennifer Melles

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The Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives Division provides innovative and collaborative services for government, Indigenous partners and peoples as we work toward meaningful, lasting reconciliation; ensuring the Province honours its commitments and amplifying the diverse voices of Indigenous Peoples.

The division provides these services through seven areas.

- **Socio-Economic Partnerships branch** leads strategies to strengthen the socio-economic conditions of Indigenous people in BC, such as:
  - cultural heritage, arts and the revitalization of Indigenous languages;
  - improve the quality of life for Indigenous women and girls and support Indigenous youth
  - GBA+/IGBA+ initiatives; and
  - cross-government social initiatives such as anti-racism/anti-hate, justice strategy, procurement.
- **Fiscal branch** provides expertise on fiscal policy topics and strategic financial management of funding in support of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and includes:
  - arrangements that support Indigenous clean energy initiatives;
  - bilateral federal-provincial cost-sharing and tripartite fiscal negotiations with First Nations and the Federal government; and
  - co-lead the development of a New Fiscal Relationship.
- **Community and Social Innovation branch** leads the Province's efforts in socio-cultural reconciliation with Indigenous communities partnering with them to implement community wellbeing initiatives. This branch is the lead for Métis relations and for urban Indigenous populations for government.
- **Strategic Liaison and Emergency Management branch** develops and implements strategies with partners for a proactive approach to all phases of emergency management whether that is in active response, recovery, or planning that directly support First Nations.
- **Land Strategies and Services branch** leads research on provincial lands and provide strategic advice on land packages that will be transferred to First Nations under treaties and other negotiated agreements. The branch leads the strategic redesign of land transfer processes, and related policy and negotiation frameworks.
- **Treaty Relations, Implementation and Policy branch** leads provincial efforts to bring modern treaties into effect, including provincial ratification processes and facilitating treaty partner initiatives and the lead on treaty relations for the Province. The branch develops tools and policies that enable the implementation of modern treaties.
- **Residential School Response unit** leads the provincial coordination on Indian residential school and hospital sites in BC and work with the Indigenous Liaison to support communities in their work.

## Organization – Who Are We?

### Divisional Overview – New Fiscal Framework

**Executive Lead Responsible: Richard Purnell**

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The New Fiscal Framework Executive Lead is responsible for leading the three actions in the Declaration Act Action Plan related to co-developing a new fiscal framework with Indigenous Peoples (1.4, 1.5, and 4.49).

These actions are the joint responsibility of both IRR and the Ministry of Finance. The Executive Lead is cross appointed by both ministries and reports directly to the Deputy Ministers of both IRR and Finance. A steering committee of ADMs from IRR (NROD and SPID), FIN, and LWRS provides strategic direction.

IRR's Fiscal Branch provides strategic policy and technical support to the Executive Lead. Interagency committees with other ministries, including FIN, FOR, and LWRS, help ensure cross-government coordination and alignment with other reconciliation policy initiatives as the new fiscal framework is built out.

## Organization – Who Are We?

### Divisional Overviews – Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Ministries

**ADM Responsible: Ranbir Parmar (AF, EMLI, ENV, MIRR) and Sonja Martins (FOR, LWRS)**

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Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Ministries (CSNR) is a corporate services organization providing services for approximately 7,000 employees in the natural resource ministries in over 100 locations throughout the province. We serve the following ministries:

- Agriculture and Food (AF)
- Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI)
- Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV)
- Forests (FOR)
- Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR)
- Land, Water and Resource Stewardship (LWRS)

#### CSNR Services:

##### Facilities, Fleet & Corporate Security

- Facilities – Workspace accommodation, project and issue management for all six natural resource ministries
- Fleet and Assets – Planning, analysis, reporting, maintenance and procurement for AF, ENV, FOR and LWRS
- Risk and Corporate Security – Planning, response and recovery assistance for business disruptions and physical security issues for all six natural resource ministries

##### Financial Services

- Budgeting, forecasting and financial analysis/reporting and support; expenditure, revenue management and recovery processing and reporting
- Financial planning and reporting
- Financial operations
- Accounting
- Financial systems and data entry
- Financial policy, compliance and procurement

##### Strategic Human Resources

- Leadership Development
- Health & Well-being
- Change Leadership
- Workforce Planning
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Employee Engagement
- Recruitment Strategy
- Workforce Intelligence & Research
- Culture & Engagement

## Organization – Who Are We?

### Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Communications Office Communications Director Responsible: Leanne Ritchie

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Government Communications and Public Engagement (GCPE) is a central agency whose primary role is to inform the public about government programs, services, policies and priorities through media, direct engagement, and online services. Each ministry has a GCPE office responsible for managing the public communication of priority government work within the portfolio and providing strategic coordination of daily issues management for media and public issues.

The Ministry's communications shop is comprised of a team of six staff:

- Communications Director, Leanne Ritchie, is the principal communications contact for the Minister's office, primary media contact for the Minister and ministry, and a member of the ministry's executive team. She provides strategic communications and issues management advice to the Minister, Minister's Office, and ministry, and liaises with other ministry communications shops, GCPE Headquarters, GCPE's Issues Management team, and Premier's office to support external communications on cross-government reconciliation initiatives and issues management related to Indigenous relations. She works to maintain strong, positive relationships with reporters, most notably in the press gallery, to support proactive media relations for the Minister and ministry.
- Communications Manager, Colin Hynes, works closely with the Director to support the ministry's full range of external communications activities, which includes overseeing the day-to-day management of the shop and team. He also maintains the ministry's communications calendar and is responsible for both operational and strategic human resources in the office.
- Two Senior Public Affairs Officers and two Public Affairs Officers work with ministry staff and the communications office leadership to develop external communications products and provide ongoing communications advice and support on specific files within the ministry's portfolio.

Work of the team includes strategic communications advice, issues management, media relations, and coordination of announcements and events. A range of communications materials supports government communications objectives, including communications and events plans, key messaging, speeches, news releases, backgrounders, fact sheets, issues notes, media responses, social media, and web content.

The communications leadership team meets weekly with the Minister's Office staff to plan and manage all communications activities and communications calendar scheduling, including announcement pitches at the weekly Ministerial Assistants pitch meeting. An internal calendar of upcoming events and issues is circulated on Wednesday mornings. The team works closely with the GCPE Events team to plan and execute media events for the Minister and Premier.

To support the Minister in delivering successful speeches, an initial discussion is scheduled to seek input/direction on content whenever possible. The team aims to provide speeches and supporting materials such as key messages and Q&A documents to the Minister's Office four days in advance of the event, to ensure sufficient time for review, finalization and Minister's prep.

A daily morning news package of the top and most relevant news stories for the ministry is issued every weekday at 7:30 a.m. Social media monitoring services help to facilitate timely and proactive issues management.

The team also supports all communications teams across GCPE with guidance on Indigenous cultural protocols, including territorial acknowledgements.

## Primary Stakeholders, Partners, and Clients – Who Do We Interact With?

### Key Partner and Stakeholder List

Branch	Organization	Contact	Description	Key Focus
Political Organization	<b>National Assembly of First Nations (AFN)</b>	National Chief RoseAnne Archibald 613-241-6789 Chief of Staff: <a href="mailto:Santone@afn.ca">Santone@afn.ca</a> General: <a href="mailto:NCEA@afn.ca">NCEA@afn.ca</a> (note there is no direct email)	The AFN is a national advocacy organization representing First Nation citizens in Canada, which includes more than 900,000 people living in 634 First Nation communities. Chiefs direct the work of AFN through resolutions passed at Chiefs Assemblies held at least twice a year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aboriginal title, rights and treaty rights. Representative of Indian Act bands.</li> </ul>
Political Organization	<b>BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN)</b>	Terry Teegee Regional Chief 250-981-2151 <a href="mailto:regionalchief@bcfn.ca">regionalchief@bcfn.ca</a>	The BCAFN is a regional arm of the National AFN and represents 203 First Nations in BC. The Regional Chief represents the regional concerns of the BCAFN constituents at the provincial and national level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aboriginal title, rights and treaty rights.</li> <li>Representative of Indian Act bands in BC.</li> <li>Economic Development</li> </ul>

### Primary Stakeholders, Partners, and Clients – Who Do We Interact With?

Branch	Organization	Contact	Description	Key Focus
Political Organization	<b>First Nations Summit (FNS)</b>	<p>Executive team: Robert Phillips 778-875-4463 <a href="mailto:rphillips@fns.bc.ca">rphillips@fns.bc.ca</a></p> <p>Cheryl Casimer 778-875-2157 <a href="mailto:ccasimer@fns.bc.ca">ccasimer@fns.bc.ca</a></p> <p>Hugh Braker 604-812-2632 <a href="mailto:hbraker@fns.bc.ca">hbraker@fns.bc.ca</a></p>	One of the principals of the treaty negotiations process, the FNS is comprised of First Nations in BC and provides a forum for First Nations in BC participating in the BC Treaty Process, to address treaty negotiations and other issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Treaty negotiations.</li> </ul>
Political Organization	<b>Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC)</b>	<p>Grand Chief Stewart Phillip President Vancouver office: 604-684-0231 Kamloops office: 250-828-9746 <a href="mailto:president@ubcic.bc.ca">president@ubcic.bc.ca</a> (re-elected Sept 15, 2022)</p> <p>Chief Don Tom Vice-President <a href="mailto:chief@tsartlip.com">chief@tsartlip.com</a> 250-813-3315</p> <p>Kukpi7 Judy Wilson Secretary-Treasurer <a href="mailto:judy@ubcic.bc.ca">judy@ubcic.bc.ca</a> (604) 785-3014</p>	The UBCIC is a political organization representing First Nations in BC (largely those First Nations which do not participate in the treaty process). The UBCIC has consistently opposed the BC Treaty Process and the federal government's Comprehensive Claims Policy arguing that these are processes to extinguish and modify Aboriginal rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-treaty negotiations and interests, Aboriginal title and rights. Not participants in treaty process.</li> </ul>

### Primary Stakeholders, Partners, and Clients – Who Do We Interact With?

Branch	Organization	Contact	Description	Key Focus
Political Organization	<b>First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC)</b>	Contact info listed above for each separate organization	The FNLC is a coalition comprised of the separate political executives of the BC Assembly of First Nations, the First Nations Summit and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs. While the members of the FNLC work together to engage with the Province and others to reach agreements on areas of mutual concern, they remain separate legal entities with overlapping membership.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aboriginal title and rights, reconciliation of Aboriginal and Crown titles, children and families and jurisdictions.</li> <li>• Declaration Act Implementation.</li> <li>• Commitment Document</li> <li>• Climate change and clean growth.</li> </ul>
Political Organization	<b>Métis Nation BC (MNBC)</b>	<p>Lissa Dawn Smith President  <a href="mailto:lsmith@mnhc.ca">lsmith@mnhc.ca</a>            250-213-5171</p> <p>Colette Trudeau CEO            604-557-5851  <a href="mailto:kbrow@mnhc.ca">kbrow@mnhc.ca</a></p>	Created in 1996, the MNBC is the governing nation for Métis people living in British Columbia and represents one of five governing members of the Métis National Council.	Implementation of Métis Nation Relationship Accord II

### Primary Stakeholders, Partners, and Clients – Who Do We Interact With?

Branch	Organization	Contact	Description	Key Focus
Associations, Commissions, Committees, Organizations and Councils	<b>First Nations Major Project Coalition</b>	<p>Chief Sharleen Gale, Chair 250-305-8784 <a href="mailto:sharleen.gale@council.fnnation.ca">sharleen.gale@council.fnnation.ca</a></p> <p>Niilo Edward, Executive Director 778-875-0169 <a href="mailto:executivedirector@fnmpc.ca">executivedirector@fnmpc.ca</a></p>	<p>The Organization is a non-biased group supporting 50+ First Nations in relation to participation in major projects.</p> <p>The Organization is involved in a number of BC based projects as described in the FNMPC proposal, including: CGL First Nations Limited Partnership, NeToo Hydropower Project, Blackwater Gold Transmission Project, and Clarke Lake Geothermal Project.</p>	MIRR has provided capacity funding for the Organization for a number of projects related to advancing FN's participation in major projects
Associations, Commissions, Committees, Organizations and Councils	<b>First Nations Fisheries Council (FNFC)</b>	<p>Hugh Braker, President <a href="mailto:hbraker@tseshaht.com">hbraker@tseshaht.com</a></p> <p>Jordan Point, Executive Director 778- 379-6470 <a href="mailto:jordan@fnfisheriescouncil.ca">jordan@fnfisheriescouncil.ca</a></p>	FNFC works with and on behalf of BC First Nations to protect and reconcile First Nations rights and title as they relate to fisheries and the health and protection of aquatic resources.	Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between B.C. and the FNFC.

### Primary Stakeholders, Partners, and Clients – Who Do We Interact With?

Branch	Organization	Contact	Description	Key Focus
Associations, Commissions, Committees, Organizations and Councils	<b>Unified Aboriginal Youth Collective (UAYC)</b>	<p>Brittney Bertrand, Métis Nation of British Columbia <a href="mailto:bbertrand@mNBC.ca">bbertrand@mNBC.ca</a></p> <p>Taylor Behn-Tsakoza, BC Assembly of First Nations Personal Information</p> <p>Justen Peters, BC Assembly of First Nations Personal Information</p>	<p>The UAYC is a consortium of Aboriginal youth representative bodies and organizations in British Columbia including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Métis Nation of BC Youth Council</li> <li>• BC Assembly of First Nations Youth representatives</li> <li>• Provincial Aboriginal Youth Council of the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres</li> <li>• First Nations Youth Councils of BC</li> </ul>	The purpose of UAYC is to unify the diverse groups of Indigenous youth in BC to establish a common voice.

### Primary Stakeholders, Partners, and Clients – Who Do We Interact With?

Branch	Organization	Contact	Description	Key Focus
Associations, Commissions, Committees and Councils	<b>Indigenous Business and Investment Council (IBIC)</b>	Chair, TBD  Greg Booth, IBIC Secretariat Director, Indigenous Economic Opportunity 778-698-1623 <a href="mailto:Greg.booth@gov.bc.ca">Greg.booth@gov.bc.ca</a>	IBIC is an advisory council to the Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness making recommendations to government related to: Strategies to improve Indigenous peoples' participation in the economy; Promotion of Indigenous entrepreneurship and small businesses; and Indigenous and industry partnerships	Indigenous business opportunities, partnerships, development and investment, including LNG.

### Primary Stakeholders, Partners, and Clients – Who Do We Interact With?

Branch	Organization	Contact	Description	Key Focus
Associations, Commissions, Committees and Councils	<b>Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women (MACIW)</b>	Barb Ward-Burkitt Chair (250) 564-3568 <a href="mailto:bwardburkitt@pgnfc.com">bwardburkitt@pgnfc.com</a>	The Council is intended to provide advice to government through the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation on how to improve the quality of life for Indigenous women in BC. The Council was formed as a result of the Collaboration to End Violence: National Aboriginal Women's Forum in June 2011.	Indigenous women's issues and violence against Indigenous women and girls.
Associations, Commissions, Committees and Councils	<b>BC Treaty Commission (BCTC)</b>	Celeste Haldane Chief Commissioner 604-482-9200 <a href="mailto:chaldane@bctreaty.ca">chaldane@bctreaty.ca</a>	The independent body responsible for facilitating treaty negotiations, the BCTC's primary role is to oversee the negotiation process to make sure that the parties are being effective and making progress in negotiations.	Treaty negotiations. Process and advancement

### Primary Stakeholders, Partners, and Clients – Who Do We Interact With?

Branch	Organization	Contact	Description	Key Focus
Associations, Commissions, Committees and Councils	<b>BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC)</b>	Elijah Mack Acting President 250-388-5522  Leslie Varley Executive Director <a href="mailto:LVarley@bcaafc.com">LVarley@bcaafc.com</a> 250-388-5522	The BCAAFC is the umbrella association for 25 Friendship Centres throughout BC. Friendship Centres provides services for Indigenous people and communities in urban areas.	Socio-economic services for Indigenous people, urban Indigenous issues, services for youth and elders and violence against women.
Associations, Commissions, Committees and Councils	<b>Native Women's Association of Canada</b>	Lynne Groulx Chief Executive Officer <a href="mailto:lgroulx@nwac.ca">lgroulx@nwac.ca</a>	The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) is a national Indigenous organization representing political voices of Indigenous women, girls, and gender diverse people in Canada.	NWAC works on a variety of issues, including: Employment, labour and business, health, violence prevention and safety, justice and human rights, environment, early learning childcare, and international affairs.
Associations, Commissions, Committees and Councils	<b>BC Native Women's Association</b>	Irene Kerr President and CEO 1 888 567 2242 <a href="mailto:ikerr@bcib.ca">ikerr@bcib.ca</a>  David Miller Chair, Board of Directors <a href="mailto:info@bcib.ca">info@bcib.ca</a>	The BC Native Women's Association (BCNWA) is a provincial member association of the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC).	To enhance, promote, and foster the social, economic, cultural, and political well-being of Indigenous women and girls through activism, policy analysis, and advocacy.

### Primary Stakeholders, Partners, and Clients – Who Do We Interact With?

Branch	Organization	Contact	Description	Key Focus
Associations, Commissions, Committees and Councils	<b>First Nations Energy and Mining Council (FNEMC)</b>	Dave Porter Chief Executive Officer 604-924-3844 <a href="mailto:dave.porter@fnemc.ca">dave.porter@fnemc.ca</a>	The FNEMC is a provincial First Nations non-profit organization mandated by the Indigenous Leadership to support and facilitate First Nation efforts to manage and develop energy and mineral resources that protect and sustain the environment while enhancing the social, cultural, economic and political well-being of First Nations in BC. Mandates are often received through resolutions at all Chiefs assemblies held by UBCIC, FNS & BCAFN.	Mining and energy related interests.
Associations, Commissions, Committees, Organizations and Councils	<b>First Nations Forestry Council (FNFC)</b>	Lennard Joe, CEO <a href="mailto:len@forestrycouncil.ca">len@forestrycouncil.ca</a> 6049713448 <a href="mailto:info@forestrycouncil.ca">info@forestrycouncil.ca</a>	The FNFC is a non-profit society supporting all First Nations in their forestry activities. Based on direction from communities in regional dialogue sessions, Action Plans provide the mandate for the FNFC.	Treaty and non-treaty agreements and initiatives with Indigenous peoples and forestry interests.

### Primary Stakeholders, Partners, and Clients – Who Do We Interact With?

Branch	Organization	Contact	Description	Key Focus
Associations, Commissions, Committees and Councils	<b>First Nations LNG Alliance</b>	Crystal Smith Chief Councillor, Haisla Nation 250 639 9361 <a href="mailto:crystal.smith@haisla.ca">crystal.smith@haisla.ca</a>	The First Nations LNG Alliance is a collective of First Nations who are participating in, and supportive of, sustainable LNG development in BC	LNG agreements and job and training opportunities
Associations, Commissions, Committees and Councils	<b>First Nations Technology Council (FNTC)</b>	Denise Williams CEO 604-921-9939 <a href="mailto:info@technologycouncil.ca">info@technologycouncil.ca</a>	FNTC was created by a First Nations' Summit resolution to support First Nation communities in BC with the full integration of technologies including high-speed internet.	Technology, including internet connectivity interests.
Associations, Commissions, Committees and Councils	<b>New Relationship Trust (NRT)</b>	Wade Grant Chair (604) 925-3338 <a href="mailto:admin@nrtf.ca">admin@nrtf.ca</a>  Walter Schneider CEO 604-925-3338 <a href="mailto:wschneider@nrtf.ca">wschneider@nrtf.ca</a>	The NRT was formed by provincial legislation passed in 2006 (the <i>New Relationship Trust Act</i> ), creating the New Relationship Trust Corporation to manage the \$100m New Relationship Trust Fund.	Governance Capacity, Education, Language & Culture, Economic Development, and Elders & Youth

### Primary Stakeholders, Partners, and Clients – Who Do We Interact With?

Branch	Organization	Contact	Description	Key Focus
Associations, Commissions, Committees and Councils	<b>First Peoples Cultural Council (FPCC)</b>	Tracey Herbert Chief Executive Officer 250-652-5952 <a href="mailto:tracey@fpcc.ca">tracey@fpcc.ca</a>	The FPCC is a provincial Crown Corporation formed in 1990 to administer the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Program and assist First Nations in efforts to revitalize their languages, arts and cultural heritage.	Revitalization of Indigenous languages, arts and cultural heritage.
Local Government	<b>Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM)</b>  <b>UBCM Indigenous Relations Committee</b>	Gary MacIsaac, Executive Director 604-270-8226 ext 105 (Richmond) / 250-356-2956 (Victoria) <a href="mailto:gmacisaac@ubcm.ca">gmacisaac@ubcm.ca</a>  Laurey-Anne Roodenburg, President Councillor, City of Quesnel 250-255-5394 <a href="mailto:L_roodenburg@yahoo.ca">L_roodenburg@yahoo.ca</a>	The Ministry holds an MOU with the UBCM. The Committee oversees all policy development work related to Indigenous relations, including treaty negotiations, self-government and taxation. Their key role is to focus on relationship building between First Nation and local governments through best practices and initiatives such as the Community to Community Forum program.	Treaty and non-treaty agreements and initiatives with Indigenous peoples and local government issues.

### Primary Stakeholders, Partners, and Clients – Who Do We Interact With?

Branch	Organization	Contact	Description	Key Focus
Modern Treaty Nation	Nisga'a Lisims Government	President Eva Clayton <a href="mailto:evac@nsgaa.net">evac@nsgaa.net</a> <a href="mailto:robertac@nsgaa.net">robertac@nsgaa.net</a> (250) 633-3000	Member of the Modern Treaty Alliance which was established in 2018 for Modern Treaty Nations in BC to collectively engage at the provincial level.	Implementation of modern treaties in BC.
Modern Treaty Nation	Tsawwassen	Interim Chief Valerie Cross (election Oct 15) <a href="mailto:VCross@tsawwassenfirstnation.com">VCross@tsawwassenfirstnation.com</a> 1 (604) 943-2112	Member of the Modern Treaty Alliance which was established in 2018 for Modern Treaty Nations in BC to collectively engage at the provincial level.	Implementation of modern treaties in BC.
Modern Treaty Nation	Tla'amin	Hegus John Hackett <a href="mailto:John.Hackett@tn-bc.ca">John.Hackett@tn-bc.ca</a> (250) 961-4350	Member of the Modern Treaty Alliance which was established in 2018 for Modern Treaty Nations in BC to collectively engage at the provincial level.	Implementation of modern treaties in BC.

### Primary Stakeholders, Partners, and Clients – Who Do We Interact With?

Branch	Organization	Contact	Description	Key Focus
Modern Treaty Nation	<b>Maa-nulth Yuułu?it?ath First Nation (Ucluelet)</b>	President Charles McCarthy <a href="mailto:Charles.mccarthy@ufn.ca">Charles.mccarthy@ufn.ca</a>  Director of Operations, Suzanne Williams: <a href="mailto:suzanne.williams@ufn.ca">suzanne.williams@ufn.ca</a>  (250) 735-1305	Member of the Modern Treaty Alliance which was established in 2018 for Modern Treaty Nations in BC to collectively engage at the provincial level.	Implementation of modern treaties in BC.
Modern Treaty Nation	<b>Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Chek'tles7et'h' First Nations (Kyuquot)</b>	Chief Michael (Tony) Hansen <a href="mailto:tonyh@kcfirstnations.com">tonyh@kcfirstnations.com</a>  Chief Administrative Officer, Cynthia Blackstone: <a href="mailto:cynthiab@kcfirstnations.com">cynthiab@kcfirstnations.com</a>  (250) 332-5259	Member of the Modern Treaty Alliance which was established in 2018 for Modern Treaty Nations in BC to collectively engage at the provincial level.	Implementation of modern treaties in BC.
Modern Treaty Nation	<b>Toquaht Nation</b>	taayii ھا?wiił (Chief) Anne Mack <a href="mailto:annem@toquaht.ca">annem@toquaht.ca</a>  Director of Operations, Angela Polifroni: <a href="mailto:angelap@toquaht.ca">angelap@toquaht.ca</a>  (250) 726-4230	Member of the Modern Treaty Alliance which was established in 2018 for Modern Treaty Nations in BC to collectively engage at the provincial level.	Implementation of modern treaties in BC.

### Primary Stakeholders, Partners, and Clients – Who Do We Interact With?

Branch	Organization	Contact	Description	Key Focus
Modern Treaty Nation	<b>Uchucklesaht Tribe</b>	Chief Charlie Cootes <a href="mailto:charlie.cootes@uchucklesaht.ca">charlie.cootes@uchucklesaht.ca</a> Personal Information	Member of the Modern Treaty Alliance which was established in 2018 for Modern Treaty Nations in BC to collectively engage at the provincial level.	Implementation of modern treaties in BC.
Modern Treaty Nation	<b>Huu-ay-aht First Nations</b>	Chief Robert Dennis Sr. <a href="mailto:robert.d@huuayaht.org">robert.d@huuayaht.org</a> (250) 203-2566	Member of the Modern Treaty Alliance which was established in 2018 for Modern Treaty Nations in BC to collectively engage at the provincial level.	Implementation of modern treaties in BC.
Associations, Commissions, Committees and Councils	<b>Oil and Gas Commission</b>	Michelle Carr Commissioner and CEO 2950 Jutland Rd Victoria BC V8T 5K2 250 419-4455 <a href="mailto:Michelle.Carr@bcogc.ca">Michelle.Carr@bcogc.ca</a>	Regulatory agency for oil and gas operations in BC.	The Ministry holds an MOU with the Oil and Gas Commission with a commitment to support the implementation of the Declaration Act and further an effective working relationship between the agencies.

### Primary Stakeholders, Partners, and Clients – Who Do We Interact With?

Branch	Organization	Contact	Description	Key Focus
Associations, Commissions, Committees and Councils	<b>Business Council of BC</b>	Greg D'Avignon President & CEO 1050 West Pender St Suite 960 Vancouver BC V6E 3S7 604-684-3384 <a href="mailto:greg.davignon@bcbc.com">greg.davignon@bcbc.com</a>	Policy research and advocacy; membership represents industry sectors, public and private.	Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation Committee has two foci: policy related to the BC Declaration Act and an MOU with the Assembly of First Nations.
Utility	<b>BC Hydro</b>	Chris O'Riley President and CEO 333 Dunsmuir Street 18th floor Vancouver BC V6B 5R3 604-623-4577 <a href="mailto:chris.oriley@bchydro.com">chris.oriley@bchydro.com</a>	Electric utility/distributor in BC.	The Ministry holds an MOU with BC Hydro; with a commitment to support the implementation of the Declaration Act and further an effective working relationship between the agencies.

## Primary Stakeholders, Partners, and Clients – Who Do We Interact With?

### Priority Call List

TIER I		
Organization	Contact	Phone
<b>Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNA)</b>	Honourable Marc Miller <a href="mailto:Marc.Miller@parl.gc.ca">Marc.Miller@parl.gc.ca</a>	1 (819) 956-5385
<b>Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)</b>	Honourable Patty Hadju <a href="mailto:Patty.Hajdu@parl.gc.ca">Patty.Hajdu@parl.gc.ca</a>	1 (613) 996-4792
<b>BC Treaty Commission (BCTC)</b>  *suggest a joint call	Celeste Haldane, Chief Commissioner <a href="mailto:chaldane@bctreaty.ca">chaldane@bctreaty.ca</a>  Angela Wesley, BC commissioner	1 (604) 482-9200
<b>Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC)</b>	Lissa Smith, President <a href="mailto:lsmith@mnbc.ca">lsmith@mnbc.ca</a>	Cell: (250) 213-5171
<b>Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women (MACIW)</b>	Barb Ward-Burkitt, Chair <a href="mailto:bwardburkitt@pgnfc.com">bwardburkitt@pgnfc.com</a>	Cell: Personal Information
<b>First Peoples Cultural Council (FPCC)</b>  *suggest a conference call	Tracey Herbert, Chief Executive Officer <a href="mailto:tracey@fpcc.ca">tracey@fpcc.ca</a>  Carla Lewis, Board Chair <a href="mailto:CLewis@board.fpcc.ca">CLewis@board.fpcc.ca</a>	Cell: Personal Information
<b>Modern Treaty Alliance</b>	Nisga'a Lisims Government  President Eva Clayton <a href="mailto:evac@nsgaa.net">evac@nsgaa.net</a> <a href="mailto:robertac@nsgaa.net">robertac@nsgaa.net</a>  Tsawwassen  Interim Chief Valerie Cross (election Oct 15) <a href="mailto:VCross@tsawwassenfirstnation.com">VCross@tsawwassenfirstnation.com</a>  Tla'amin  Hegus John Hackett	(250) 633-3000          1 (604) 943-2112



<b>First Nations Leadership Council*</b> <b>*together these three organizations make up the First Nations Leadership Council; however, they are unique, stand-alone organizations</b>		
<b>First Nations Summit (FNS)</b>  <b>*Can work with Colin to organize a conference call</b>	Cheryl Casimer <a href="mailto:ccasimer@fns.bc.ca">ccasimer@fns.bc.ca</a>  Robert Phillips <a href="mailto:rphillips@fns.bc.ca">rphillips@fns.bc.ca</a>  Lydia Hwitsum <a href="mailto:lhwhitsum@fns.ca">lhwhitsum@fns.ca</a>  Technical staff: Colin Braker <a href="mailto:cbraker@fns.bc.ca">cbraker@fns.bc.ca</a>	(778) 875-2157  (778) 875-4463  1 (604) 868-0032
<b>BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN)</b>	Terry Teegee, Regional Chief <a href="mailto:regionalchief@bcafn.ca">regionalchief@bcafn.ca</a>  Technical staff: Maureen Buchanan <a href="mailto:Maureen.Buchan@bcafn.ca">Maureen.Buchan@bcafn.ca</a>	(250) 981-2151
<b>Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC)</b>  <b>*Can work with Andrea to organize a conference call</b>	Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President (currently on a leave of absence) <a href="mailto:president@ubcic.bc.ca">president@ubcic.bc.ca</a>  Chief Don Tom, Vice President <a href="mailto:chief@tsartlip.com">chief@tsartlip.com</a>  Kukpi7 Judy Wilson, Secretary/treasurer <a href="mailto:judy@ubcic.ca">judy@ubcic.ca</a>  Technical staff: Andrea Glickman <a href="mailto:Andrea@ubcic.bc.ca">Andrea@ubcic.bc.ca</a>	1 (604) 684-0231 or (250) 828-9746  (250) 813-3315  (604) 812-5972
<b>TIER II</b>		
<b>BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC)</b>	Dr. Sharon McIvor, President Personal Information	(250) 388-5522
<b>Business Council of British Columbia (BCBC)</b>	Greg D'Avignon, President & CEO <a href="mailto:greg.davignon@bcbc.com">greg.davignon@bcbc.com</a>	1 (604) 684-3384
<b>BC Council of Forest Industries (COFI)</b>	Linda Coady, President and CEO <a href="mailto:coady@cofi.org">coady@cofi.org</a>	Personal Information

<b>Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia (AMEBC)</b>	Kendra Johnston, President and CEO <a href="mailto:kjohnston@amebc.ca">kjohnston@amebc.ca</a>	1 (604) 630-3920
<b>Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers</b>	Brad Herald, BC Manager <a href="mailto:Herald@capp.ca">Herald@capp.ca</a>	Personal Information
<b>Explorers and Producers Association of Canada (EPAC)</b>	Tristan Goodman, President	1 (403) 269-3454
<b>Mining Association of British Columbia (MABC)</b>	Michael Goehring, President and CEO <a href="mailto:mgoehring@mining.bc.ca">mgoehring@mining.bc.ca</a>	1 (604) 681-4321 ext. 120
<b>Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) – Indigenous Relations Committee</b>	Laurey-Anne Roodenburg, President Councillor, City of Quesnel <a href="mailto:L_roodenburg@yahoo.ca">L_roodenburg@yahoo.ca</a>	(250) 255-5394

## Primary Stakeholders, Partners, and Clients – Who Do We Interact With?

### The Role of Canada vs BC

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- Under the distribution of legislative powers set out in the *Constitution Act, 1867* section 91(24) provides the Parliament of Canada with “exclusive Legislative Authority” in relation to “Indians, and Lands reserved for the Indians.”
- The Supreme Court of Canada has confirmed that the federal Crown bears unique responsibilities flowing from section 91(24). In its broadest terms, the federal Crown bears the responsibility “to provide for the welfare and protection of native peoples” in Canada. This broad and historical duty underlying section 91(24) mandates the federal government to provide leadership in pursuing the reconciliation of Crown sovereignty with the pre-existing sovereignty of the Indigenous peoples of Canada.
- The enactment of section 35(1) of the *Constitution Act, 1982* recognized and affirmed the Aboriginal and treaty rights of the Indigenous peoples of Canada. This led the Supreme Court to find that the federal duty is “to act in a fiduciary relationship with respect to aboriginal peoples” that is “trust-like, rather than adversarial”, transforming the fiduciary relationship and the obligations of Canada to First Nations, and making it incumbent upon the Crown that these rights be “determined, recognized and respected” through honourable “processes of negotiation.”
- Negotiations concerning Aboriginal and treaty rights fall under the classes of subjects “Indians, and Lands reserved for the Indians,” and therefore under the legislative jurisdiction of the federal government. However, there is a critical role for provinces such as BC to play in terms of these negotiations, and with respect to reconciliation with Indigenous Nations more broadly.
- Many issues that are central to these agreements also fall under provincial jurisdiction, including Crown land and resources, and provincial law-making authorities that are important for First Nations self-governance.
- BC was the first jurisdiction in Canada to recognize in law the international standards of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) by formal adoption of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act)*. The Declaration Act Action Plan, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples, will advance reconciliation in tangible and measurable ways in BC.

### Canada's role in the BC Treaty Process

- Canada is one of the principals of the BC treaty process, as represented by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations;
- Treaties negotiated through the BC treaty process are tripartite agreements between the governments of Canada, BC, and a First Nation. An agreement negotiated under the treaty process is not a treaty or land claims agreement within the meaning of section 25 and 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* until ratified by Canada through federal settlement legislation.
- While funding for administering the treaty negotiations process and the cash settlement costs is borne jointly by the provincial and federal governments under a bilateral cost sharing agreement, Canada provides the bulk of funding.
- For more details regarding federal and provincial funding, please refer to note III-L-17-3 in the

## Primary Stakeholders, Partners, and Clients – Who Do We Interact With?

transition binder, *Federal-Provincial Cost Sharing for Treaty and Long-Term Reconciliation Agreements*.

### Other Tripartite Reconciliation Agreements and Processes

- Canada also has a critical role in all tripartite efforts to explore and negotiate new policy approaches for treaty or other tripartite agreements and arrangements related to reconciliation and in support of treaty.
- Recently, Canada, BC, and First Nations have also worked through tripartite tables to negotiate agreements that operate as incremental steps towards treaty or other reconciliation arrangements. Examples of these include:
  - Tripartite foundational reconciliation agreements include those with the Haida Nation, the Heiltsuk Nation, the Lake Babine Nation, the Snuneymuxw First Nation, and the Tsilhqot'in National Government;
  - Bilateral foundational or pathway reconciliation agreements include those with the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, the Coastal First Nations, the shíshálh Nation, the Southern Dakelh Nation Alliance, and the Tahltan Central Government. These agreements do not yet include Canada, but have identified or continue to work to identify opportunities for federal involvement that will similarly lead to tripartite reconciliation; and

December 16, 2021



Dear Minister Miller:

Thank you for agreeing to serve Canadians as Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations.

From the beginning of this pandemic, Canadians have faced a once-in-a-century challenge. And through it all, from coast to coast to coast, people have met the moment. When it mattered most, Canadians adapted, helped one another, and stayed true to our values of compassion, courage and determination. That is what has defined our path through this pandemic so far. And that is what will pave our way forward.

During a difficult time, Canadians made a democratic choice. They entrusted us to finish the fight against COVID-19 and support the recovery of a strong middle class. At the same time, they also gave us clear direction: to take bold, concrete action to build a healthier, more resilient future. That is what Canadians have asked us to do and it is exactly what our Government is ready to deliver. We will work to build that brighter future through continued collaboration, engagement, and the use of science and evidence-based decision-making. With an unwavering focus on delivering results, we will work constructively with Parliamentarians and maintain our strong partnerships with provincial, territorial and municipal governments and Indigenous partners. This decade has had an incredibly difficult start, but this is the moment to rebuild a more resilient, inclusive and stronger country for everyone.

The science is clear. Canadians have been clear. We must not only continue taking real climate action, we must also move faster and go further. As Canadians are increasingly experiencing across the country, climate change is an existential threat. Building a cleaner, greener future will require a sustained and collaborative effort from all of us. As Minister, I expect you to seek opportunities within your portfolio to support our whole-of-government effort to reduce emissions, create clean jobs and address the climate-related challenges communities are already facing.

This year, Canadians were horrified by the discovery of unmarked graves and burial sites near former residential schools. These discoveries underscore that we must move faster on the path of reconciliation with First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples. We know that reconciliation cannot come without truth and our Government will continue to invest in that truth. As Ministers, each of us has a duty to further this work, both collectively and as individuals. Consequently, I am directing every Minister to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to work in partnership with Indigenous Peoples to advance their rights.

We must continue to address the profound systemic inequities and disparities that remain present in the core fabric of our society, including our core institutions. To this effect, it is essential that Canadians in every region of the country see themselves reflected in our Government's priorities and our work. As Minister, I expect you to include and collaborate with various communities, and actively seek out and incorporate in your work, the diverse views of Canadians. This includes women, Indigenous Peoples,

Black and racialized Canadians, newcomers, faith-based communities, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ2 Canadians, and, in both official languages.

Across our work, we remain committed to ensuring that public policies are informed and developed through an intersectional lens, including applying frameworks such as Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA Plus) and the quality of life indicators in decision-making.

Canadians continue to rely on journalists and journalism for accurate and timely news. I expect you to maintain professional and respectful relationships with journalists to ensure that Canadians are well informed and have the information they need to keep themselves and their families safe.

Throughout the course of the pandemic, Canadians and their governments have adapted to new realities. Governments must draw on lessons learned from the pandemic to further adapt and develop more agile and effective ways to serve Canadians. To this end, I expect all Ministers to evaluate ways we can update our practices to ensure our Government continues to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.

The success of this Parliament will require Parliamentarians, both in the House of Commons and the Senate, to work together across all parties to get big things done for Canadians. I expect you to maintain constructive relationships with your Opposition Critics and coordinate any legislation with the Leader of the Government in the House of Commons. As Minister, you are accountable to Parliament both individually, for your style of leadership and the performance of your responsibilities, and collectively, in support of our Ministry and decisions taken by Cabinet. *Open and Accountable Government* sets out these core principles and the standards of conduct expected of you and your office. I expect you to familiarize yourself with this document, which outlines my expectations for each member of the Ministry.

Our platform lays out an ambitious agenda. While finishing the fight against the pandemic must remain our central focus, we must continue building a strong middle class and work toward a better future where everyone has a real and fair chance at success and no one is left behind.

As Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, your first and foremost priority is to work in full partnership with First Nations, Inuit and Métis to continue building nation to nation relationships and support self-determination, including supporting First Nations communities as they transition to self-government and move away from the *Indian Act*. Your immediate priority is to provide the necessary supports for communities as they undertake searches of unmarked graves and burial sites at residential schools, and ensure supports for healing and commemoration to preserve and protect the rights and dignity of children who never made it home. It is critical that you lead the work of all Ministers to accelerate the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation's *Calls to Action* and implement the 2021 Federal Pathway to Address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People, including providing sustainable resources to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, and advance the 2021 National Action Plan to address missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

To realize these objectives, I ask that you achieve results for Canadians by delivering the following commitments.

- Work with the Minister of Indigenous Services to address the history and legacy of residential schools, including by continuing to provide the necessary supports to communities who wish to continue to undertake the work of burial searches at the sites of former residential schools and other federally-run institutions, such as day schools and Indian hospitals.

- Provide funding towards the construction of a permanent home for the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation and ensure it has sustained financial resources to successfully fulfil its mandate, with dedicated ongoing support for the work on missing children and unmarked graves.
- Continue to lead and coordinate the work required of all ministers to accelerate the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's *Calls to Action*. You will be supported by the Minister of Indigenous Services.
- With the support of all relevant ministers, including the Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth and the Minister of Indigenous Services, work with First Nations, Inuit and Métis leadership, Survivors, families and communities to address violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people by accelerating the implementation of the Federal Pathway to Address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People. In addition, work with Indigenous partners, provinces and territories to support the implementation of the 2021 MMIWG and 2SLGBTQQIA+ National Action Plan.
- With the Minister of Indigenous Services, continue to work with First Nations partners to ensure fair and equitable compensation for those harmed by the First Nations Child and Family Services program and to ensure the long-term reform of child and family services in First Nations communities, including to help children and families stay together and provide First Nations youth who reach the age of majority the supports they need for up to two additional years.
- With the Minister of Indigenous Services, Minister of Northern Affairs, Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities, and in partnership with First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities, continue to make immediate and long term investments to support ongoing work to close the infrastructure gap by 2030, with a particular focus on expediting investments in Indigenous housing, with over half of the funding available by the upcoming summer construction period, while concurrently working to establish Indigenous-led institutions to build housing and infrastructure.
- Continue to support Indigenous-led processes for rebuilding and reconstituting their nations and advancing self-determination, and work in partnership on the implementation of the spirit and intent of treaties, and land claim and self-government agreements with appropriate oversight mechanisms to hold the federal government accountable.
- Support the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada in fully implementing the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* across government.
- Support the Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth in the evaluation process of GBA Plus with the goal of enhancing the framing and parameters of this analytical tool and with particular attention to the intersectional analysis of race, indigeneity, rurality, disability and sexual identity, among other characteristics.
- Work with Indigenous partners and relevant Ministers to accelerate the Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self-determination processes, with particular focus on reforming federal government structures, notably to support self-determination consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Accelerate ongoing work with First Nations to redesign federal policies on additions-to-reserves and the Specific Claims process to provide just and timely resolution, conscious of the need for a fairer and more equitable process, accelerate the resolution of outstanding land claims and, as

set out in our permanent bilateral process, meet regularly with the Assembly of First Nations and rights holders to make progress on First Nations priorities.

- Work with existing and traditional Indigenous governments and leaders, whose nations and forms of governance were suppressed and ignored historically by the federal government, to restore respectful nation-to-nation relations, in the spirit of self-determination, by renewing and updating treaty relationships where they exist, including pre-confederation treaties, and by seeking viable, trusting and respectful relationships where no treaty exists.
- Work with Inuit to finalize a co-developed Inuit Nunangat Policy and accelerate its implementation, continue work to fully implement Inuit land claim agreements and, as set out in our permanent bilateral process, meet regularly through the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee to make progress on Inuit priorities.
- Continue moving forward on Self Government Recognition and Implementation Agreements with the Manitoba Métis Federation, the Métis Nation of Alberta, the Métis Nation of Ontario, and the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, and on the Self-Government Framework Agreement with the Northwest Territory Métis Nation, and, as set out in our permanent bilateral process, meet regularly with Métis Nation partners to make progress on Métis priorities.
- Support the Minister of Public Safety in their work with First Nations partners to co-develop a legislative framework for First Nations policing, and on continuing to engage with Inuit and Métis on policing matters.
- Support the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada to address systemic discrimination and the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the justice system, including the development of an Indigenous Justice Strategy, in consultation and cooperation with provinces, territories and Indigenous partners.
- In close collaboration with the Minister of Indigenous Services, the Minister of Northern Affairs and the President of the Queen's Privy Council and Minister of Emergency Preparedness, work with First Nations and provincial and territorial government partners to strengthen the governance and service delivery for First Nations emergency preparedness, management and recovery.
- In collaboration with the Minister of Environment and Climate Change and the Minister of Indigenous Services, continue to work in partnership with First Nations, Inuit and the Métis Nation to address climate change and its impacts, and chart collaborative strategies.
- Support the Minister of Northern Affairs in continued work with Inuit to improve food security in Inuit Nunangat, including through the Harvesters Support Grant and the Nutrition North Canada program, amended to make it more transparent and responsive to Inuit needs.

As Minister, you are also responsible for actively engaging with your Cabinet and Caucus colleagues. As we deliver on our platform commitments, it will be important that members of the Ministry continue to collaborate and work constructively to support rigorous and productive Cabinet decision-making. I expect you to support your colleagues in delivering their commitments, leveraging the expertise of your department and your own lived experiences.

To best achieve results for Canadians, Ministers must be rigorous and coordinated in our approach to implementation. I would therefore ask that you return to me with a proposed approach for the delivery of your mandate commitments, including priorities for early implementation. Furthermore, to ensure

we are accountable for our work, I will be asking you to publicly report to me, and all Canadians, on your progress toward these commitments on a regular basis.

As we have been reminded throughout the pandemic, adapting to change is not only something government should do, it is something government must do. As you work to fulfil our commitments, I expect you to actively consider new ideas and issues as they emerge, whether through public engagement, your work with Parliamentarians or advice from the public service. I also expect you to work with your Deputy Minister to assess priorities on a continual basis as we build a better future for all Canadians. In addition to achieving results, you are responsible for overseeing the work of your department and ensuring the effective operation of your portfolio.

As you staff your office and implement outreach and recruitment strategies for federally appointed leadership positions and boards, I ask that you uphold the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion. This helps ensure that federal workplaces are dynamic and reflective of the Canadians we serve. You will also ensure your Minister's office and portfolio are reflective of our commitment to healthy and safe workplaces.

Canadians expect us to work hard, speak truthfully and be committed to advancing their interests and aspirations. When we make mistakes – as we all will – Canadians expect us to acknowledge them, and most importantly, to learn from them.

I know I can count on you to fulfill the important responsibilities entrusted in you, and to turn to me, and the Deputy Prime Minister, early and often to support you in your role as Minister.

Sincerely,

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada

\*This Ministerial Mandate Letter was signed by the Prime Minister in the Minister's first official language.

December 16, 2021



Dear Minister Hajdu:

Thank you for agreeing to serve Canadians as Minister of Indigenous Services and Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario.

From the beginning of this pandemic, Canadians have faced a once-in-a-century challenge. And through it all, from coast to coast to coast, people have met the moment. When it mattered most, Canadians adapted, helped one another, and stayed true to our values of compassion, courage and determination. That is what has defined our path through this pandemic so far. And that is what will pave our way forward.

During a difficult time, Canadians made a democratic choice. They entrusted us to finish the fight against COVID-19 and support the recovery of a strong middle class. At the same time, they also gave us clear direction: to take bold, concrete action to build a healthier, more resilient future. That is what Canadians have asked us to do and it is exactly what our Government is ready to deliver. We will work to build that brighter future through continued collaboration, engagement, and the use of science and evidence-based decision-making. With an unwavering focus on delivering results, we will work constructively with Parliamentarians and maintain our strong partnerships with provincial, territorial and municipal governments and Indigenous partners. This decade has had an incredibly difficult start, but this is the moment to rebuild a more resilient, inclusive and stronger country for everyone.

The science is clear. Canadians have been clear. We must not only continue taking real climate action, we must also move faster and go further. As Canadians are increasingly experiencing across the country, climate change is an existential threat. Building a cleaner, greener future will require a sustained and collaborative effort from all of us. As Minister, I expect you to seek opportunities within your portfolio to support our whole-of-government effort to reduce emissions, create clean jobs and address the climate-related challenges communities are already facing.

This year, Canadians were horrified by the discovery of unmarked graves and burial sites near former residential schools. These discoveries underscore that we must move faster on the path of reconciliation with First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples. We know that reconciliation cannot come without truth and our Government will continue to invest in that truth. As Ministers, each of us has a duty to further this work, both collectively and as individuals. Consequently, I am directing every Minister to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to work in partnership with Indigenous Peoples to advance their rights.

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Black and racialized Canadians, newcomers, faith-based communities, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ2 Canadians, and, in both official languages.

Across our work, we remain committed to ensuring that public policies are informed and developed through an intersectional lens, including applying frameworks such as Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA Plus) and the quality of life indicators in decision-making.

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The success of this Parliament will require Parliamentarians, both in the House of Commons and the Senate, to work together across all parties to get big things done for Canadians. I expect you to maintain constructive relationships with your Opposition Critics and coordinate any legislation with the Leader of the Government in the House of Commons. As Minister, you are accountable to Parliament both individually, for your style of leadership and the performance of your responsibilities, and collectively, in support of our Ministry and decisions taken by Cabinet. *Open and Accountable Government* sets out these core principles and the standards of conduct expected of you and your office. I expect you to familiarize yourself with this document, which outlines my expectations for each member of the Ministry.

Our platform lays out an ambitious agenda. While finishing the fight against the pandemic must remain our central focus, we must continue building a strong middle class and work toward a better future where everyone has a real and fair chance at success and no one is left behind.

As Minister of Indigenous Services, your immediate priority is to enhance opportunities for economic recovery and to continue delivering distinctions-based supports in response to COVID-19 as needed. To achieve equity, you will continue to collaborate with Indigenous partners—by working together to close socio-economic gaps and improve access to high-quality services. This includes continuing work to eliminate all remaining long-term drinking water advisories, and closing the infrastructure gap by 2030, with a focus on building sustainable and affordable housing. You will also ensure that the First Nations Child and Family Services program is reformed and will work in close cooperation with Indigenous partners and provinces and territories to implement *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families*. In addition, you will continue to work with organizations that deliver services in urban settings for Indigenous populations that are responsive to needs. As the Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario, you will ensure the continued strength of the Agency and continue to prioritize the delivery of support to small and medium-sized businesses and support job creation in communities recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic.

To realize these objectives, I ask that you achieve results for Canadians by delivering the following commitments.

- In close collaboration with First Nations, Inuit and the Métis Nation, continue to deliver distinctions-based support in response to COVID-19.

- With the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, Minister of Northern Affairs, Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities, and in partnership with First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities, continue to make immediate and long-term investments to support ongoing work to close the infrastructure gap by 2030, with a particular focus on expediting investments in Indigenous housing, with over half of the funding available by the upcoming summer construction period.
- Renew and strengthen Canada's relationship with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities to advance self-determination through strong economic recovery and growth, including ensuring accessibility of Indigenous business supports:
  - Expand the Aboriginal Entrepreneurship Program to enable businesses to access a new, zero-interest loan when a 10 per cent advance is not possible;
  - Create a navigator position to help Indigenous entrepreneurs find programs that apply to their situation; and
  - Work with other ministers to analyze and, as appropriate, adjust eligibility criteria to ensure that programs are as inclusive as possible.
- Work with the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations to address the history and legacy of residential schools, including by continuing to provide the necessary supports to communities who wish to continue to undertake the work of burial searches at the sites of former residential schools and other federally-run institutions, such as day schools and Indian hospitals.
- Eliminate all remaining long-term drinking water advisories on reserve and make sure that long-term investments and resources are in place to prevent future ones, including by investing \$6 billion to ensure sustainable access to clean water in First Nations communities.
- Work with First Nations, Inuit and the Métis Nation and provincial and territorial governments to continue to fully implement *An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children, youth and families*, providing long-term, predictable and sustainable funding to support communities looking to implement their jurisdiction for child and family services.
- With the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, continue to work with First Nations partners to ensure fair and equitable compensation for those harmed by the First Nations Child and Family Services program and to ensure the long-term reform of child and family services in First Nations communities, including to help children and families stay together and providing First Nations youth who reach the age of majority the supports they need for up to two additional years.
- Continue to make sure that Indigenous children get the care they need:
  - Continue to fully fund Jordan's Principle;
  - Continue to fully fund the Inuit Child First Initiative; and
  - Continue to work with the Métis Nation to fund the unique needs of Métis children.
- Support the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations to continue to accelerate the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's *Calls to Action*.
- Support the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations to address violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people by accelerating the implementation of the Federal

Pathway to Address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People, and to support the implementation of the 2021 MMIWG and 2SLGBTQQIA+ National Action Plan.

- Continue to support First Nation-led processes to transition away from the *Indian Act*. Work with communities and institutions to invest in capacity building initiatives that support and advance self-determination like the 10-year Grant. Advance the priorities of Indigenous communities to reclaim full jurisdiction in the areas that matter to them, such as child and family services, education, health care, policing, tax and the administration of justice.
- Support the Minister of Public Safety in their work with First Nations partners to co-develop a legislative framework for First Nations policing, and on continuing to engage with Inuit and Métis on policing matters.
- Fully implement Joyce's Principle and ensure it guides work to co-develop distinctions-based Indigenous health legislation to foster health systems that will respect and ensure the safety and well-being of Indigenous Peoples.
- With the support of the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, co-develop and invest in a distinctions based Mental Health and Wellness Strategy to meet the needs of First Nations, Inuit and the Métis Nation, including culturally appropriate wraparound services for addictions and trauma, suicide and life promotion and the building of treatment centres.
- Co-develop a distinctions-based Indigenous Long-term and Continuing Care Framework to ensure Indigenous Peoples can receive these services in or near their own communities and bolster Indigenous health system navigators to provide dedicated support for Indigenous people and their families to navigate services related to long-term and continuing care.
- Support the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada in fully implementing the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* across government.
- In close collaboration with the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, the Minister of Northern Affairs and the President of the Queen's Privy Council and Minister of Emergency Preparedness, work with First Nations and provincial and territorial government partners to strengthen the governance and service delivery for First Nations emergency preparedness, management and recovery.
- In collaboration with the Minister of Environment and Climate Change and the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, continue to work in partnership with First Nations, Inuit and the Métis Nation to address climate change and its impacts, and chart collaborative strategies.
- Ensure the standalone Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario continues to promote short- and long-term job creation and economic development in Northern Ontario, particularly through the delivery of regionally tailored programs, services, knowledge and expertise, so that all regions, and in particular rural and small communities, have access to place-based programming and support. In doing so, you will regularly engage with the Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development, as well as with the Ministers responsible for the other Regional Development Agencies.

As Minister, you are also responsible for actively engaging with your Cabinet and Caucus colleagues. As we deliver on our platform commitments, it will be important that members of the Ministry continue to collaborate and work constructively to support rigorous and productive Cabinet decision-making. I

expect you to support your colleagues in delivering their commitments, leveraging the expertise of your department and your own lived experiences.

To best achieve results for Canadians, Ministers must be rigorous and coordinated in our approach to implementation. I would therefore ask that you return to me with a proposed approach for the delivery of your mandate commitments, including priorities for early implementation. Furthermore, to ensure we are accountable for our work, I will be asking you to publicly report to me, and all Canadians, on your progress toward these commitments on a regular basis.

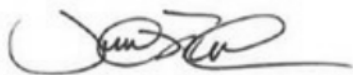
As we have been reminded throughout the pandemic, adapting to change is not only something government should do, it is something government must do. As you work to fulfil our commitments, I expect you to actively consider new ideas and issues as they emerge, whether through public engagement, your work with Parliamentarians or advice from the public service. I also expect you to work with your Deputy Minister to assess priorities on a continual basis as we build a better future for all Canadians. In addition to achieving results, you are responsible for overseeing the work of your department and ensuring the effective operation of your portfolio.

As you staff your office and implement outreach and recruitment strategies for federally appointed leadership positions and boards, I ask that you uphold the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion. This helps ensure that federal workplaces are dynamic and reflective of the Canadians we serve. You will also ensure your Minister's office and portfolio are reflective of our commitment to healthy and safe workplaces.

Canadians expect us to work hard, speak truthfully and be committed to advancing their interests and aspirations. When we make mistakes – as we all will – Canadians expect us to acknowledge them, and most importantly, to learn from them.

I know I can count on you to fulfill the important responsibilities entrusted in you, and to turn to me, and the Deputy Prime Minister, early and often to support you in your role as Minister.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Justin Trudeau', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada

## **Primary Stakeholders, Partners, and Clients – Who Do We Interact With?**

### **First Nations Leadership Council – Roles and Profiles**

**ADM Responsible: Ann Marie Sam**

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The First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) is a coalition comprised of the separate political executives of the BC Assembly of First Nations, the First Nations Summit and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs.

- While the members of the FNLC work together to engage with the Province and others to reach agreements on areas of mutual concern, they remain separate legal entities with overlapping membership.
- Members of the FNLC work together to develop coordinated approaches to issues relevant to First Nations communities throughout the province.
- The Joint Core Working Group (JCWG) is a collective table of the Province and the FNLC that collaborates on strategic direction to support implementation of the 2018 Commitment Document and associated Joint Agenda (see C. 1. Iv. Indigenous Partnerships for more information).

### **BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN)**

- BCAFN is a regional arm of the Assembly of First Nations (a national advocacy organization representing First Nation citizens in Canada), and is a Provincial Territorial Organization (PTO) representing the 203 First Nations in BC.
- The Regional Chief represents the regional concerns of the BCAFN constituents at the national level.
- BCAFN is inclusive and extends to First Nations currently engaged in the treaty process, those who have signed modern treaties, and those who fall under historic treaty agreements which include the Douglas Treaties and Treaty 8.
- Contact: Regional Chief Terry Teegee

### **First Nations Summit (FNS)**

- FNS is one of the principals of the treaty negotiations process, comprised of a majority of First Nations and Tribal Councils in BC and provides a forum for First Nations in BC to address treaty negotiations and other issues of common concern.
- The Summit's original mandate is to advance discussions with the governments of Canada and BC to support First Nations in conducting their own direct treaty negotiations with Canada and BC.
- Approximately 150 First Nations participate in First Nations Summit assemblies and bring forward, discuss and provide political direction on issues of common concern.
- Contacts: Robert Phillips; Cheryl Casimer; Hugh Braker

### **Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC)**

- UBCIC is a non-profit political organization representing First Nations in BC (largely those First

**Primary Stakeholders, Partners, and Clients – Who Do We Interact With?**

- Nations which do not participate in the treaty process).
- Intergovernmental Communications
  
- Contacts: Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President; Chief Don Tom, Vice-President; Kukpi7 Judy Wilson, Secretary-Treasurer

## Primary Stakeholders, Partners, and Clients – Who Do We Interact With?

### Minister's Advisory Committee on Indigenous Women – Roles and Profiles

ADM Responsible: Jennifer Melles

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- The Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women (MACIW) was created following the 'Collaboration to End Violence: National Aboriginal Women's Forum', in 2011, to provide advice to government on how to improve the quality of life for Indigenous women across British Columbia (B.C.). While MACIW's terms of reference (attachment 1) is quite broad, their primary focus over the past 11 years has been related to ending violence against Indigenous women and girls.
- The Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity and the Gender Equity Office are key partners and are expected to advocate for, and action, the advice provided by MACIW.
- MACIW is comprised of up to ten Indigenous women from across BC (attachment 2). One position is designated for an Elder representative and another for a youth representative. Members are appointed by the Minister based on the criteria of diversity, experience, and regional representation.
- Currently, MACIW has two vacancies, and Denise Williams will be stepping down at the end of the year. An advertisement for the two vacancies closed in July 2022. Council is currently reviewing the applicants and will make a recommendation to the Minister following their December 2022 Quarterly Meeting.
- MACIW meets quarterly, with at least two meetings attended by the Minister. Over the past year, government has sought out MACIW's advice on various issues including systemic changes to child welfare; BC's Gender Based Violence Action Plan; Indigenous graduation requirements for K-12; BC's Path Forward Community Fund; modernization of policing and public safety; and, responding to the "In Plain Sight Report".
- MIRR provides secretariat support to MACIW. MACIW's operational budget for fiscal year 2022/23 is \$200,000, including a dedicated secretariat.
- Examples of MACIW's accomplishments over the past 11 years include:
  - Direction to government on Taking Action to End Violence and Improve the Lives of Aboriginal Women in B.C. (2013).
  - Facilitating the Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Stopping Violence Against Aboriginal Women and Girls, endorsed by Indigenous and Provincial leadership (2014).
  - Co-hosting the Provincial Gathering for Families of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Prince George (2016).
  - Overseeing four intakes for the Giving Voice (GV) Project. GV provides safe spaces for women and girls to speak out about issues of violence and create community-based solutions, both on and off reserve (2013-2021).
  - Providing advice on the Declaration Act Action Plan (2021)
  - Hosting a workshop (2019) and publishing a toolkit (pending-2023) on Indigenous Gender Based Analysis Plus (IGBA+) for government, industry, and communities. MACIW's IGBA+ toolkit provides a set of principles and guiding questions to centre Indigenous women's knowledge and lived experience in decision making to increase safety and quality of life.

Attachment 1: MACIW Terms of Reference

Attachment 2: MACIW Membership

## MINISTER'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIGENOUS WOMEN

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

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**VISION:** A world where all Indigenous Peoples live free of violence and are healthy, sustainable and self-determining.

**MISSION:** To improve the quality of life for Indigenous women.

**PHILOSOPHY:** MACIW honours Indigenous worldviews and works from a holistic perspective of women. Thus, when we speak of women, we consider this to be inclusive of, but not limited to, children, family, community, nation, wellness, justice, land and water.

MACIW advocates for the full implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and draws inspiration from Article 22:

1. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of Indigenous Elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities in the implementation of this Declaration.
2. States shall take measures, in conjunction with Indigenous Peoples, to ensure that Indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.

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### BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) established the Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women (MACIW) in 2011 to provide advice to government on how to improve the quality of life for Indigenous women in British Columbia (BC). The Province is committed to working respectfully and in partnership with Indigenous women, organizations, and leadership to improve the quality of life for Indigenous women. The Province is committed to fully implementing and adopting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action, and relevant case law. The Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation is responsible for working with Indigenous Peoples to establish a clear, cross-government vision of reconciliation to guide the implementation of these commitments. The Minister is committed to ensuring this vision enables Indigenous women to achieve optimal health and wellbeing, and will work with MACIW to ensure the successful implementation of these commitments.

### PURPOSE

The Province is committed to promoting good governance practices in all public institutions. The Crown Agency and Board Resourcing Office (CABRO) sets out principles and practices to ensure excellence in

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the management of public assets, and accountability for publicly funded institutions. In accordance, the purpose of this document is to clarify structures, administrative arrangements, accountabilities, responsibilities and reporting requirements pertaining to MACIW.

## **1. MANDATE**

- 1.1. MACIW provides advice to government on how to improve the quality of life for Indigenous women in British Columbia.
- 1.2. The Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (“the Minister”) determines MACIW’s mandate.

## **2. GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

- 2.1. MACIW is a non-partisan advisory body to government and is supported by MIRR staff, including a Secretariat.
- 2.2. MACIW uses a consensus decision-making approach, founded on the principles of shared responsibility and cooperation.
- 2.3. MACIW’s work is guided by core values of community and culture, integrity, reconciliation, collaboration, sharing knowledge and safety.
- 2.4. MACIW and MIRR agree that ongoing collaboration and timely communication are required to carry out their respective responsibilities, and shared vision and goals.
- 2.5. MIRR agrees to work with MACIW in a collaborative and respectful way that supports reconciliation, acknowledges and upholds Indigenous Peoples worldviews and rights as articulated in the UNDRIP, and is in alignment with the *Draft Principles that Guide the Government of British Columbia’s Relationship with Indigenous Peoples*.
- 2.6. Working together towards reconciliation is a dependent relationship, which involves witnessing and holding parties accountable to their independent and shared commitments, and respecting and upholding Indigenous ways of knowing and being.

## **3. ACCOUNTABILITY**

- 3.1. MACIW is an advisory body that reports to government through the Minister.
- 3.2. The Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity will seek advice from MACIW on their mandate.
- 3.3. The Minister is accountable to the Legislature for MACIW’s operations and activities.
- 3.4. As laid out in MACIW’s *Standards of Ethical Conduct*, its members will act honestly and in good faith, setting aside personal interests to advance the public interest and MACIW’s mandate.
- 3.5. MACIW operates within an annual budget and broad policy direction set by the Minister.

## **4. RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 4.1. MACIW will:
  - 4.1.1. Advance interests of all Indigenous women by advising, educating, and advocating to all aspects of government.

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- 4.1.2. Work closely with and provide advice to the Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity and their staff.
- 4.1.3. Make all reasonable efforts to ensure that advice provided to the Minister is grounded in the Council's and Indigenous women's shared, lived, and current experiences, is evidence-based, and is non-political.
- 4.1.4. Establish structures, processes and policies to ensure it functions effectively. This includes:
- Articulating MACIW, Chair, Vice-Chair and member positions, responsibilities and competencies; and,
  - Ensuring its members receive orientation and ongoing professional development.
- 4.1.5. Establish appropriate committees or working groups on special topics and strategic priorities, if required.
- 4.1.6. Develop a strategic work plan that is in accordance with its mandate, and review and revise as necessary, including:
- Coordinating with the Minister and MIRR to implement the work plan, as needed;
  - Identifying and communicating resource needs and supports for work plan implementation to the Minister and MIRR; and,
  - Putting forward the strategic work plan for the Minister's approval.
- 4.1.7. Hold quarterly (4) two-day advisory meetings.
- Members are required to attend quarterly meetings in their entirety unless extenuating circumstances prevent them from attending.
  - Members who miss two consecutive quarterly meetings without due cause may be subject to removal from MACIW.
- 4.1.8. Remain in compliance with all relevant laws, regulations, policies and procedures, including MACIW's *Standards of Ethical Conduct*.
- 4.2. The Minister will:
- 4.2.1. Advocate for, bring forward and action the advice provided by MACIW within MIRR and across the rest of government;
- 4.2.2. Provide direction on their vision and priorities for MACIW;
- 4.2.3. Ensure that MACIW fulfills its mandate in compliance with relevant laws, regulations, policies, and procedures.
- 4.2.4. Demonstrate an ongoing commitment to MACIW by participating in a minimum of two meetings with MACIW per year; and,
- 4.2.5. Periodically trigger a review as required and collaboratively determine the scope of the review with the Chair.
- 4.3. MIRR executive will:
- 4.3.1. Support MACIW as directed by the Minister or requested by MACIW.
- 4.3.2. Carry out the Minister's responsibilities pertaining to MACIW in the Minister's absence, or upon delegation.

4.3.3. Approve MACIW's annual operating budget and ensure the integrity of associated financial systems and statements, internal controls, expenditures, projections and audited statements.

4.4. MIRR supporting staff will:

4.4.1. Include a Secretariat to support MACIW in fulfilling its mandate. The Secretariat is accountable to both MIRR and MACIW, and is responsible for:

- Providing strategic policy support for the Council;
- Facilitating regular email and telephone communications;
- Managing the Council's budget and contracts;
- Developing Council meeting agendas, notes, and strategic documents (i.e. annual, monthly, summary reports, briefing materials and work plans); and,
- Attending and organizing meetings and preparing materials as required.

4.4.2. Include the support of a Director, and their staff, as appropriate, who will:

- Build a strong relationship and engage in meaningful dialogue with MACIW and its Secretariat;
- Attend and organize meetings and prepare materials as required;
- Review advice brought forward by MACIW and action where necessary and appropriate;
- Facilitate the finalization of all public communications, such as reports, press releases, communiqués, website content, and announcements;
- Improve collaboration and create a service-oriented relationship with other ministries and agencies;
- Provide oversight and accountability with regards to MACIW's budget and expenditures;
- Solicit and coordinate cross-ministry support and involvement in pursuit of MACIW's mandate; and
- Review requests from MACIW and provide support where possible.

4.5. The Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity and the Gender Equity Office (GEO) will:

4.5.1. Advocate for, bring forward, and action the advice provided by MACIW within the GEO and across the rest of government, as appropriate.

4.5.2. GEO will work collaboratively with MIRR supporting staff and the Secretariat to support the priorities of MACIW.

## **5. COMMUNICATION**

5.1. All parties will strive to maintain open and transparent lines of communication.

5.2. All parties will communicate to support a relationship based on trust and respect.

5.3. MACIW will:

5.3.1. Consult with the Minister on matters of concern, and keep the Minister informed of emerging issues in a timely manner.

- 5.3.2. Remain informed about what is going on in communities and territories, but will not represent Nations, organizations, or political parties, or consult with communities on behalf of the Province.
- 5.3.3. Provide guidance to the Minister and government on who and how to engage to elevate the voices of Indigenous women.
- 5.3.4. Communicate with MIRR staff in a timely manner.
- 5.3.5. Contribute to and review an annual report – indicating MACIW’s major activities, accomplishments and the extent to which its goals were achieved – to provide to the Minister within six months of Fiscal Year End.
- 5.3.6. Contribute to and review monthly reports to track activities throughout the year and inform the annual report.
- 5.4. The Minister will:
  - 5.4.1. Inform MACIW of laws, regulations, policies, and procedures that may directly affect its work.
  - 5.4.2. Invite Council members to attend meetings and consult with Council members on matters of interest as needed.
  - 5.4.3. Ensure staff members are well-informed and supportive of MACIW.
  - 5.4.4. Communicate progress on key interests MACIW has brought to the Minister’s attention.
- 5.5. MIRR Executive and staff, and the MACIW Secretariat will:
  - 5.5.1. Communicate, bring forward and follow up on MACIW’s advice across government.
  - 5.5.2. Prepare the annual and monthly reports and facilitate their review and approval by the Council and Ministry executive as appropriate.

## **6. MEMBERSHIP COMPOSITION, (RE)APPOINTMENT, TERM LENGTH, AND CONCLUSION**

- 6.1. MACIW consists of a maximum of 10 members, with positions designated for a Chair, Vice-Chair, Elder, and Youth.
- 6.2. Members are recruited and appointed by the Minister, based on criteria of experience, diversity, and regional representation.
  - 6.2.1. Leveraging experience and understanding, MACIW will identify potential new members to suggest to the Minister.
  - 6.2.2. The Minister will notify the Council of what information is needed from MACIW to guide the appointment process.
  - 6.2.3. The Minister will work collaboratively with MACIW, through the Chair and Vice-Chair, on membership decisions.
  - 6.2.4. The Minister will provide feedback on MACIW’s recommendations, including how appointment decisions were made and MACIW’s suggestions were considered.
  - 6.2.5. The Minister will determine whether MACIW members are interested in being reappointed.
  - 6.2.6. From among the members, the Minister will appoint the Chair.
  - 6.2.7. The Council will collectively designate the roles of Vice Chair, Elder, and Youth.
  - 6.2.8. The Chair will communicate with the Minister as appropriate when roles need to be filled.

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- 6.3. MIRR and Minister's Office Staff are responsible for being informed and aware of the appointment and reappointment process and communicating between CABRO, MACIW, and the Minister on questions related to the process.
- 6.4. Subject to removal or resignation, members are appointed for a term of up to three years, with the potential of reappointment; it is recommended that members not exceed six years of service.
  - 6.4.1. On a case-by-case basis, as requested by MACIW, MIRR, MACIW and CABRO will work together to consider recommendations to the Minister for members that may exceed six years of service.
- 6.5. Performance appraisals for reappointment will be conducted by the Chair, and the Chair's performance appraisal will be conducted by the Vice Chair.
- 6.6. Members who have missed more than two consecutive quarterly meetings without due cause or without notifying the Chair, or who have breached MACIW's *Standards of Ethical Conduct*, will be respectfully asked to step down from their position.
  - 6.6.1. The Chair is responsible for notifying the Minister of due cause for dismissal from the Council.
  - 6.6.2. The Minister is responsible for respectfully asking the member to step down from their position.
  - 6.6.3. The Member is responsible for submitting written resignation to the Minister and Chair.

## **7. COMPENSATION**

- 7.1. As per *Treasury Board Directive 2/17*, the Chair will be compensated at a rate of \$350 per day and all members will be compensated at a rate of \$250 per day.
- 7.2. All members who incur travel expenses while on MACIW business will be reimbursed according to Non-Government Travel Expense Claim Rates.

## Primary Stakeholders, Partners, and Clients – Who Do We Interact With?

### Minister's Advisory Committee on Indigenous Women Role and Profile

#### Membership

ADM Responsible: Jennifer Melles

	<b>First Appointed</b>	<b>Term Ends</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Location</b>
Barbara M. Ward-Burkitt (Chair)	Oct. 8, 2014	Jan. 1, 2024	Executive Director, PrinceGeorge Native Friendship Centre	Prince George
Coreen Child (Vice Chair)	Jan. 8, 2016	Jan 1, 2024	Associate Director, Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness	Victoria
Lorna B. Williams (Member – Elder Representative)	Oct. 8, 2014	Jan. 1, 2024	Personal Informatio	Victoria
Raven Lacerte (Member – Youth Representative)	April 1, 2017	Jan. 1, 2024	Co-founder and Youth Ambassador, Moose Hide Campaign	Victoria
Patricia Barkaskas (Member)	Nov. 29, 2018	Jan. 1, 2024	UVic, Faculty of Law	Victoria
Monique Gray Smith (Member)	Nov. 29, 2018	Jan. 1, 2024	Author & Consultant	Victoria
Lauren Brown (Member)	Mar. 26, 2019	Dec. 31, 2025	Director, Cultural Safety and Engagement, First Nations Health Authority	Skidegate
Denise Williams (Member)	May 14, 2021	Dec 31, 2022	Executive Director, First Nations Technology Council	Vancouver

## Primary Stakeholders, Partners, and Clients – Who Do We Interact With?

### Modern Treaty Nations

#### Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations

ADM Responsible: Jennifer Melles

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- The Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations (Alliance) formed in 2018 as a collective of modern treaty nations (MTN) to work collaboratively and caucus regularly on common treaty matters.
- The MTN members of the Alliance are Tla'amin Nation, Tsawwassen First Nation, the five Maa-nulth Treaty Nations (Huu-ay-aht First Nations, Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Chek'tles7et'h' First Nations, Toquaht Nation, Uchucklesaht Tribe and Yuułu?iŋ'atŋ Government) and Nisga'a Nation.
- In Spring 2022, the Premier and members of the Alliance signed the Shared Priorities Framework (SPF – see Attachment 1, tab III-L) which describes a shared vision that modern treaties are recognized, observed, and enforced. Co-developed, the SPF commits the Province and MTNs to work collaboratively on three shared priorities:
  1. Establish fiscal arrangements to fulfil treaty rights and obligations;
  2. Establish meaningful participation of modern treaty nations in the Province's legislative and policy initiatives; and
  3. Establish organizational and policy changes in the provincial public service to advance a whole of government approach to treaty implementation.
- Two Premier's Forums have been held between the Alliance members' leadership and the Premier and members of Cabinet in June 2020 and May 2022. All parties are interested in regularizing an annual BC-Alliance leadership forum.
- The *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* Action Plan (Action Plan) includes a separate section on modern treaties that affirms the importance of implementing DRIPA in a manner consistent with distinct modern treaty rights.
- MIRR has provided the Alliance with \$950,000 in capacity funding since 2020 to support collaboration on the Process, the SPF and the Action Plan as well as conduct an internal governance review. All funding for the Alliance ends in March 2022 and MIRR and the Alliance are exploring what a longer-term funding model could look like.

## Primary Stakeholders, Partners, and Clients – Who Do We Interact With?

**Division Initiative: Métis Initiatives**

**ADM Responsible: Jennifer Melles**

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### Background

- First Nations, the Métis, and Inuit are the Indigenous Peoples of Canada, with Aboriginal rights recognized and affirmed in section 35(1) of the *Constitution Act*, 1982 and Indigenous human rights affirmed in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. They have distinct rights that derive from, and are tied to, their unique histories, cultures, laws, legal orders, traditions, practices, political, social, economic structures, and relationships to land.
- Bill-41, the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act) through a distinctions-based approach is opening new opportunities for more meaningful engagement with the Métis peoples, affirming their unique Constitutional rights.
- While BC's current position is that no Métis community is legally capable of successfully asserting site-specific Section 35 rights in British Columbia, under the *Declaration Act* Implementation Plan, BC is committed to build strong partnerships together to address the specific social, cultural and economic needs of Métis people in BC.
- BC does not participate in "land-based rights" discussions with the MNBC or any other Métis organization at this time. In relation to land and resource issues, BC consults with the Métis as an interested party or stakeholder, not as a rights holder.
- According to the 2021 Census, 97,865 people living in British Columbia (BC) identified as Métis.
- The Ministry has relationships with the following organizations that represent Métis communities:
  - Métis Nation BC,
  - BC Métis Federation, and
  - Métis Financial Corporation of BC.
- Métis Nation BC (MNBC) is a political organization representing 39 Métis chartered communities that is the recognized governing body for Métis in BC by the provincial and federal governments.
- MNBC citizens must be Métis, meaning a person who self-identifies as Métis, is of historic Métis Nation ancestry, is distinct from other Aboriginal Peoples, and is accepted by the Métis Nation.
- The 2021 Census identified 25,580 people reported being registered in MNBC and living in BC. Another 1,555 members of MNBC lived outside the province, bringing the total MNBC registrations up to 27,135.
- The governing body of MNBC is their Métis Nation Governing Assembly consisting of locally elected representatives from seven provincial regions, elected representatives from 39 Chartered Communities, an elected President and Vice-President, a Women's Chairperson, and a Youth Chairperson.
- MNBC is also one of four members of the Métis National Council, the national representative body for the Métis Nation in Canada that is supported by the federal government through their Permanent Bi-lateral Agreement.

## Primary Stakeholders, Partners, and Clients – Who Do We Interact With?

- On October 27th, 2021, the Province, and MNBC signed a Letter of Intent that sunsets the 2016 *Metis Nation Relationship Accord II* and commits the Parties to formalize dialogue and integrate engagement on Métis priorities across all of government through a new Métis Relations Working Table.
- The Métis Relations Working Table process was co-developed between the Province and MNBC over the last 12 months and had its inaugural meeting on May 26th, 2022.
- To date, BC has no protocol, MOU, or ongoing funding relationship with the BC Métis Federation. This position is consistent with the federal position that only recognizes the MNBC as the legitimate political voice for Métis in British Columbia.

## Funding

- MIRR provides MNBC with ongoing, annual funding of:
  - \$400,000 to the MNBC for governance, capacity, Métis cultural awareness, and the implementation of a Youth Engagement Communications Strategy; and
  - \$60,000 annually for provincial participation in an Indigenous youth engagement initiative called the Unified Aboriginal Youth Collective.
- Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications
- Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications

## Outcomes and Opportunities

- The Province's relationship with Métis peoples is moving from shorter term, transactional arrangements to a transformational approach that is a more formal and strategic government to government relationship which aligns with the principles of the *Declaration Act*.
- The BC - Métis Relations Working Table will support the development of an overarching approach and sector-specific working groups with ministries across government to focus dialogue on sector priorities.



# MÉTIS NATION RELATIONSHIP ACCORD II



WHEREAS the history of Canada has been greatly influenced by the Métis people who emerged in west central North America with their own language (Michif), culture, traditions, and self-government structures;

AND WHEREAS Métis people have played an important role in the history of Canada, guiding the early explorers and working as fur traders;

AND WHEREAS these Métis people refer to themselves, and are referred to by others, as the Métis Nation;

AND WHEREAS this recognition of the participation of the Métis people in the development of Canada is noted in section 35(2) of the Constitution Act, 1982, which states that the Aboriginal peoples of Canada includes the Indian, Inuit, and Métis peoples of Canada;

AND WHEREAS the Supreme Court of Canada has declared that Métis people, including those residing in BC, are included and recognized under section 91(24) of the Constitution Act, 1867;

AND WHEREAS at the First Ministers' Meeting on Aboriginal Issues in Kelowna on November 25, 2005, First Ministers committed to strengthening relationships with Aboriginal people based on mutual respect, responsibility and sharing as well as collaboratively working with Aboriginal people in order to close the gap in the quality of life for Aboriginal people in Canada;

AND WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia and Métis Nation British Columbia signed the Métis Nation Relationship Accord in May 2006 specifically to strengthen relationships with Métis people and close the gap in the quality of life for Métis people in British Columbia, and now wish to renew and build upon that Accord;

Now therefore the Parties agree as follows:

## 1. OBJECTIVES OF THE MÉTIS NATION RELATIONSHIP ACCORD II

- » Continue to strengthen existing relationships based on mutual respect, responsibility and sharing.
- » Continue to improve engagement, coordination, information sharing and collaboration.
- » Continue to work toward meeting the commitments of the First Ministers' Meeting on Aboriginal issues as they pertain to Métis people and their aspirations to close the gap on the quality of life between Métis people and other British Columbians.

## 2. SUBJECT MATTERS FOR THE MÉTIS NATION RELATIONSHIP ACCORD II PROCESS

The Parties agree on the following as a preliminary list of subject matters for the Métis Nation Relationship Accord II process. The Parties recognize that some work is already being undertaken in these areas and these efforts provide a foundation for enhanced work:

- » Children and Families
- » Education (Lifelong Learning) and Training
- » Economic Opportunities (Including Procurement Opportunities with Crown Corporations)
- » Health (Community, Family, Individual)
- » Housing

- » Information sharing
- » Justice
- » Métis Identification and Data Collection
- » Wildlife Stewardship

Additional topics may be added at the request of the Parties to the agreement.

## 3. THE MÉTIS NATION RELATIONSHIP ACCORD II PROCESS

The Parties agree to continue to work toward the 2005 First Ministers' Meeting commitments and when appropriate, utilize a tripartite process in order to implement the objectives of the Métis Nation Relationship Accord II.

To support this relationship, the Parties to the agreement will each appoint two senior officials. These officials shall constitute the Métis Nation Relationship Accord II Secretariat. The Secretariat's primary roles will be to encourage the implementation of the provisions of the Accord and to review the progress of the implementation on an ongoing basis.

The Secretariat will assist in the coordination of strategies designed to address the social and economic gaps and arrange meetings on subject matters listed in section 2. Each Party will have the responsibility to ensure that relevant representatives will be in attendance based on the agenda topic.

Once a year, the Parties will make best efforts to convene a meeting between the President of the Métis Nation British Columbia and the Province of British Columbia as represented by the Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.

The Parties agree that the Métis Nation Relationship Accord II process will continue to support the overall multilateral process agreed to at the First Ministers' Meeting on Aboriginal Issues in November, 2005.

## 4. ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

The Secretariat will prepare a joint progress report on results achieved under the Accord no later than March 31st each year, which the Parties will post on the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and Métis Nation British Columbia websites.

## 5. GENERAL

The Métis Nation Relationship Accord II process will also recognize and respect existing bilateral and tripartite processes that are in place between the Parties.

For greater certainty, nothing in this Accord changes, affects, infringes on, or limits existing bilateral and tripartite processes now in place between the Parties but is intended to complement and enhance existing dialogues.

This Accord does not recognize, deny, define, affect or limit any Aboriginal rights within the meaning of Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.


The Parties acknowledge the Government of Canada also has an important role to play in closing the gap in quality of life for Métis people in British Columbia. The Parties will work diligently to engage the Government of Canada while maintaining their shared commitment to progress towards the objectives of this agreement Accord.

Signed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of November in the year 2016.

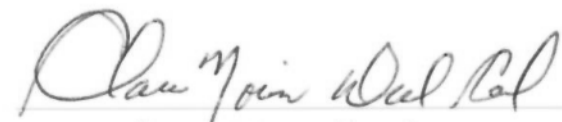
On Behalf of the:  
Province of British Columbia

On Behalf of the:  
Province of British Columbia

On Behalf of the:  
Métis Nation British Columbia

  
THE HONOURABLE JOHN RUSTAD  
Minister of Aboriginal Relations  
and Reconciliation

  
MARC DALTON  
Parliamentary Secretary for Métis Relations

  
CLARA MORIN DAL COL  
President, Métis Nation British Columbia

## Primary Stakeholders, Partners, and Clients – Who Do We Interact With?

### BC Treaty Commission

A/ADM Responsible: Alexandra Banford

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Legislative Authority: *Treaty Commission Act*, sec. 7 and 9

#### Mandate

The BC Treaty Commission is an independent and neutral body responsible for facilitating treaty negotiations in BC. The BC Treaty Commission is governed by the *Treaty Commission Act* and consists of one Chief Commissioner and four Commissioners. Two of the four Commissioners are elected by the First Nations Summit, and Canada and BC are also responsible for appointing one Commissioner each. The Commission's primary role is to oversee the negotiation process to make sure that the parties are being effective and making progress in negotiations. In carrying out the recommendations of the BC Claims Task Force, the Commission has three roles: facilitation of negotiations, allocation of negotiation support funding and public information and education.

#### Current Appointees

- |   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| • Celeste Ann Haldane (Chief Commissioner)            | 12 April 2023 (expiry date)    |
| • Angela G. Wesley (Provincial Commissioner)          | 12 December 2022 (expiry date) |
| • Francis Frank (First Nations Summit Commissioner)   | 15 October 2023 (expiry date)  |
| • Clifford White (First Nations Summit Commissioner)  | 15 October 2023 (expiry date)  |
| • Liseanne Forand (Government of Canada Commissioner) | 30 June 2023 (expiry date)     |

#### Appointments required

- **One provincial appointment is required by December 12, 2022 (within 90 days)** in order to maintain quorum of the commission. *Advice/Recommendations*  
*Advice/Recommendations*

#### Issue(s)

- The 1992 British Columbia Treaty Commission Agreement signed by the Government of Canada, the Province, and the First Nations Summit requires that the Principals review the effectiveness of the BCTC once every three years. As a result of the 2021 BCTC Effectiveness Review, the Principals have endorsed the 2022 BCTC Action Plan to support the BCTC more effectively in implementing the RRR Policy. *Intergovernmental Communications*  
*Intergovernmental Communications*

## Primary Stakeholders, Partners, and Clients – Who Do We Interact With?

### Union of British Columbia Municipalities

ADM Responsible: Ann Marie Sam

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#### Background

- The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) represents all B.C. member municipalities and regional districts, including nine First Nations members: Four Nisga'a villages – Gingolx, Gitlaxt'aamiks, Gitwinksihlkw and Laxgalts'ap, as well as Huu-ay-aht First Nations, Splatshin First Nation, Tla'amin Nation, Tsawwassen First Nation and the Uchucklesaht Tribe.
- UBCM holds an annual Convention which brings together its members to identify key policy issues and engage with other orders of government, including the Province.
- On September 14, 2021, the Province (represented by MIRR) and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) signed an updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (Attachment 1) at the annual UBCM convention.
- The MOU guides the relationship between the province, UBCM and local governments with respect towards reconciliation, agreements (treaty and non-treaty), and initiatives with Indigenous peoples and partners.
- MIRR supports the MOU through quarterly meetings with MIRR, MUNI and UBCM to share information on provincial actions that may directly affect local government interests and create discussions and partnerships with Indigenous peoples in B.C.
- RTSD through the IGRSE branch coordinates the quarterly meetings and representatives from RTSD, NROD and SPID attend based on agenda items (e.g., Declaration Act Implementation, land use planning, regional governance, economic development.)

#### UBCM Memorandum of Understanding (2021)

- The 2021 MOU updates and replaces the 2018 MOU between B.C. and UBCM relating to local government participation in negotiations, agreements and other projects with Indigenous communities throughout B.C.
- Since the MOU was last updated in 2018, the provincial government passed the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UN Declaration), establishing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as the Province's framework for reconciliation.
- The updated MOU recognizes B.C.'s new policy to modernize treaty negotiations with First Nations, as well as negotiations of other reconciliation agreements.
- The renewed MOU highlights that it is a whole-of-government responsibility to consider relationships with local governments in advancing our commitment to reconciliation.
- The MOU also reflects B.C.'s approach to local-provincial relations that include:
  - recognition of local government as an order of government;
  - the importance of local government participation during the negotiation process to promote stronger partnerships

**Primary Stakeholders, Partners, and Clients – Who Do We Interact With?**

- promoting cooperative approaches to matters of mutual interest; and
- the need for the province to consult with local governments on provincial actions that may directly affect their interests (e.g., land use planning, access to resources and lands for public purposes, property taxation, services relationships and economic development).

Attachment 1: UBCM Memorandum of Understanding



**MEMORANDUM of UNDERSTANDING**  
**BETWEEN**  
**THE PROVINCE of BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
**AND**  
**THE UNION of BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES**  
**ON**  
**ENGAGEMENT *with* UBCM AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS *on***  
**FIRST NATIONS NEGOTIATIONS *and* OTHER INDIGENOUS INITIATIVES**

**THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)** guides the relationship between the Province of British Columbia, the Union of BC Municipalities and local governments with respect to reconciliation, agreements, and initiatives with Indigenous peoples and partners. It updates and replaces previously signed MOUs between the Province of BC and UBCM relating to local government participation in negotiations and other Indigenous initiatives.

**THE PARTIES:**

**THE PARTIES TO THIS MOU ARE:**

- The Province of British Columbia (the Province) as represented by the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR); and
- The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) representing all municipalities and regional districts of British Columbia, as well as several First Nations members.

**WHEREAS:**

**THE PARTIES ACKNOWLEDGE** that the Province is committed to transform its approach to reconciliation through the implementation of the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration), and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action (TRC) in accordance with the *Constitution of Canada*. The

Parties also acknowledge that UBCM is supportive of advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples across the Province at the local level; and that local governments with local knowledge and interest, are key partners in achieving lasting and meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

The Parties recognize that local government jurisdictions may be affected by the negotiation of land, resource and economic development agreements with First Nations and Indigenous partners.

The Parties acknowledge that local government constitutes an order of government with unique and special interests in the negotiation of a range of agreements with First Nations and Indigenous partners.

The Parties acknowledge that UBCM and individual local governments endeavour to develop positive working relationships with First Nations and Indigenous peoples, fostering relationships built on the values of honesty and respect, and undertaking reconciliation initiatives at the grass roots level. This MOU encourages local governments, as supported by UBCM, to communicate and develop relationships with Indigenous partners.

The Parties recognize that B.C. legislation includes principles of local-provincial relations that includes respect for each jurisdiction, the importance of cooperative approaches to matters of mutual interest, and the need for the province to consult with local governments on provincial actions that directly affect their interests.

## **THEREFORE:**

**THIS MOU REFLECTS** the continued commitment of the Parties for sincere and honest engagement on a range of initiatives relating to Indigenous relationships including:

- continuing a process for local government participation in the negotiation and implementation of agreements;
- consulting and exchanging information with local governments on other arrangements and initiatives;
- opportunities for local governments to share initiatives for advancing reconciliation at the local level; and
- engaging on matters of mutual interest, including those that have the potential to broadly impact local governments.

## **TOPICS**

**THE PROVINCE** will share information, consider local government interests and seek advice on matters including, but not limited to areas of local government jurisdiction that may be affected by agreements made with First Nations or other Indigenous partners and reconciliation efforts such as:

- Negotiations and agreements;
- Indigenous initiatives, policy and programs; and,
- Implementation of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

The Province will share the principles and context of this MOU with all Ministries and provincial agencies to make aware of UBCM's interest in being engaged on all Indigenous initiatives that have the potential to affect local government interests. Areas of interest to local government that may be affected include, but are not limited to:

- Land management, land use planning, and land selection
- Dispute resolution
- Property taxation
- Environmental assessment and protection
- Local government access to resources for public purposes and access to adjacent lands
- Servicing arrangements
- Regulatory arrangements
- Governmental relations
- Economic development.

## **CONSULTATION AND INFORMATION SHARING PRINCIPLES**

**THE PARTIES AGREE** to the following principles governing consultation and information sharing:

- flexibility for local governments to identify and represent their interests in a way that they consider appropriate to their local circumstances;
- early notice to UBCM and/or affected local governments of a matter that may affect local government jurisdiction, including changes to the Treaty process;
- sufficient information early on and reasonable time for local governments to document their interests and views and to provide advice to provincial representatives;
- due consideration of local government interests, views and advice;
- a response from provincial representatives on how local government advice was or was not used; and
- ongoing information exchange between the Province, UBCM and local governments.

## **DEFINITIONS**

**THE FOLLOWING DEFINITIONS** are referred to in this MOU:

**TREATY:** a constitutionally protected comprehensive agreement negotiated among B.C., Canada and a First Nation under the B.C. Treaty Commission process that is a formal expression of reconciliation between First Nations and the Crown.

**AGREEMENTS AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS:** self-governance, social, land, resource, economic development or other agreements negotiated between a First Nation or Indigenous partners and the Province both inside and outside of the B.C. treaty process that have the potential to impact local government.

**INDIGENOUS INITIATIVES:** other policy and initiatives relating to First Nations and Indigenous peoples, including those focused on reconciliation efforts, that have the potential to affect local government.

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES RESPECTING CONSULTATION AND INFORMATION SHARING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

### *The Province*

**THE PROVINCE** will initiate contact with a local government in the early stages of a negotiation process when:

- an agreement with a First Nation or Indigenous peoples will be negotiated; and
- the outcome of negotiations will affect the local government's interests, jurisdiction, operations or provision of services.

The Province will consult and exchange information in a timely manner with the local government according to the consultation and information sharing principles stated in this MOU. This will include, where applicable, agendas, work plans, documents for discussion and other relevant information in a timely manner.

The Province and the local government will jointly determine the level of the local government's involvement ranging from receiving information to participation at meetings and providing advice.

Where the local government and Indigenous partners agree, the provincial representatives will assist to coordinate a venue for relationship building, such as a working group, for local government and the First Nation to discuss and come to agreement on issues related to the future local government-First Nation relationship. The provincial representatives will give full and fair consideration to results produced and agreements reached through these discussions.

### *Local Government*

**LOCAL GOVERNMENTS** will serve as advisors to the Province in agreement development discussions that affect their interests, including:

- provincial treaty negotiations, until a negotiation is concluded and the treaty takes effect;
- engagement on overall negotiated agreements process changes; and
- local government-First Nations or Indigenous peoples relationship initiatives.

Based on their interests and the level of activity of a negotiated agreement or initiative, local governments and the Province will jointly determine the level of involvement ranging from receiving information to participation at meetings and providing advice as appropriate, including those that are treaty related, and negotiations including main tables, side tables, working groups and bilateral meetings.

Prior to the effective date, local government and the Province will discuss local government involvement in agreement implementation and make every effort to identify significant issues of interest to local government and how local government will be involved/informed.

On the effective date, the First Nations, Indigenous partners, and neighbouring local governments will engage directly with each other and continue to develop and build relationships.

Local governments are responsible for defining and sharing their interests and other relevant information with the Province related to negotiations and initiatives, fostering collaborative relationships, actively partnering to constructively resolve issues, supporting implementation, and advising the Province how their interests may be addressed.

Local governments will collectively determine how they will be organized to participate in a negotiation or initiative - e.g. as an alternate local government structure - and will advise the appropriate provincial representative of their chosen structure as well as the primary contact(s).

When participating at development discussions for negotiations, agreements or other initiatives, local government representatives are subject to any and all confidentiality rules and practices that apply to a negotiation, agreement or other initiative. They may, after consultation with the Province, share confidential information with their respective councils and regional district boards, other local governments, or local government structures, and with UBCM on an in-camera basis.

## ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN THE PROVINCE AND UBCM

**THE PROVINCE WILL SHARE INFORMATION** with UBCM and/or a body designated by the UBCM on the Province's approaches to the development of agreements and other initiatives with Indigenous partners. The Parties will work together on identifying the appropriate avenues for this consultation and information sharing to ensure clear and full understanding of the processes and activities underway.

Provincial representatives will consult and exchange information in a timely manner with UBCM on issues that have the potential to broadly affect local governments, including, but not limited to:

- changes to negotiated agreement process, and
- the implementation of B.C.'s *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and relevant court decisions.

The Province will engage and provide information to UBCM on policy related to Indigenous initiatives and seek feedback.

UBCM will share information in a timely manner with the Province on emerging issues for local governments and initiatives relating to First Nations and Indigenous peoples.

UBCM will advise local government members of joint initiatives and engagement with the Province addressing First Nations and Indigenous peoples.

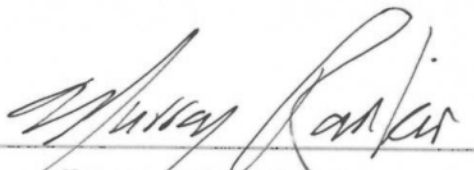
The Parties will work jointly on initiatives to foster equity, diversity and inclusion, build understanding and awareness and to further lasting and meaningful reconciliation.

The Parties may jointly develop an implementation plan to operationalize the MOU, including a schedule of meetings.

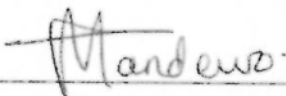
UBCM will monitor the progress of provincial information sharing, notification and consultation with local governments on relevant agreements with First Nations.

## REVIEW

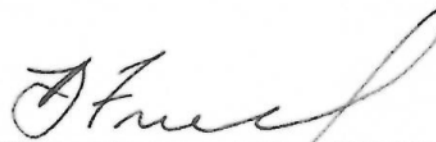
**THIS MOU WILL BE REVIEWED** three years from the date of signing unless the Parties jointly agree to an earlier review.



HONOURABLE MURRAY RANKIN  
*Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation  
Province of British Columbia*



TRISH MANDEWO,  
CHAIR INDIGENOUS RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
*Union of British Columbia Municipalities*



BRIAN FRENKEL, PRESIDENT  
*Union of British Columbia Municipalities*

DATE

## Primary Stakeholders, Partners, and Clients – Who Do We Interact With?

**Crown Corporation: First Peoples' Cultural Council**  
**ADM Responsible: Jennifer Melles**

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### Legislative Authority

*First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Act*

### Mandate

- The First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) is an First Nations-led Crown corporation established in 1990 by the Province to administer the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Program.
- FPCC has a mandate for the revitalization of First Nations language, arts and cultural heritage. FPCC is governed by a Board of Directors comprising of up to 13 members<sup>1</sup> who are appointed by Ministerial Order to two-year terms.
- The Board of Directors is supported by a 34-member Advisory Committee to represent each First Nation language group in British Columbia.

### CABRO Current Appointees

Director	Term expires
Tamara J. Goddard	November 18, 2023
Jennifer Lynn Melles	November 18, 2023
Connie Linda Watts	July 23, 2024

### Non-CABRO Current Appointees

Director	Term Expires
Shulqwilum Ray Harris	April 29, 2023
Grant Alphonse	April 29, 2023
William James Sterritt	October 1, 2023
Etimot Sharlene Frank	April 8, 2024
Mălăgius Gerald Lawson	May 14, 2024
Carla Lewis (Chair)	May 14, 2024
Addie Price	

### Appointments required

No appointments are required within the next 90 days.

### Issue(s)

- Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information

### Key Contact

Stephanie Gabel - Senior Advisor, Socio-Economic Partnerships Branch,  
 Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation  
 778-698-9694

Attachment 1: Mandate Letter

Attachment 2: 2022/23 Service Plan

Attachment 4: 2021/22 Annual Service Plan Report

Attachment 3: Board and CEO Biographies

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<sup>1</sup> Crown Agencies and Board Resourcing Office (CABRO) coordinates the appointment of 3 appointees only.



Ref. 51992

April 15, 2021

Laax Lo'op Cynthia Jensen Fisk  
Board Chair First Peoples' Cultural Council  
1A Boat Ramp Road  
Brentwood Bay BC V8M 1N9

Dear Laax Lo'op Cynthia Jensen Fisk:

On behalf of Premier Horgan and the Executive Council, I would like to extend my thanks to you and your board members for the dedication, expertise and skills with which you serve the people of British Columbia.

Every public sector organization is accountable to the citizens of British Columbia. The expectations of British Columbians are identified through their elected representatives, the members of the Legislative Assembly. Your contributions advance and protect the public interest of all British Columbians and through your work, you are supporting a society in which the people of this province can exercise their democratic rights, and trust and feel protected by their public institutions.

You are serving British Columbians at a time when people in our province face significant challenges as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Recovering from the pandemic will require focused direction, strong alignment, and ongoing engagement between public sector organizations and government. It will require all Crowns to adapt to changing circumstances and follow Public Health orders and guidelines as you find ways to deliver your services to citizens.

.../2

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Ministry of  
Indigenous Relations  
and Reconciliation

Office of the  
Minister

Mailing Address:  
Box 9151 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9E2  
email: [IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca)  
website: [www.gov.bc.ca/irr](http://www.gov.bc.ca/irr)

Telephone: 250 953-4844  
Facsimile: 250 953-4856

This mandate letter, which I am sending in my capacity as Minister responsible for the First Peoples' Cultural Council, on behalf of the Executive Council, communicates expectations for your organization. It sets out overarching principles relevant to the entire public sector and provides specific direction to the First Peoples' Cultural Council about priorities and expectations for the coming fiscal year.

I expect that the following five foundational principles will inform your agency's policies and programs:

- **Putting people first:** We are committed to working with you to put people first. You and your board are uniquely positioned to advance and protect the public interest and I expect that you will consider how your board's decisions maintain, protect and enhance the public services people rely on and make life more affordable for everyone.
- **Lasting and meaningful reconciliation:** Reconciliation is an ongoing process and a shared responsibility for us all. Government's unanimous passage of the *Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* was a significant step forward in this journey – one that all Crown Agencies are expected to support as we work in cooperation with Indigenous peoples to establish a clear and sustainable path to lasting reconciliation. True reconciliation will take time and ongoing commitment to work with Indigenous peoples as they move towards self-determination. Guiding these efforts, Crown agencies must also remain focused on creating opportunities that implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission through your mandate.
- **Equity and anti-racism:** Our province's history, identity and strength are rooted in its diverse population. Yet racialized and marginalized people face historic and present-day barriers that limit their full participation in their communities, workplaces, government and their lives. The public sector has a moral and ethical responsibility to tackle systemic discrimination in all its forms – and every public sector organization has a role in this work. All Crowns are expected to adopt the Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) lens to ensure equity is reflected in your operations and programs. Similarly, appointments resulting in strong public sector boards that reflect the diversity of British Columbia will help achieve effective and citizen-centred governance.

.../3

- **A better future through fighting climate change:** Announced in December 2018, the CleanBC climate action plan puts our province on the path to a cleaner, better future by building a low-carbon economy with new clean energy jobs and opportunities, protecting our clean air, land and water and supporting communities to prepare for carbon impacts. As part of the accountability framework established in CleanBC, and consistent with the *Climate Change Accountability Act*, please ensure your organization aligns operations with targets and strategies for minimizing greenhouse gas emissions and managing climate change risk, including the CleanBC target of a 50% reduction in public sector building emissions and a 40% reduction in public sector fleet emissions by 2030. Your organization is expected to work with government to report out on these plans and activities as required by legislation.
- **A strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone:** I expect that you will identify new and flexible ways to achieve your mandate and serve the citizens of British Columbia within the guidelines established by the Provincial Health Officer and considering best practices for conducting business during the pandemic. Collectively, our public sector will continue to support British Columbians through the pandemic and economic recovery by investing in health care, getting people back to work, helping businesses and communities, and building the clean, innovative economy of the future. As a public sector organization, I expect that you will consider how your decisions and operations reflect environmental, social and governance factors and contribute to this future.

The Crown Agencies and Board Resourcing Office (CABRO), with the Ministry of Finance, will continue to support you and your board on recruitment and appointments as needed, and will be expanding professional development opportunities in 2021/22. This will include online training and information about provincial government initiatives to foster engaged and informed boards.

Under the *First People's Heritage, Language and Culture Act*, government directed the First Peoples' Cultural Council to protect, revitalize and enhance First Nations' heritage, language, culture, and arts. Working together, I expect that you will make substantive progress on the following priorities and incorporate them in the goals, objectives and performance measures in your 2021/22 Service Plan:

.../4

- Support Indigenous communities to reach goals through delivering successful language, arts, and cultural heritage programs by providing funding grants, coaching, resources, professional development and training.
- Provide advice and increase collaboration with B.C. government ministries whose mandates intersect with FPCC's on the policy and actions required to meet government's commitments to implement the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action that relate to languages, culture, arts, and heritage.
- Design and implement Indigenous language, arts, and cultural heritage programming that will most effectively transmit cultural knowledge to new generations and achieve mandate.
- Continue to raise the profile of the importance of protecting, revitalizing, and enhancing Indigenous languages, arts, and cultural heritage in B.C. by promoting the work of the FPCC, community partners, and other stakeholders around the province and across Canada.

Each board member is required to sign the Mandate Letter to acknowledge government's direction to your organization. The signed Mandate Letter is to be posted publicly on your organization's website in spring 2021.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and your Board colleagues to build a better B.C.

Sincerely,



---

Honourable Murray Rankin  
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Date: April 15, 2021

.../5

CC: Honourable John Horgan  
Premier

Lori Wanamaker, Deputy Minister  
Premier's Office

Heather Wood, Deputy Minister and Secretary to Treasury Board  
Ministry of Finance

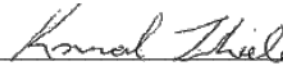
Douglas S. Scott, Deputy Minister, Crown Agencies Secretariat  
Ministry of Finance

Doug Caul, Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation



Laax Lo'op Cynthia Jensen Fisk  
Board Chair  
First Peoples' Cultural Council

Date: April 19, 2021



Konrad Thiele  
Board Member  
First Peoples' Cultural Council

Date: April 19, 2021



Jaskwaan Amanda Bedard  
Board Member  
First Peoples' Cultural Council

Date: April 19, 2021



Carla Lewis  
Board Member  
First Peoples' Cultural Council

Date: April 19, 2021



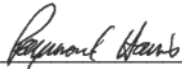
Connie Linda Watts  
Board Member  
First Peoples' Cultural Council

Date: April 19, 2021



Málágius Gerald Lawson  
Board Member  
First Peoples' Cultural Council

Date: April 19, 2021



Shulqwilum Ray Harris  
Board Member  
First Peoples' Cultural Council

Date: April 19, 2021



Grant Alphonse  
Board Member  
First Peoples' Cultural Council

Date: April 19, 2021



Edōsdi Judith Thompson  
Board Member  
First Peoples' Cultural Council

Date: April 19, 2021



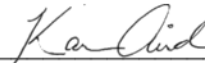
T'lalis Mike Willie  
Board Member  
First Peoples' Cultural Council

Date: April 19, 2021



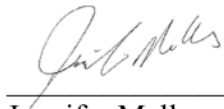
Etimot Sharlene Frank  
Board Member  
First Peoples' Cultural Council

Date: April 19, 2021



Karen Aird  
Acting/Chief Executive Officer  
First Peoples' Cultural Council

Date: April 19, 2021

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jennifer Melles", written in dark ink.

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Jennifer Melles  
Board Member  
First Peoples' Cultural Council

Date: April 15 2021

# **First Peoples' Cultural Council**

**2022/23 – 2024/25**

## **Service Plan**

**February 2022**



For more information on the First Peoples' Cultural Council contact:

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[www.fpcc.ca](http://www.fpcc.ca)

Published by the First Peoples' Cultural Council

## Board Chair's Accountability Statement



The 2022/23 – 2024/25 First Peoples' Cultural Council Service Plan was prepared under the Board's direction in accordance with the Budget Transparency and Accountability Act. The plan is consistent with government's strategic priorities and fiscal plan. The Board is accountable for the contents of the plan, including what has been included in the plan and how it has been reported. The Board is responsible for the validity and reliability of the information included in the plan.

All significant assumptions, policy decisions, events and identified risks, as of January 28, 2022, have been considered in preparing the plan. The performance measures presented are consistent with the Budget Transparency and Accountability Act, First Peoples'

Cultural Council's mandate and goals, and focus on aspects critical to the organization's performance. The targets in this plan have been determined based on an assessment of First Peoples' Cultural Council's operating environment, forecast conditions, risk assessment and past performance.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Carla Lewis".

Carla Lewis  
Board Chair

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## Strategic Direction and Alignment with Government Priorities

In 2022/2023, public sector organizations will continue to align with and support the Government of British Columbia efforts in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic with a focus on protecting the health, social and economic well-being of British Columbians. Building on our economic, environmental, and social strengths while looking to seize opportunities to improve outcomes for all British Columbians will be an important aspect of each Crown Agency's work as we respond to COVID-19 and recover from devastating floods and wildfires. The policies, programs and projects developed over the course of this service plan period will align with the five foundational principles established by Government in 2020: putting people first, working toward lasting and meaningful reconciliation, supporting equity and anti-racism, ensuring a better future through fighting climate change and meeting our greenhouse gas reduction targets, and supporting a strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone.

This 2022/23 service plan outlines how First Peoples' Cultural Council will support the government's priorities including the foundational principles listed above and selected action items identified in the most recent [Crown Agency Mandate Letter](#).

This direction influences operations for the First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC). As an First Nations-led Crown Corporation with a legislated mandate to protect, revitalize and enhance First Nations heritage, language, culture and arts, as set out in the [First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Act](#) and the [2021-22 Mandate Letter](#), FPCC provides a model to support lasting and meaningful reconciliation. The FPCC Advisory Committee provides for representation from each First Nations language group in B.C.

FPCC's work aligns with the provincial government priority, as stated in the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation mandate letter, to "extend support for cultural preservation and revitalization by funding key projects designed to preserve and respect Indigenous cultures, including the retention and revitalization of First Nations languages."

Through its work FPCC addresses reconciliation, equity and anti-racism priorities by helping First Nations rebuild Indigenous cultural systems that were disrupted by genocide. It provides funding, training, resources, coaching, technology and project management support to assist communities with this critical work.

FPCC supports a better future through fighting climate change. For example, in partnership with the B.C. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, FPCC pilot projects examined the impacts of climate change on cultural heritage for eight First Nations communities.

In 2022/23, FPCC will continue to contribute to COVID recovery and put people first by providing employment, funding and programs that serve people in First Nations communities throughout B.C. and support a strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone.

## Operating Environment

The following economic, social, and political trends impact FPCC's operating environment:

**Funding Uncertainty:** FPCC receives funding from the Province to support operations as well as funding from the federal government, the First Peoples' Cultural Foundation, and other philanthropic and non-governmental organizations to support the organization's mandate. The \$50 million in language funding that B.C. provided to FPCC in 2018 has supported language programs for First Nations throughout B.C., however that funding is now expended. The Province is providing operating funding in 2022/23 of \$7.6 million (up from \$1.051 million in 2021/22) to maintain current staff levels and operations, which will support continued momentum for revitalization of languages, arts and cultural heritage with First Nations communities while long-term funding options are developed.

FPCC is subject to year-to-year fluctuations in funding from all sources. This impacts the certainty First Nations communities need to support a long-term strategic approach to revitalization and retain skilled staff. To address funding challenges, FPCC developed a long-term funding strategy in 2020 and has collaboratively engaged with the Province, the federal government, the First People's Cultural Foundation, and others to secure sustainable, predictable, long-term funding to support work in communities. This work is ongoing and remains the organization's priority for the period covered by this service plan. As FPCC is subject to year-to-year fluctuations in funding, revenue cannot be accurately anticipated. As such, the targets in this service plan are based on estimates.

**Labour Market Challenges:** COVID-19 has exacerbated a strained and competitive labour market. Recruiting and retaining talent is increasingly challenging, particularly as more organizations seek Indigenous employees who can support reconciliation. This places pressure on staff well-being and organizational efficiency, and weakens FPCC's capacity to remain current and competitive, particularly in the technology sector. Historically, annual compensation at FPCC has lagged behind the B.C. public service and other employers in the broader public sector. These factors, combined funding challenges, growing inflation and higher housing costs, impact recruitment and retention for FPCC. To respond to these challenges, FPCC creates employment pathways for emerging Indigenous arts, language and cultural heritage professionals through its community outreach and professional development programs.

**Residential School Findings:** Discoveries of unmarked graves at residential school sites across Canada is traumatizing for survivors and their families. Survivors have stated that investing in the rebuilding of cultural systems must be a priority. FPCC cultural revitalization programs serve as medicine, uplifting communities as they work to ensure the impacts of cultural genocide are addressed.

**Indigenous Rights Legislation and Policy:** The Province of B.C. passed legislation implementing the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) in 2019 and the Government of Canada passed similar legislation in 2021. The provincial government has committed to shifting away from short-term transactional arrangements to long-term agreements that recognize and support reconciliation, self-

determination and economic independence. These commitments align with FPCC's work as a First Nations-led organization.

**Generational Challenges:** Most First Nations fluent speakers, Knowledge Holders and traditional artists are older. The FPCC *Report on the Status of B.C. First Nations Languages* 2018 identifies 52% of fluent speakers are age 65 or older, heightening the urgency of addressing the FPCC mandate.

**COVID-19 Pandemic:** The COVID-19 pandemic has heightened risk for remaining fluent speakers, Elders and Knowledge Keepers. With a commitment in rebuilding community cultural infrastructure, FPCC has prioritised maintaining funding and jobs in communities. FPCC staff and community partners continually adapt, collaborating to design virtual projects in innovative ways that support cultural revitalization without compromising safety and wellness. Remote work conditions limit some processes, but also open pathways for FPCC to reach a broader audience with virtual programs. In addition, in February 2021 FPCC received \$4 million in Community Economic Infrastructure Recovery Program funding from the Province to support First Nations-led infrastructure projects. FPCC received more than 100 submissions and 11 projects were selected to receive funding over a three-year period, with project completion by March 2023.

**Climate Change:** First Nations heritage sites, medicines and other plant resources are threatened by climate change. Wildfires, heat waves, floods and other climate events impact the ability of Indigenous communities to carry out land-based projects. FPCC anticipates the growing effects of climate change on First Nations arts and cultures over time. A 2020 Memorandum of Understanding between FPCC and the B.C. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy supports First Nations communities in identifying and implementing mitigation strategies related to the impacts of climate change on their cultural heritage. As a result, FPCC hopes to see increased opportunities to support First Nations communities in efforts to protect sites and develop monitoring, adaptation and intervention strategies.

**Collaborative Relationships:** FPCC's overarching operating environment is defined by relationships. FPCC is a First Nations-led Crown corporation guided by Indigenous community partners and the wisdom shared by Elders and Knowledge Keepers. FPCC collaborates closely with government and other supporters whose investments sustain this work. For example, the B.C. 150 Time Immemorial Program supports projects to educate people about B.C.'s colonial past, advance reconciliation, and promote inclusivity and diversity for the province's future. The First People's Cultural Foundation will manage the program in partnership with FPCC.

## Performance Planning

**Goal 1: Sustain and invest in the lasting vitality of B.C. First Nations languages through successful language revitalization strategies**

**Objective 1.1: Document every B.C. First Nations language and ensure every First Nations person has access to their language via FirstVoices.com**

### Key Strategies

- Support B.C. First Nations communities to document their languages by providing funding and training in the technical skills required to create and build language archives.
- Enhance usability of FirstVoices.com through technology improvements.
- Increase opportunities for communities to use their data to develop interactive tools and resources for language learning.
- Archive B.C. First Nations language resources through digitization.

Performance Measure(s)	2018/19 Baseline	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
1.1a Number of new data points added to FirstVoices.com <sup>1</sup>	13,493	40,000	38,000	37,000	30,000
1.1b Number of language resources digitized <sup>2</sup>	275	1,125	1,125	2,000	2,000

Data Source: FirstVoices Department, Language Department, FPCC

<sup>1</sup> Data points include words, phrases, songs, stories and supporting media (audio, visual, images) and any other content that is created by communities to represent or support their archives on FirstVoices.com.

<sup>2</sup> Resources include audio-visual sources and textual documents.

### Linking Performance Measure to Objective

1.1a. FirstVoices.com provides a means for B.C. First Nations to document their languages and share resources with people living on and off-reserve. FPCC grants provide funding for language documentation that can be used to teach and learn languages. The total number of data points is one indicator of the rate at which languages are being documented. It is imperative that First Nations curate and manage their own language data to support of cultural sovereignty and self-governance.

1.1b. FPCC helps communities to digitize audio, video and textual language resources for use by learners, teachers and speakers. This helps communities avoid re-doing thousands of hours of documentation work by allowing them to digitize paper resources or outdated technology into useable formats.

### Discussion

1.1a. FPCC anticipates that in the coming years FirstVoices users will complete uploads of existing data points and shift focus to begin to develop more substantive content, such as stories

and interactive applications. As a result, the target for the number of data points added annually will decline in future.

1.1b. The forecast and targets for FPCC's digitization program have been revised upwards from the last service plan to reflect an increase in digitization work during COVID-19.

## Objective 1.2: Increase the number of fluent speakers of B.C. First Nations languages

### Key Strategies

- Develop programs and provide funding to support community-based language immersion programs that create new semi-fluent and fluent speakers of B.C. First Nations languages.
- Support communities to implement language immersion programs through training, coaching, tools and resources.

Performance Measure(s)	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
1.2a Increase in language proficiency for Mentor-Apprentice Program participants	83%	83%	83%	83%

Data source: Self-evaluation by Mentor-Apprentice participants.

Performance Measure(s)	2018/19 Baseline	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
1.2b Number of language immersion opportunities funded by FPCC	586	3,000	2,500	3,500	3,500

Data source: Language Department, FPCC.

### Linking Performance Measures to Objective

1.2a. This performance measure is calculated by comparing apprentices' results at the start and end of the program using the Language Learning Assessment Tool.

1.2b. This performance measure includes the number of language learners participating in immersion programs funded by FPCC program streams. The number is inclusive of learners only. Immersion opportunities are critical to language acquisition and have been shown to be effective in creating language fluency.

### Discussion

1.2a. The forecast and 2022/23 target have been adjusted upward compared to the 2021/22 service plan as a result of a new evaluation tool and reflect 2020/21 actuals.

1.2b. The 2021/22 forecast is somewhat higher than expected because additional learners joined virtual options for immersion programming. FPCC targets reflect a return to in-person programming.

### Objective 1.3: Mobilize community capacity to carry out the work of language revitalization

#### Key Strategies

- Employ regional language coaches to work directly with communities on the development of language revitalization community plans and initiatives.
- Develop new resources and tools to support communities with language planning and capacity.
- Fund language programs that support communities to develop resources for language revitalization.

Performance Measure(s)	2018/19 Baseline	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
1.3a Number of language resources developed by communities with FPCC funding	593	1,000	500	1,000	1,000
1.3b Number of communities developing language revitalization plans with FPCC support <sup>2</sup>	0	25	30	35	35

Data source: Language Department, FPCC.

#### Linking Performance Measures to Objective

1.3a. Language resources take many forms, such as stories, songs, books, teaching resources, dictionaries and more. This is linked to objective 1.3 because the more resources that a community has to help them in learning and documenting their language, the greater their capacity will be to support language revitalization.

1.3b. A language revitalization plan is a document that captures a community's unique long-term vision for their language, including their specific goals and anticipated actions. This performance measure is linked to objective 1.3 because a community with a clear language plan will have increased capacity to implement language revitalization.

#### Discussion

1.3a. The 2021/22 forecast has been revised upwards compared to the 2021/22 service plan to reflect 2020/21 actuals; some communities shifted to creating resources when they could not have participatory activities. The forecasts have been revised compared to the 2021/22 service plan to reflect estimated funding.

1.3b. Targets have been revised upwards from the previous service plan to reflect estimated funding.

## Goal 2: Sustain and invest in the lasting vitality of First Nations arts, culture and heritage in B.C.

### Objective 2.1: Support the development of Indigenous art forms (traditional and contemporary) through funding Indigenous artists and investing in the growth of community capacity for arts and infrastructure

#### Key Strategies

- Provide funding for Indigenous artists practicing a variety of art forms.
- Provide training, resources and funding for the development of Indigenous arts infrastructure.
- Fund programs that keep traditional arts alive by transferring knowledge of Indigenous arts, culture and heritage between individuals and groups.

Performance Measure(s)	2018/19 Baseline	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
2.1a Number of individuals involved in FPCC arts projects	1,500	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
2.1b Number of funding partners in arts and heritage <sup>2</sup>	5	10	9	9	9

Data Source: Arts Department, FPCC. The 2021/22 funding partners are from the FPCC Finance Department, based on Q2 reports; future targets are estimated by program managers.

#### Linking Performance Measure to Objective

2.1a. Increasing the number of individuals involved in arts projects supports knowledge sharing and will help to sustain arts vitality. Arts projects may include visual or performance arts (such as music or dance).

2.1b. The number of funders for arts and cultural heritage is related to the amount of funding available for FPCC programs and services.

#### Discussion

2.1a. The targets have been adjusted downward compared to the 2021/22 service plan to reflect the impact of COVID-19.

2.1b. The targets have been revised compared to the 2021/22 service plan to reflect current forecasts.

**Goal 3: Support First Nations communities and individuals in B.C. to meet arts, language, culture and heritage revitalization goals by providing tools, resources and training**

**Objective 3.1: Provide effective training, tools and resources to promote the success of First Nations arts, language, culture and heritage revitalization programs**

**Key Strategies**

- Create and disseminate tools and resources to support the revitalization of First Nations arts, language, culture and heritage.
- Provide training to enable language revitalization and planning programs to be successful.
- Provide training to assist Indigenous artists to access and benefit from FPCC arts programs.

Performance Measure(s)	2018/19 Baseline	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
3.1a Number of new tools and resources to support language, arts, culture and heritage revitalization	18	9	8	10	10
3.1b Number of individuals receiving language training from FPCC	814	300	250	500	500
3.1c Number of individuals participating in FPCC arts and heritage workshops <sup>1</sup>	n/a	200	70	75	80

Data source: Arts, Heritage and Language Departments, FPCC.

<sup>1</sup> This performance measure has been updated from last year's service plan, which recorded only the number of arts workshops. FPCC is now including heritage workshops in this performance measure, as the FPCC cultural heritage team is providing workshops to community members.

**Linking Performance Measure to Objective**

3.1a. This performance measure includes resources developed by FPCC for communities (such as learning and assessment tools, handbooks, videos, etc.) and resources developed for experts in the field (such as policy papers, fact sheets, templates and models). FPCC chooses which resources it develops each year based on feedback from partners, communities and other experts. Note that while this performance measure counts resources developed by FPCC, performance measure 1.3a counts resources developed by communities.

3.1b. This performance measure counts the number of individuals who receive language training from FPCC. This training supports community capacity for planning, programming and implementing fluency and documentation initiatives. Note that this is different from performance measure 1.2b which is the number of people enrolled in immersion programs in communities.

3.1c. This performance measure includes the number of individuals participating in FPCC workshops related to arts and cultural heritage programming.

## Discussion

3.1a. Targets for new tools and resources have been revised downwards since last year's service plan. Some upcoming FPCC resources, such as comprehensive toolkits, are significant and require more time to create.

3.1b. Targets have been revised downwards since last year's service plan to reflect the challenge of training during COVID-19. FPCC expects this performance measure to grow once in-person training is safe.

3.1c. This new performance measure reflects the number of individuals participating in heritage and arts workshops while the previous measure counted only arts participants. The targets are also impacted somewhat by plans for new cultural heritage workshops in the coming years.

## Objective 3.2: Ensure FPCC programs are responsive to the needs of B.C. First Nations and deliver benefits to B.C. First Nations

### Key Strategies

- Deliver funding to support the revitalization of First Nations languages, arts, cultures and heritage.
- Be flexible and responsive to the needs of FPCC stakeholders, delivering services that are useful and impactful.

Performance Measure(s)	2018/19 Baseline	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
3.2a Grants delivered to communities <sup>1</sup>	\$11.4 million	\$29.0 million	\$25.9 million	\$32.2 million	TBD <sup>1</sup>
3.2b Level of user satisfaction with FPCC <sup>2</sup>	80%	90%	90%	90%	90%

Data Source:

<sup>1</sup>Some funds for 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 are subject to approvals and formal agreements.

<sup>2</sup> Arts and Language Departments, FPCC.

### Linking Performance Measure to Objectives

3.2a. The amount of grant funding delivered to communities is one indicator of support to communities.

3.2b. Program participants rate their satisfaction on a scale and make suggestions for areas of improvement that FPCC integrates into programs through a continuous improvement cycle.

<sup>1</sup> Work is underway to confirm 24/25 funding.

## Discussion

3.2a. Targets have been revised from the previous service plan to reflect current estimates.

3.2b. FPCC has achieved a high level of user satisfaction, therefore the target for 2022/23 and onwards continues to be set at 90% to maintain the standard of service.

## Goal 4: Build awareness and appreciation for First Nations languages, arts and culture in B.C., and promote the work of FPCC to communities, funders and leadership

### Objective 4.1: Promote FPCC's work and its impacts

#### Key Strategies

- Disseminate information about the opportunities FPCC offers to communities through a variety of formats.
- Improve and maintain the FPCC website so it is relevant to users and easy to navigate.
- Use multiple forms of media to raise public awareness about First Nations arts, languages and cultural heritage.
- Build awareness and provide development opportunities for emerging artists.

Performance Measure(s)	2018/19 Baseline	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
4.1a Number of followers engaged through FPCC social media streams	17,500	26,300	26,800	27,300	27,800
4.1b Number of website visits	260,800	450,000	450,000	500,000	550,000

Data Source: Communications Department, FPCC.

#### Linking Performance Measure to Objective

4.1a. The number of social media followers is an indicator of the growth and awareness of FPCC. FPCC uses Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and LinkedIn to reach communities and stakeholders through social media.

4.1b. This measure includes activity on all FPCC websites (FPCC, FirstVoices, First Peoples' Map, the FPCC grant portal and event sites). It demonstrates effectiveness of promotional efforts.

## Discussion

4.1a. Over the coming years, FPCC will attract new followers and focus on increasing the engagement of existing followers. Targets have slightly increased since last year's service plan based on the 2021/22 forecast.

4.1b. FPCC anticipates that the number of visitors across all platforms will continue to grow over time and has set targets slightly higher than last year's service plan to reflect the current forecast.

**Goal 5: Provide leadership on a provincial, national and global scale to support Indigenous arts, language, culture and heritage revitalization**

**Objective 5.1: Position the organization as the go-to thought leader on Indigenous languages, arts, culture and heritage in B.C., Canada and internationally**

**Key Strategies**

- Develop and share tools, resources and original research.
- Present at events, conferences and gatherings for Indigenous arts, language, culture and heritage revitalization.
- Collaborate with Indigenous partners and provincial government ministries in the fields of Indigenous arts, language, culture and heritage revitalization.
- Play a leadership role in the establishment and coordination of networks and collectives.

Performance Measure(s)	2018/19 Baseline	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
5.1a Number of events, conferences and presentations FPCC staff attend	123	36	15	20	20
5.1b Number of collaborative partnerships for FPCC	40	46	45	45	45

Data Source: Languages, Arts, Heritage and Operations Departments, FPCC.

**Linking Performance Measure to Objectives**

5.1a. The events, conferences and presentations FPCC staff attend help establish FPCC as a go-to thought leader and raise awareness of programs and services within Indigenous communities.

5.1b. This measure includes FPCC's formal and informal partnerships and funders, organizations which receive FPCC training and support, members of networks and others. The number of collaborative partnerships reflects the reach and impact of FPCC's role as a leader in the field.

**Discussion**

5.1a. FPCC anticipates that the pandemic will continue to impact the number of gatherings and has revised these targets downwards compared to last year's service plan.

5.1b. FPCC anticipates that the number of its collaborative partnerships will remain stable.

## Financial Plan

### Financial Summary

(\$000)	2021/22 Forecast	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Plan	2024/25 Plan
<b>Total Revenue</b>				
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation <sup>2</sup>	1,281	7,600	1,051	1,051
BC Arts Council	1,725	1,725	1,725	1,725
Other Provincial Ministries	729	500	500	500
Grants from Federal Government	14,632	23,100	36,000	TBD <sup>3</sup>
Grants from Non-Governmental Organizations	16,127	1,412	1,327	0
Deferred Revenue	1,361 <sup>4</sup>	0	0	0
Interest and Other	20	140	0	0
Office overhead recoveries	103	0	0	0
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>35,979</b>	<b>34,477</b>	<b>40,603</b>	<b>TBD<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>				
Language Programs	18,270	25,808	32,151	TBD <sup>2</sup>
FirstVoices Programs	5,731	489	513	TBD <sup>2</sup>
Arts Programs	4,035	2,225	2,225	2,225
Heritage Programs	5,083	1,552	1,327	425
<b>Operating Expenses and Overhead</b>				
Administrative salaries/benefits and Governance	1,512	2,699	2,662	2,791
Amortization	250	260	326	326
Other operating costs	1,098	1,443	1,398	1,185
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>35,979</b>	<b>34,477</b>	<b>40,603</b>	<b>TBD<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Annual Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Debt</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<sup>2</sup> For 2023/24 and 2024/25, the provincial contribution remains unchanged from 2021/22. Work is underway with the Province to identify longer term funding options.

<sup>3</sup> Work is underway to confirm 24/25 funding.

<sup>4</sup> Deferred revenue includes revenue from Martha A. Cargill Philanthropies, Creative BC, BC Arts Council, RSF Social Finance, Indigenous Services Canada, First Peoples' Cultural Foundation and the B.C. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

Note: The above financial information was prepared based on current Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.  
Note: Financial projections are based on best estimates and targets, while work continues to address long-term funding options.

### **Key Forecast Assumptions, Risks and Sensitivities**

As FPCC subject to year-to-year fluctuations in funding from all funding sources, revenue cannot always be accurately anticipated.

### **Management's Perspective on the Financial Outlook**

The following risks, trends and opportunities may impact FPCC's financial standing in the coming years:

#### **Opportunities:**

- The Province is providing interim operating funding of \$0.230M in 2021/22 and \$7.6 million in 2022/23 to maintain current staff levels, which will support continued momentum while long-term funding options are developed.
- There is increased public support and compassion for the urgent protection and rebuilding of First Nations cultural systems. In response, FPCC anticipates that stronger public understanding will encourage investment.
- The Province of B.C. and the Government of Canada are implementing legislation to bring existing laws into alignment with UNDRIP and the TRC Calls to Action. FPCC was engaged with the development of the national Indigenous Languages Act and continues to be involved with the implementation of the Act. Once the Office of the Commissioner of Indigenous Languages (OCIL) is established, FPCC will provide the commissioner with language data from B.C. to assist with this important work at the national level. Further, FPCC will continue to advocate for sufficient and sustainable funding to support the rights of Indigenous people to access and practice their arts, languages and cultures and will work to ensure that First Nations communities have a voice in the implementation of this new legislation.

#### **Risks:**

- B.C. is facing a language emergency. Every language is severely endangered and there is a small window of time to capture language transfer and knowledge. Fluent speakers of B.C. First Nations languages and Knowledge Keepers are aging, creating risks to community capacity. If B.C. does not reach its language revitalization goals, it will impact B.C. First Nations people for generations. In response, FPCC will continue to share with funders the urgency and time sensitive nature of language, arts and cultural heritage revitalization work. FPCC will continue to invest in knowledge transfer and succession planning at the community level.

- As an organization that receives funding from multiple funders, typically on a year-to-year basis, operations and planning are impacted by a degree of funding insecurity. In 2018, the Province made a historic three-year investment of \$50 million to support Indigenous language revitalization. The impacts of this investment were significant, creating increased capacity, momentum and readiness in communities. In 2020, FPCC developed a comprehensive multi-year funding strategy and began work collaboratively with the Province, the federal government and other organizations to explore funding opportunities which continue to be developed and aim to secure long-term sustainable funding to protect, revitalize and enhance First Nations heritage, language, culture and arts to meet community needs. Developing funding partnerships is this organization's priority for the period covered by this service plan.
- COVID-19 limits FPCC's ability to host in-person outreach and training events, which particularly impacts communities with unreliable internet access and/or individuals uncomfortable with digital technologies. In response, FPCC is focused on strategies that use virtual platforms for engagement. FPCC is supporting communities with technologies, training and resources to adapt their programs and plans to be safe and COVID-compliant.
- There are growing challenges with recruitment and retention of skilled talent in a competitive labour market. In response, FPCC is engaging in operational and succession planning to streamline organizational processes. FPCC is conducting research to understand how best to position itself as a top employer.
- Weaknesses in data management and protection exist if FPCC does not remain current with technological trends. In response, FPCC is prioritizing data management as part of its role as a steward of Indigenous communities' invaluable arts, languages and heritage data. FPCC continues to provide training and resources in data management to Indigenous communities.
- Wildfires, flooding and other climate events impact the ability of B.C. First Nations to carry out land-based projects. First Nations heritage landscapes and places have been irreversibly altered by climate events. In response, FPCC is supporting communities to adapt timelines and project plans and seeking investment to address climate impacts to cultural heritage sites.

## Appendix A: Additional Information

### Corporate Governance

The First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) is governed by a Board of Directors, comprised of up to 13 members. In 2021, Carla Lewis, a member of Gitdumden Clan of the Wet'suwet'en First Nation, became the Chair of the Board.

The Board is supported by three sub-committees: Governance, Finance and Audit, and Human Resources and Compensation. In addition, the Board is supported by a 34-member Advisory Committee, with one representative for each of the First Nations language groups in B.C.

FPCC's governing legislation was amended in 2011 to include representation from all B.C. First Nations language groups on the FPCC Advisory Committee. It offers more flexibility, which is consistent with contemporary best practices that allow Crown corporations to determine their own structure and governance processes. As a result, it is possible for each language group to have a cultural representative to provide advice to the FPCC Board and staff.

Membership for both the Advisory Committee and the Board of Directors is sought through an open application process, which is managed by the Board's Governance Committee. This open application process means that any B.C. First Nations individual, organization or community can nominate someone or apply for membership.

The Advisory Committee and 10 of the 13 Board members are all recommended for appointment by the Board's Governance Committee. All Board and Advisory Committee members are appointed by the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.

### Organizational Overview

FPCC's mandate is to assist B.C. First Nations and Indigenous people in their efforts to revitalize their languages, arts and cultural heritage.

FPCC serves 204 B.C. First Nations, 34 languages, over 90 language dialects and a number of First Nations and Indigenous arts, culture and educational organizations.

FPCC is a provincial Crown corporation formed by the Government of British Columbia to administer the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Program. The First Peoples Cultural Council is supported by legislation: ***First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Act***, which can be accessed at: <https://fpcc.ca/about-us/governance/>.

As stated in the Act, FPCC's legislated mandate is to:

- Protect, revitalize and enhance First Nations heritage, language, culture and arts.
- Increase understanding and sharing of knowledge, within both First Nations and non-First Nations communities.
- Heighten appreciation and acceptance of the wealth of cultural diversity among all British Columbians.

## **Vision and Mission**

FPCC's vision is one where First Nations languages, arts and cultural heritage in B.C. are thriving. The knowledge and worldviews expressed through First Nations languages, arts and cultural heritage are valued as essential to our collective well-being and human rights.

FPCC's mission is to provide leadership to strengthen and rebuild systems disrupted by cultural genocide through the revitalization of First Nations languages, arts and cultural heritage.

## **FPCC Values**

*First Nations-led* – As a First Nations-led organization, FPCC's work is grounded in Indigenous values and knowledge and is led by a First Nations Board of Directors and Advisory Committee.

*Accountable* – FPCC is committed to accountability, transparency, integrity and respect for First Nations cultural protocols in all that the Council does.

*Results-Based* – FPCC delivers programs that work, informed by community-identified needs and solutions as well as research and proven best practices.

*Reciprocal* – FPCC works in meaningful relationships with B.C. First Nations and Indigenous people, funding partners and other stakeholders in ways that strengthen all.

*Generous* – FPCC freely shares knowledge, best practices, models and resources to support others.

*Committed* – FPCC is compassionate and dedicated to our sacred responsibility to create a world in which First Nations languages, arts and cultural heritage are thriving.

## **Who FPCC Serves**

204 B.C. First Nations  
First Nations communities  
First Nations language champions  
First Nations language learners  
First Nations schools  
First Nations Elders  
Indigenous artists  
Indigenous musicians  
Indigenous arts and culture organizations  
British Columbia residents

## **Report on the Status of B.C. First Nations languages**

FPCC reports on the status of B.C. First Nations languages every four years. It has produced three reports to date – one in 2010, a second in 2014, and a third in 2018. According to the [2018 Report on the Status of B.C. First Nations Languages](#), just over half of fluent First Nations language speakers are aged 65 and over. There were 13,997 language learners as of 2018. A fourth status report is due to be released in 2022.

## **FPCC's Key Funders and Partners**

Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation  
First Peoples' Cultural Foundation  
Department of Canadian Heritage

Ministry of Education and Child Care  
Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training  
Ministry of Children and Family Development  
First Nations Technology Council  
Heritage B.C.  
Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (Heritage Branch)  
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy  
B.C. Arts Council  
Creative B.C.  
Aboriginal Neighbours, Anglican Diocese  
B.C. Ferries  
Parks Canada Agency  
Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies  
RSF Social Finance  
Canada Council for the Arts  
National Research Council  
Endangered Languages Project  
First Nations Health Authority, Interior Region  
Indigenous Services Canada  
B.C. Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres  
First Nations Education Steering Committee  
Indigenous Higher Learning Association  
LÁU, WELNEW Tribal School  
Chief Atahm School  
University of Victoria  
University of British Columbia  
First Nations Schools Association  
En'owkin Centre  
University of Hawai'i at Manoa  
Eastern Michigan University  
Blue Quills University (Alberta)  
Yukon Native Language Centre (Yukon)  
Mi'kmaw Kinamatnewey (Nova Scotia)  
Jane Juuso and Sami Indigenous Partners

## **Appendix B: Crown Mandate Letter from the Minister Responsible**



Ref. 51992

April 15, 2021

Laax Lo'op Cynthia Jensen Fisk  
Board Chair First Peoples' Cultural Council  
1A Boat Ramp Road  
Brentwood Bay BC V8M 1N9

Dear Laax Lo'op Cynthia Jensen Fisk:

On behalf of Premier Horgan and the Executive Council, I would like to extend my thanks to you and your board members for the dedication, expertise and skills with which you serve the people of British Columbia.

Every public sector organization is accountable to the citizens of British Columbia. The expectations of British Columbians are identified through their elected representatives, the members of the Legislative Assembly. Your contributions advance and protect the public interest of all British Columbians and through your work, you are supporting a society in which the people of this province can exercise their democratic rights, and trust and feel protected by their public institutions.

You are serving British Columbians at a time when people in our province face significant challenges as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Recovering from the pandemic will require focused direction, strong alignment, and ongoing engagement between public sector organizations and government. It will require all Crowns to adapt to changing circumstances and follow Public Health orders and guidelines as you find ways to deliver your services to citizens.

.../2

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Ministry of  
Indigenous Relations  
and Reconciliation

Office of the  
Minister

Mailing Address:  
Box 9151 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9E2  
email: [IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca)  
website: [www.gov.bc.ca/irr](http://www.gov.bc.ca/irr)

Telephone: 250 953-4844  
Facsimile: 250 953-4856

This mandate letter, which I am sending in my capacity as Minister responsible for the First Peoples' Cultural Council, on behalf of the Executive Council, communicates expectations for your organization. It sets out overarching principles relevant to the entire public sector and provides specific direction to the First Peoples' Cultural Council about priorities and expectations for the coming fiscal year.

I expect that the following five foundational principles will inform your agency's policies and programs:

- **Putting people first:** We are committed to working with you to put people first. You and your board are uniquely positioned to advance and protect the public interest and I expect that you will consider how your board's decisions maintain, protect and enhance the public services people rely on and make life more affordable for everyone.
- **Lasting and meaningful reconciliation:** Reconciliation is an ongoing process and a shared responsibility for us all. Government's unanimous passage of the *Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* was a significant step forward in this journey – one that all Crown Agencies are expected to support as we work in cooperation with Indigenous peoples to establish a clear and sustainable path to lasting reconciliation. True reconciliation will take time and ongoing commitment to work with Indigenous peoples as they move towards self-determination. Guiding these efforts, Crown agencies must also remain focused on creating opportunities that implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission through your mandate.
- **Equity and anti-racism:** Our province's history, identity and strength are rooted in its diverse population. Yet racialized and marginalized people face historic and present-day barriers that limit their full participation in their communities, workplaces, government and their lives. The public sector has a moral and ethical responsibility to tackle systemic discrimination in all its forms – and every public sector organization has a role in this work. All Crowns are expected to adopt the Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) lens to ensure equity is reflected in your operations and programs. Similarly, appointments resulting in strong public sector boards that reflect the diversity of British Columbia will help achieve effective and citizen-centred governance.

.../3

- **A better future through fighting climate change:** Announced in December 2018, the CleanBC climate action plan puts our province on the path to a cleaner, better future by building a low-carbon economy with new clean energy jobs and opportunities, protecting our clean air, land and water and supporting communities to prepare for carbon impacts. As part of the accountability framework established in CleanBC, and consistent with the *Climate Change Accountability Act*, please ensure your organization aligns operations with targets and strategies for minimizing greenhouse gas emissions and managing climate change risk, including the CleanBC target of a 50% reduction in public sector building emissions and a 40% reduction in public sector fleet emissions by 2030. Your organization is expected to work with government to report out on these plans and activities as required by legislation.
- **A strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone:** I expect that you will identify new and flexible ways to achieve your mandate and serve the citizens of British Columbia within the guidelines established by the Provincial Health Officer and considering best practices for conducting business during the pandemic. Collectively, our public sector will continue to support British Columbians through the pandemic and economic recovery by investing in health care, getting people back to work, helping businesses and communities, and building the clean, innovative economy of the future. As a public sector organization, I expect that you will consider how your decisions and operations reflect environmental, social and governance factors and contribute to this future.

The Crown Agencies and Board Resourcing Office (CABRO), with the Ministry of Finance, will continue to support you and your board on recruitment and appointments as needed, and will be expanding professional development opportunities in 2021/22. This will include online training and information about provincial government initiatives to foster engaged and informed boards.

Under the *First People's Heritage, Language and Culture Act*, government directed the First Peoples' Cultural Council to protect, revitalize and enhance First Nations' heritage, language, culture, and arts. Working together, I expect that you will make substantive progress on the following priorities and incorporate them in the goals, objectives and performance measures in your 2021/22 Service Plan:

.../4

- Support Indigenous communities to reach goals through delivering successful language, arts, and cultural heritage programs by providing funding grants, coaching, resources, professional development and training.
- Provide advice and increase collaboration with B.C. government ministries whose mandates intersect with FPCC's on the policy and actions required to meet government's commitments to implement the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action that relate to languages, culture, arts, and heritage.
- Design and implement Indigenous language, arts, and cultural heritage programming that will most effectively transmit cultural knowledge to new generations and achieve mandate.
- Continue to raise the profile of the importance of protecting, revitalizing, and enhancing Indigenous languages, arts, and cultural heritage in B.C. by promoting the work of the FPCC, community partners, and other stakeholders around the province and across Canada.

Each board member is required to sign the Mandate Letter to acknowledge government's direction to your organization. The signed Mandate Letter is to be posted publicly on your organization's website in spring 2021.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and your Board colleagues to build a better B.C.

Sincerely,



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Honourable Murray Rankin  
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Date: April 15, 2021

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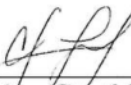
CC: Honourable John Horgan  
Premier

Lori Wanamaker, Deputy Minister  
Premier's Office

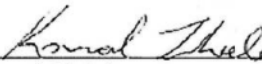
Heather Wood, Deputy Minister and Secretary to Treasury Board  
Ministry of Finance

Douglas S. Scott, Deputy Minister, Crown Agencies Secretariat  
Ministry of Finance


Doug Caul, Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Laax Lo'op Cynthia Jensen Fisk  
Board Chair  
First Peoples' Cultural Council

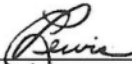
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Konrad Thiele  
Board Member  
First Peoples' Cultural Council


Date: April 19, 2021

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jaskwaan Amanda Bedard  
Board Member  
First Peoples' Cultural Council


Date: April 19, 2021

  
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Carla Lewis  
Board Member  
First Peoples' Cultural Council

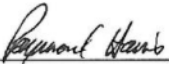
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Connie Linda Watts  
Board Member  
First Peoples' Cultural Council


Date: April 19, 2021

  
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Mālagius Gerald Lawson  
Board Member  
First Peoples' Cultural Council

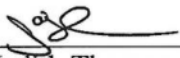
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Shulqwilum Ray Harris  
Board Member  
First Peoples' Cultural Council


Date: April 19, 2021

  
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Grant Alphonse  
Board Member  
First Peoples' Cultural Council

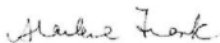
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Edōsdi Judith Thompson  
Board Member  
First Peoples' Cultural Council

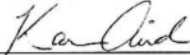
Date: April 19, 2021

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
T'lalis Mike Willie  
Board Member  
First Peoples' Cultural Council

Date: April 19, 2021

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Etimot Sharlene Frank  
Board Member  
First Peoples' Cultural Council

Date: April 19, 2021

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Aird  
Acting/Chief Executive Officer  
First Peoples' Cultural Council

Date: April 19, 2021



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Jennifer Melles  
Board Member  
First Peoples' Cultural Council

Date: April 15 2021



# **The First Peoples' Cultural Council**

## **2021/22 Annual Service Plan Report**

**August 2022**



For more information on the First Peoples' Cultural Council contact:

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Brentwood Bay BC V8M 1N9

250-652-59

Or visit our website at

[fpcc.ca](http://fpcc.ca)

Published by the First Peoples' Cultural Council

## Board Chair's Accountability Statement



The *First Peoples' Cultural Council 2021/22 Annual Service Plan Report* compares the corporation's actual results to the expected results identified in the *2021/22 – 2023/24 Service Plan* created in April 2021. I am accountable for those results as reported.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Carla Lewis". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

Carla Lewis  
Board Chair  
July 14, 2022

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## Letter from the Board Chair & CEO

Over the past year, the team at the First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) worked hard to address the goals, objectives and performance measures of the 2021/22 Service Plan.

Proudly, the FPCC delivered a record amount of funding to First Nations communities across British Columbia with more than \$25 million distributed – more than ever before in a single year!

With this rapid growth, we strengthened our human resources to increase capacity and deliver exceptional language, culture and heritage programming. To support our First Nations-led organization, we focused on recruiting board and advisory members with input from Indigenous leaders from across B.C.

First Nations community-based experts are at the heart of FPCC's work and contribute to the design and development of grant programs, training and resources. Community experts provide input through the FPCC First Nations-led governance structure and through the grant portal, social media, peer-review committees and through event participation as well as through one-on-one feedback. FPCC is grateful for the continuous community-driven guidance that enables the organization to provide innovative, dynamic and responsive programming. We have strengthened relationships with all levels of government. Quarterly meetings with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation facilitates stronger communications, builds relationships and provides an opportunity to elevate community needs and inform our common goals on the road to reconciliation.

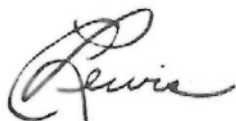
The COVID-19 pandemic and toxic drug supply crisis continue to impact First Nations communities at unprecedented levels. First Nations communities are experiencing incredibly high levels of grief and loss, compounded by residential school findings and the ongoing legacies of colonization. These issues present a significant threat to Indigenous languages, arts and cultural heritage and highlights the urgency and importance of the revitalization work by community members. For example, COVID-19 restrictions on in-person gatherings prompted community members and FPCC staff to work together to create innovative new approaches, expand online training and move Indigifest, the FPCC music and culture festival, online. While there were challenges with moving programming to a virtual format for so long, we have also built new technical skills and enabled programming to reach a much wider audience, including urban and away-from-home populations.

FPCC launched several new programs this year including the Braided Knowledge Program, supported by Tamalpais Trust through RSF Social Finance. This program provides funding for projects that weave together all elements of FPCC's mandate in First Nations heritage, language, culture and arts. Developing our heritage program to protect and uplift our rich and diverse First Nations heritage is a strategic priority and we are proud of our heritage team who managed more than 100 community-based projects to safeguard, transmit and revitalize cultural heritage across the province. Our hope is to continue strengthening the heritage program over the coming years.

FPCC also offered two new language immersion grant streams, Mentor-Apprentice: Community and Mentor-Apprentice: Connections, launched a new First Peoples' Map of B.C. and created an interactive web-based toolkit to support language revitalization planning.

While we are pleased with the amount of programming we supported over the past year, our team at FPCC has an important responsibility to bring attention to the urgent need for long-term, sustainable funding to support the full scope of work needed in each and every community in the province to create fluent-speaking individuals and communities, protect our heritage and celebrate our arts. As such, we strive to continue be an advocacy organization that leads research, develops and informs policy, and builds relationships to attract new partnerships, investments and commitments to this work. FPCC celebrates the hard work and the determination evident in communities across B.C. The resiliency of communities brings hope for the future as we work together to revitalize First Nations heritage, languages, cultures and arts.

Carla Lewis



Board Chair First Peoples' Cultural Council  
July 14, 2022

Tracey Herbert



CEO First Peoples' Cultural Council  
July 14, 2022

## Purpose of the Annual Service Plan Report

The Annual Service Plan Report is designed to meet the requirements of the Budget Transparency and Accountability Act (BTAA), which sets out the legislative framework for planning, reporting and accountability for Government organizations. Under the BTAA, the Crown Corporation's Board is required to report on the actual results of the Crown's performance related to the forecasted targets documented in the previous year's Service Plan.

## Purpose of the Organization

The First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) is a First Nations-led Crown corporation that was created in 1990 through the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Act. FPCC's purpose, as laid out in the Act, is to provide leadership for the revitalization of First Nations heritage, languages, cultures and arts in B.C.

FPCC has a First Nations-led governance structure, as its board and advisory committee are made up of representatives from each B.C. First Nations language. FPCC works with First Nations communities to support their cultural revitalization goals.

FPCC is uniquely aligned with the government's commitment to fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples through the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. As well, FPCC's work supports government commitments to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action and the Calls for Justice included in Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. These documents bring attention to the cultural genocide perpetrated on Indigenous peoples and call for governments and other organizations to take action to support reconciliation, including revitalization of First Nations heritage, languages, cultures and arts. The intergenerational impacts of removing opportunities to live according to traditional ways of being and knowing have resulted in severe losses of Indigenous languages and cultures and there is an urgent need to protect these valuable ways of being while there is still time.

FPCC plays an advisory role to government, as outlined in the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Act. In support of this role, FPCC monitors the status of First Nations Languages. In 2018 FPCC completed the third Report on the Status of B.C. First Nations Languages, which demonstrates both the increasing urgency of First Nations language revitalization as the number of fluent speakers decline and as the demand to learn First Nations languages, especially amongst youth, has grown.

FPCC's mission is to provide leadership to strengthen and rebuild systems disrupted by cultural genocide through the revitalization of First Nations heritage, languages, cultures and arts.

## Strategic Direction

The strategic direction set by Government in 2020 and expanded upon in the Board Chair's 2021-22 Mandate Letter from the Minister Responsible shaped the goals, objectives,

performance measures, and financial plan outlined in the 2021/22 First Peoples' Cultural Council Service Plan as well as actual results reported on in this annual report.

## Operating Environment

In 2021/22 FPCC's work was impacted by the following factors discussed below.

*COVID-19 pandemic:* The ongoing pandemic limited communities' opportunities to gather and impacted artists' opportunities for income. FPCC has continued to place a priority on keeping people and communities safe, providing accurate COVID-19 safety communications and supporting grant recipients to pivot their projects and timelines in response to shifting government restrictions. FPCC stayed connected with communities virtually, building on strong, existing community connections.

*Innovation:* FPCC continuously works with communities to identify needs and develop new tools and approaches, like an online language revitalization toolkit. FPCC launched a wide array of new programs and resources in 2021/22, which will enable important strides forward in the revitalization of First Nations heritage, languages, cultures and arts. New online solutions developed in response to COVID-19 restrictions, such as using open-source learning platforms and live online classes, have offered opportunities for many people to participate in projects who may not have been able to engage otherwise. These platforms will continue to be part of operations moving forward.

*Funding:* FPCC invested significant efforts in 2021/22 to secure funding to support all program areas and was able to deliver more funding to communities than it had the year prior. In collaboration with the Province, the federal government the First People's Cultural Foundation and others, FPCC has made strides to secure sustainable, predictable, long-term funding to support work in communities. In 2021/22 FPCC received more than \$3.3 million from the Province to help address its mandate, including funding from the Ministry of Reconciliation and Indigenous Relations, the Heritage Branch of the former Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, Creative BC and the BC Arts Council.

Languages continue to face threats to their vitality and First Nations heritage sites across the province continue to be threatened. Indigenous arts, which have historically been de-valued by colonial perspectives, face challenges to secure funding at a level equivalent to non-Indigenous arts. These factors create a pressing need for FPCC to secure sustainable, predictable long-term funding.

*Competitive labour market:* B.C.'s highly competitive labour market impacted FPCC in 2021/22. Over the last four years FPCC has begun a transition from a small organization and has worked to recruit staff, most of whom require highly specialized skills in addition to Indigenous cultural knowledge. FPCC has been researching and developing new strategies for recruitment and retention of skilled staff, with a focus on outreach to Indigenous candidates, who are very much in demand in today's employment market.

*Climate emergency:* The environmental disasters in B.C. this fiscal year presented significant challenges to communities. Some people were displaced and others lost their homes or employment opportunities. Valuable arts, cultural items and places were lost and many FPCC projects were cancelled or deferred because of these situations.

*Media coverage of residential school graves:* Media coverage confirming that so many children were buried at residential school sites was incredibly challenging for First Nations families. The intergenerational trauma triggered by these stories impacted FPCC program participants and staff as communities devoted time to grieving and healing.

*Recognition of Indigenous rights and systemic racism:* Since the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act) was passed into law by B.C. in 2019, there has been increased recognition of Indigenous rights, including the right of Indigenous people to access their languages, arts and cultural heritage. FPCC's work to support communities to enact their rights is an important component of provincial action to implement the Declaration Act.

As a First Nations-led organization, FPCC supports government as it works to address equity and anti-racism and its commitment to shift away from short-term transactional arrangements to long-term agreements that recognize and support reconciliation, self-determination and economic independence.

## Report on Performance: Goals, Objectives, Measures and Targets

### Goal 1: Sustain and invest in the lasting vitality of B.C. First Nations languages through successful language revitalization strategies

#### Objective 1.1: Document every B.C. First Nations language and ensure every First Nations person has access to their language via FirstVoices.com

##### Key Highlights

- Improved navigation on FirstVoices.com and added new user-friendly features
- Developed and delivered new language technology training to 124 participants
- Built and updated 10 FirstVoices keyboards and launched predictive texts for mobile devices

Performance Measure(s)	2018/19 Baseline	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Target	2021/22 Actuals	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
1.1a Number of new data points added to FirstVoices.com <sup>1</sup>	13,493	58,150	65,000	72,719	40,000	40,000
1.1b Number of language resources digitized <sup>2</sup>	275	23,184	500	65,385	1,000	1,500

<sup>1</sup>Data source: FirstVoices Department, FPCC

<sup>2</sup>Data source: Language Department, FPCC

### Discussion of Results

1.1a FirstVoices.com is an initiative to document B.C. First Nations languages so that they will be available to future generations. This performance measure tracks the number of new data points added to FirstVoices.com and reflects progress towards documenting and increasing access to First Nations languages. Data points may include words, phrases, songs, stories and supporting media (audio, visual, images) and content that is created by communities to represent or support their archives. The number of data points surpassed the target due to several factors, including new training offered by FPCC and additional features FPCC added to FirstVoices which make it easier to upload and search. FirstVoices teams in communities have been increasingly active, which is reflected in the growth in 2021/22.

1.1b This performance measure tracks the number of language resources that are digitized through FPCC's Digitization Program. The digitization of existing analog audio, video and textual language resources is important because these materials are at risk of being lost if they are not digitized. Resources vary and can include as examples, a short list of words or a VHS recording of an interview with an Elder. This figure is significantly higher than forecast as the work could be conducted safely during the COVID-19 pandemic and teams were able to complete more work than anticipated.

## Objective 1.2: Increase the number of fluent speakers of First Nations languages

### Key Highlights

- Successfully launched new programs supporting language immersion: Mentor-Apprentice: Community and Mentor-Apprentice: Connections
- Invited submissions to the Youth Empowered Speakers Program for the second year in a row
- Increased language proficiency of program participants through the Mentor-Apprentice Program (MAP) from 83% in 2020/21 to 95% in 2021/22

Performance Measure(s)	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Target	2021/22 Actuals	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
1.2a Increase in language proficiency for MAP participants <sup>1</sup>	83%	75%	95%	85%	85%

<sup>1</sup>Data source: Self-evaluation by MAP participants

Performance Measure(s)	2018/19 Baseline	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Target	2021/22 Actuals	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
1.2b Number of immersion opportunities funded by FPCC <sup>1</sup>	586	4,151	1,000	2,963	2,200	4,000

<sup>1</sup>Data source: Language Department, FPCC

### Discussion of Results

1.2a MAP pairs adult language learners one-on-one with fluent speakers to learn in an immersion environment at home and on the land. This highly structured program includes 300 hours of language immersion work over a year. While it takes several years to become a proficient speaker, MAP has proven successful in increasing language fluency. The self-reported increase in proficiency is higher than anticipated as MAP teams were able to continue to work online during COVID limitations that precluded in-person gathering. While almost all teams reported an increase in proficiency, FPCC believes that actual gains in proficiency are slightly lower than during non-pandemic years, due to the challenges of online language learning.

1.2b This performance measure counts the number of language learners who were involved in FPCC-funded language programs that provide immersion learning opportunities including MAP, Language Nest Program (early childhood education immersion) and community-designed programs. Research and community experience indicates that immersion is the only effective way to become a language speaker. These programs have proven long-term impacts, not only in developing language fluency, but also in increasing cultural connections, mental well-being and transferrable skills. The number of immersion opportunities was significantly higher than the target because more people than FPCC expected were able to deliver immersion online and because FPCC added additional online supports.

### Objective 1.3: Mobilize community capacity to carry out the work of language revitalization

#### Key Highlights

- Surpassed targets for community-developed language resources
- Supported communities with the development of nine language plans, with four plans near completion

Performance Measure(s)	2018/19 Baseline	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Target	2021/22 Actuals	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
1.3a Number of language resources developed by communities with FPCC funding <sup>1</sup>	593	2,440	800	1,229	1,000	1,200
1.3b Number of communities developing language revitalization plans with FPCC support <sup>2</sup>	0	1	11	13	14	16

<sup>1</sup>Data source: Language Department, FPCC

<sup>2</sup>Data source: Language Department, FPCC

#### Discussion of Results

1.3a Language resources take many forms, such as recordings, stories, songs, books, teaching resources, dictionaries and more. The more resources that a community has with which to learn and document their language, the greater their capacity to support language revitalization. The number of language resources developed by communities was primarily higher than anticipated due to COVID-19, as resource development can be done safely without gathering in-person.

1.3b A language revitalization plan is a document that captures a community's unique long-term vision for their language, including specific goals and an action plan. This model supports First Nations rights to self-determination as it puts control of strategic direction and resource development into the hands of First Nations communities. A community with a clear language plan will have increased capacity to implement language revitalization. Many communities had challenges completing plans due to staff turnover and limitations on gatherings due to COVID-19. This figure includes nine completed plans and four additional plans that were near completion at the end of 2021/22.

### Goal 2: Sustain and invest in the lasting vitality of First Nations arts, culture and heritage in B.C.

#### Objective 2.1: Support the development of Indigenous art forms (traditional and contemporary) through funding for Indigenous artists and investment in the growth of community capacity for arts infrastructure

## Key Highlights

- Funded an outreach coach for the arts program to support artist to access FPCC programs
- Supported artists with training, programs, and resources to help them adapt to COVID-19 pandemic
- Assisted FPCF with administration of the \$7.5 million BC 150 Time Immemorial Grant Program, funded by the Province
- Secured new funding and launched Braided Knowledge Program, FPCC's first cross-departmental grant stream, which provides funding for projects that weave together elements of heritage, languages, culture and arts
- Hosted a virtual Indigifest featuring 18 Indigenous artists with generous funding from the Amplify BC fund, which is managed by Creative BC and the BC Arts Council

Performance Measure(s)	2018/19 Baseline	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Target	2021/22 Actuals	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
2.1a Number of individuals involved in FPCC arts projects <sup>1</sup>	1,500	940	1,850	2,503	2,000	3,000
2.1b Number of funding partners in arts and heritage <sup>2</sup>	5	8	8	11	9	10

<sup>1</sup>Data source: Arts Department, FPCC

<sup>2</sup>Data source: Finance Department, FPCC

## Discussion of Results

2.1a This performance measure includes the number of individuals who receive funding and support from FPCC arts programs. This includes both visual and performing artists, including those participating in large events such as music festivals, as well as cultural industry professionals (recording engineers, arts administrators, event producers and others). In 2021/22 with funding from Creative BC, BC Arts Council, BC Ferries and Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies, FPCC attracted more funding than anticipated, including an additional \$221,000 from the BC Arts Council. It also worked with applicants who had previously been unsuccessful in their submissions to help them to address deficiencies. These two factors created the opportunity to involve more individuals in arts projects and as a result, this performance measure surpassed the target.

2.1b FPCC introduced this performance measure in response to the need for increased and more diversified funding in these areas. This performance measure surpassed the target due to extensive efforts to attract new funding for FPCC. Heritage funders this fiscal included: the Heritage Branch of the former Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development; Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change; Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR), Indigenous Services Canada, Department of Canadian Heritage, Tamalpais Trust through RSF Social Finance, and the FPCF. FPCC supported the FPCF with the Province's 150 Time Immemorial Grant Program.

### **Goal 3: Support Indigenous communities and individuals in B.C. to meet arts, language, culture and heritage revitalization goals**

#### **Objective 3.1: Provide effective training, tools and resources to promote the success of Indigenous arts, language, culture and heritage revitalization programs**

##### **Key Highlights**

- Enhanced FPCC's online training through developing training resources for language programs and delivering monthly webinars for immersion programs
- Provided one-on-one training to artists funded through Creative BC's Amplify BC program to provide skills and technology expertise so artists could participate in virtual performances
- Launched new cultural heritage training for more than 200 people

<b>Performance Measure(s)</b>	<b>2018/19 Baseline</b>	<b>2020/21 Actuals</b>	<b>2021/22 Target</b>	<b>2021/22 Actuals</b>	<b>2022/23 Target</b>	<b>2023/24 Target</b>
3.1a Number of new tools and resources to support language, arts, culture and heritage revitalization <sup>1</sup>	18	14	24	18	25	26
3.1b Number of individuals receiving language training from FPCC <sup>2</sup>	814	292	550	458	900	1,200
3.1c Number of individuals participating in FPCC arts workshops <sup>3</sup>	48	96	100	131	135	135

<sup>1</sup>Data source: Arts, Heritage and Language Departments, FPCC

<sup>2</sup>Data source: Language Department, FPCC

<sup>3</sup>Data source: Arts Department, FPCC

##### **Discussion of Results**

3.1a This performance measure includes resources developed for communities (such as learning and assessment tools, handbooks, videos, etc.) as well as resources developed for experts in the field (such as policy papers, fact sheets, templates and models). These resources assist communities in reaching their goals for language, arts and cultural heritage revitalization. The target for this performance measure is lower than planned as FPCC has developed more extensive tools and resources which require more time to create, such as an online language revitalization planning toolkit and an online heritage toolkit.

3.1b This performance measure counts the number of individuals who receive language training from FPCC. Due to several factors, the number of individuals receiving training was slightly below the target, but higher than the previous year. While this training is typically delivered in person, FPCC offered online training due to COVID-19, which decreased participation as there is a preference for in-person learning. In addition, FPCC did not require mentors to participate in

the online training for the Mentor-Apprentice Program and did not offer the Reclaiming My Language Program, resulting in fewer people trained overall.

3.1c This performance measure includes the number of individuals attending training for artists and arts organizations. The number of people participating in arts workshops was above the target because FPCC delivered more training sessions to support artists to prepare for their virtual performances at Indigifest.

### **Objective 3.2: Ensure FPCC programs are responsive to the needs of B.C. First Nations to deliver benefits to B.C. First Nations**

#### **Key Highlights**

- Delivered more funding to communities than ever before
- Achieved a high level of satisfaction despite many social, health and environmental challenges faced this year

Performance Measure(s)	2018/19 Baseline	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Target	2021/22 Actuals	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
3.2a Grants delivered to communities <sup>1</sup>	\$11.4 M	\$20.4 M	\$23.9 M	\$25.4 M	\$23.9 M	\$23.9 M
3.2b Level of user satisfaction with FPCC <sup>2</sup>	80%	94%	90%	93%	90%	90%

<sup>1</sup>Data source: Finance Department, FPCC

<sup>2</sup>Data source: Arts and Language Department, FPCC

#### **Discussion of Results**

3.2a This performance measure tracks the amount of funding that goes directly to First Nations communities and individuals in B.C. to support arts, languages and cultural heritage. In 2021/22 FPCC exceeded the target, delivering more funding than ever before. By year-end, FPCC received more than \$18.1 million from the federal Department of Canadian Heritage to support language revitalization. It received more than \$3.36 million from the Province, as well as \$10 million from the First Peoples' Cultural Foundation that remained from the Province's \$50 million contribution to support language revitalization in 2018. It also received funding from other organizations, including NGOs.

3.2b This measure tracks user satisfaction through a question on all program final reports. The performance measure is important to FPCC as it provides direct guidance and feedback from program participants and grant recipients, allowing FPCC to be responsive to the needs of communities. This performance measure was exceeded. FPCC grant recipients were extremely satisfied with FPCC programming and these results show that FPCC programs are valued by communities.

## Goal 4: Build awareness and appreciation for Indigenous languages, arts and culture in B.C. and promote the work of FPCC to communities, funders and leadership

### Objective 4.1: Promote FPCC's work and its impacts

#### Key Highlights

- Promoted new First Peoples' Map in response to B.C. First Nations who requested a central, interactive platform to showcase B.C. First Nations heritage, languages, cultures and arts, which resulted in more than a 400% increase in site visits over the prior year
- Launched a campaign to promote the Decade of Indigenous Languages
- Published a record number of success stories (15) and news releases (10)

Performance Measure(s)	2018/19 Baseline	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Target	2021/22 Actuals	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
4.1a Number of followers engaged through FPCC social media streams <sup>1</sup>	17,500	23,807	23,000	25,186	24,000	25,000
4.1b Number of website visits <sup>2</sup>	260,800	440,995	350,000	689,309	360,000	400,000

<sup>1</sup>Data source: Communications Department, FPCC

<sup>2</sup>Data source: Communications, FirstVoices and Language Departments, FPCC

#### Discussion of Results

4.1a This performance measure reflects FPCC efforts to share information with the public around First Nations heritage, languages, cultures and arts in B.C. The target was surpassed because FPCC was able to allocate additional time and resources to create and deliver social media content.

4.1b This measure includes activity on all FPCC websites and continues to be an effective way to track interest in FPCC. The target was greatly surpassed primarily due to increased visits to the First Peoples' Map and First Voices because of increased promotion by FPCC. FPCC also continues to see increased traffic through its grant portal website for community grant applications and reporting.

## Goal 5: Provide leadership on a provincial, national and global scale to support Indigenous arts, languages, culture and heritage revitalization

### Objective 5.1: Position the organization as the go-to thought leader on Indigenous languages, arts, cultures and heritage in B.C., Canada and internationally

#### Key Highlights

- Successfully pivoted Indigifest, a public celebration of Indigenous arts and culture, to an online format

- Hosted four Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee meetings, which bring together experts from across B.C.
- Hosted gatherings of grant recipients to share key learnings and practices

Performance Measure(s)	2018/19 Baseline	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Target	2021/22 Actuals	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
5.1a Number of events, conferences and presentations FPCC staff attend <sup>1</sup>	123	16	30	34	75	90
5.1b Number of collaborative partnerships for FPCC <sup>2</sup>	40	51	58	47	60	62

<sup>1</sup>Data source: Language, Arts, Heritage and Operations Department, FPCC

<sup>2</sup>Data source: Language, Arts, Heritage and Operations Departments, FPCC

## Discussion of Results

5.1a The number of events, conferences and presentations that FPCC staff attend is an indicator of the time and energy FPCC spends connecting with others and sharing expertise. Most events continued to be online this year and FPCC surpassed the target.

5.1b The number of collaborative partnerships is an indicator of the reach and impact of FPCC's role as a leader in the field. This measure includes formal partnerships, FPCC funders and organizations that FPCC assists with training and support. FPCC has partnerships in multiple sectors such as government, education, non-profits, Indigenous organizations, arts councils and research institutions. While FPCC was successful in strengthening relationships that resulted in record levels of funding to communities in 2021/22, the number of collaborative partnerships is lower than the target due to the time invested in strengthening funder relationships.

## Financial Report

For the auditor's report and audited financial statements, [see Appendix B](#). These can also be found on the [First Peoples' Cultural Council website](#).

## Discussion of Results

The FPCC has undergone rapid growth. With the expansion of FPCC programs over the past several years due to increased federal and provincial investments, FPCC's operational needs have increased.

Additional revenues are acquired through proposals to FPCC funders including the First Peoples' Cultural Foundation, the Government of Canada, the BC Arts Council, CreativeBC and various non-governmental organizations.

FPCC works with communities to ensure the funds are invested in initiatives that yield results. Costs such as salaries and office overhead have remained a low proportion of the FPCC budget.

FPCC closed the year ending on March 31, 2022, with a balanced budget. FPCC continued with past practice and did not carry any debt. FPCC's revenues and expenditures were greater than in any previous year.

The Financial Resource Summary Table on the following page provides a summary of operating results for the year ending March 31, 2022, as well as the prior fiscal year.

## Financial Summary

((\$000))	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Budget	2021/22 Actual	2021/22 Variance
<b>Revenue</b>				
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation	1,051	1,051	1,281	(230)
BC Arts Council	1,504	1,725	1,725	0
Other Provincial Ministries	301	320	360	(40)
Grants from Federal Ministries	6,772	6,258	11,454	(5,196)
Grants from Non-Governmental Organizations	15,269	19,772	15,589	4,183
Deferred Revenue	1,094	1,089	1,258	(169)
Interest and Other	20	205	11	194
Office Overhead Recoveries	81	66	61	6
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>26,092</b>	<b>30,485</b>	<b>31,739</b>	<b>(1,253)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Language Programs	16,241	16,397	14,810	1,587
FirstVoices Programs	4,640	5,508	5,157	350
Arts Programs	2,290	2,630	3,663	(1,033)
Heritage Programs	460	3,377	5,602	(2,225)
<b>Operating Expenses and Overhead</b>				
Administrative Salaries/Benefits and Governance	1,403	1,382	1,363	20
Amortization	265	275	233	42
Other Operating Costs	793	916	911	7
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>26,092</b>	<b>30,485</b>	<b>31,739</b>	<b>(1,253)</b>
<b>Annual Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Debt</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Accumulated Surplus/Retained Earnings</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>150</b>

**Note 1:** The above financial information was prepared based on current Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

## **Variance and Trend Analysis**

The following commentary reflects the dollar values reported in the Financial Resource Summary Table and comments on material variances that are over 1% of the total gross budget for 2021/22.

FPCC employs a system of close monitoring and forecasting to maintain a balanced budget throughout the year. Variances typically occur because FPCC applies for funding throughout the fiscal year, relying on partnerships with governments and philanthropic organizations to support grants and program delivery. This funding is often one-time (or soft funding) and as a result, future year budgets are unpredictable.

In 2021/22, FPCC had higher revenues than anticipated by the service plan. The variance in revenue is primarily due to increased funding from the federal government, which resulted in an opportunity to reduce the amount of revenue requested from the First Peoples' Cultural Foundation to support grants to communities.

The variance in expenses for 2021/22 is a result of several factors, most notably, heritage funding provided by the provincial government was allocated to the First Peoples' Cultural Foundation rather than FPCC. FPCC managed the projects on behalf of the Foundation. FPCC was also able to raise additional funds for Heritage programs, so the final variance in expenses is smaller than it might have been.

The FirstVoices Program expenses were lower with reduced costs related to salaries and benefits due to challenges attracting and retaining IT staff due to increased global demand for technology expertise.

Variances related to the Language Program expenses are a result of multiple factors, including higher costs related to wages and benefits and lower costs for contract services. Grants to communities for the language program were lower than anticipated due to timing and other factors. The federal government provided additional revenue for the language program.

The Arts program raised more funding than anticipated in the service plan due to COVID-19 relief funding that was provided by the BC Arts Council through the First Peoples' Cultural Foundation. As a result, FPCC was able to deliver more arts funding to communities than anticipated by the service plan.

## **Risks and Uncertainties**

As an organization that relies on external funding, the greatest risk to FPCC's financial position is the lack of secure and predictable multi-year funding to support heritage, languages, cultures and arts. In response, FPCC is continuing to work with governments and the First Peoples' Cultural Foundation to secure long-term, predictable and sustainable funding to meet community needs. Currently there is not enough capacity and there are not enough resources for every community to deliver needed programming and services. Knowledge Holders who lead community programming are increasingly in demand by government and industry as we work towards reconciliation.

While the recent return to in-person gathering offers hope that the impacts of the pandemic may wane, the last two years have demonstrated uncertainty about the pandemic's impacts and the possibility that recurring restrictions may continue to affect community projects in the future.

Experience has shown that the pandemic can have diverse financial impacts. FPCC will continue to mitigate this risk by taking steps to reduce risks to people, especially our Elders, and seek opportunities to support communities in their work with additional funding. FPCC continues to manage this risk. For example, for in-person MAP training held early in 2022/23, FPCC required all participants to provide proof of vaccination.

The impacts of climate change, including fires, floods and destruction to cultural landscapes, poses a critical threat to the revitalization of First Nations heritage, languages, cultures and arts, which are inextricably linked to the land. FPCC continues to work in partnership with communities to identify innovative responses and adaptation strategies to deal with the impacts of the global health and climate crises.

There is growing awareness by the public about the impacts of cultural genocide and an increasing commitment to Indigenous rights and reconciliation. FPCC continues to advocate for First Nations heritage, language, culture and arts as a human right supported by legal commitments and for investments in these areas to contribute to economic growth and well-being for Indigenous people and all Canadians.

## Appendix A: Additional Information

### Organizational Overview

The First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) mandate is to assist B.C. First Nations in their efforts to revitalize their heritage, language, culture and arts. Since 1990, FPCC has successfully distributed over \$118 million to B.C.'s First Nations communities for language, arts and culture projects. FPCC serves 204 B.C. First Nations, 34 languages and many First Nations people and Indigenous people as well as arts, culture and educational organizations. More details about FPCC's mandate, vision, mission, who we serve, and key partners are available on the organization's [About Us](#) page.

### Corporate Governance

FPCC is governed by a [Board of Directors](#), comprising up to 13 members chaired by Carla Lewis. Carla is a member of the Gitdumden Clan of the Wet'suwet'en First Nation. The Board is comprised of B.C. First Nations members with the exception of one position held by a government representative, an assistant deputy minister, who provides strategic advice and insight on government processes.

The work of the Board is supported by three sub-committees: Governance, Finance and Audit and Human Resources and Compensation. In addition, the Board is supported by a 34-member [Advisory Committee](#), with one representative from each of the First Nations language groups in B.C. FPCC's governing legislation was amended in 2011 to include representation from all B.C. First Nations language groups on its Advisory Committee. This offers more flexibility, which is consistent with contemporary best practices that allow Crown corporations to determine their own structure and governance processes. As a result, it is possible for each language group to have a cultural representative to provide advice to the FPCC Board and staff.

Membership for both the Advisory Committee and the Board of Directors is sought through an open application process which is managed by the Board's Governance Committee. This open application process means that any B.C. First Nations individual can apply for membership. The Advisory Committee and 10 of the 13 Board members are all recommended for appointment by the Board's Governance Committee (and then appointed by the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation) in addition to the three Board members directly appointed by the Minister.

### Contact Information

First Peoples' Cultural Council

1A Boat Ramp Road Brentwood Bay, B.C. V8M 1N9

250-652-5952

[info@fpcc.ca](mailto:info@fpcc.ca)

[fpcc.ca](http://fpcc.ca)

## **Appendix B: Auditor's Report and Audited Financial Statements**

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**FIRST PEOPLES' HERITAGE, LANGUAGE AND CULTURE COUNCIL**

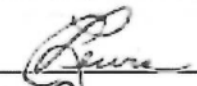
Statement of Financial Position

as of March 31, 2022

(In Thousands of Dollars)

	2022	2021
<b>Financial Assets</b>		
Cash and Banks	\$ 8,725	\$ 1,355
Accounts Receivable	4,594	915
GST Receivable	69	68
Due from Government	-	827
	<u>13,388</u>	<u>3,165</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	5,598	2,224
Deferred Revenue	8,094	1,444
	<u>13,692</u>	<u>3,668</u>
<b>Net Financial Assets</b>	<u>(304)</u>	<u>(503)</u>
<b>Non-Financial Assets</b>		
Tangible Capital Assets	600	811
Prepaid Expenses	88	76
<b>Total Non-Financial Assets</b>	<u>688</u>	<u>887</u>
<b>Accumulated Surplus</b>	<u>\$ 384</u>	<u>\$ 384</u>

Approved by The Board:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Director

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Director

# FIRST PEOPLES' HERITAGE, LANGUAGE AND CULTURE COUNCIL

## Statement of Operations

Year Ended March 31, 2022

(In Thousands of Dollars)

	Budget	2022	2021
<b>Revenue</b>			
Grants	\$ 29,125	\$ 30,409	\$ 24,897
Interest and other	205	11	20
Administration fees	66	61	81
Deferred Revenue	1,089	1,258	1,094
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>30,485</b>	<b>31,739</b>	<b>26,092</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Language Programs	16,397	14,810	16,241
First Voices Programs	5,508	5,157	4,640
Arts Programs	2,630	3,663	2,290
Heritage Programs	3,377	5,602	460
<b>Operating Expenses and Overhead</b>			
Administration Salaries/Benefits & Governance	1,382	1,363	1,403
Amortization	275	233	265
Other Operating Costs	916	911	793
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>30,485</b>	<b>31,739</b>	<b>26,092</b>
<b>Accumulated surplus at beginning of year</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>384</b>
<b>Accumulated surplus at end of year</b>	<b>\$ 384</b>	<b>\$ 384</b>	<b>\$ 384</b>

**FIRST PEOPLES' HERITAGE, LANGUAGE AND CULTURE COUNCIL**

Statement of Change in Net Financial Debt

Year Ended March 31, 2022

(In Thousands of Dollars)

	Budget	<b>2022</b>	2021
Purchase of tangible capital assets	\$ (175)	\$ (25)	\$ (155)
Amortization of tangible capital assets	275	<b>233</b>	265
Decrease (increase) in prepaid expenses	-	(9)	-
	<u>100</u>	<u><b>199</b></u>	<u>110</u>
 <b>Increase in net financial assets</b>	 100	 <b>199</b>	 110
<b>Net financial assets at beginning of year</b>	<u>(503)</u>	<u><b>(503)</b></u>	<u>(613)</u>
<b>Net financial assets at end of year</b>	<u><b>\$ (403)</b></u>	<u><b>\$ (304)</b></u>	<u>(503)</u>

# FIRST PEOPLES' HERITAGE, LANGUAGE AND CULTURE COUNCIL

## Statement of Cash Flows

as of March 31, 2022

(In Thousands of Dollars)

	2022	2021
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
BC Ministry of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation	\$ 1,281	\$ 1,051
BC Arts Council	1,725	1,504
Heritage Branch	150	220
Ministry of Environment	210	81
Department of Canadian Heritage	11,454	6,772
Aboriginal Neighbors	20	25
BC Ferries	14	4
Creative BC	84	138
First Peoples' Cultural Foundation	15,078	14,937
Margaret A. Cargill Foundation	357	149
Tamalpais Trust	6	-
University of Victoria	-	16
United Church	15	-
Yukon Native Language Center	15	-
Administration Fees	61	81
Interest Income and Other	11	20
Deferred contributions	1,258	1,094
	<b>31,739</b>	<b>26,092</b>
Cash used for grants and awards	(25,430)	(20,360)
Cash used for salaries and benefits	(3,670)	(3,479)
Cash recovered from (used for) materials and services	4,781	(4,642)
Cash flows from operating activities	<b>7,420</b>	<b>(2,389)</b>
<b>Investing activity</b>		
Purchase of tangible capital assets	(25)	(155)
Cash flow used by Investing activity	<b>(25)</b>	<b>(155)</b>
<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH FLOW</b>	<b>7,395</b>	<b>(2,544)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents - beginning of year	1,355	3,899
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 8,725</b>	<b>\$ 1,355</b>

# FIRST PEOPLES' HERITAGE, LANGUAGE & CULTURE COUNCIL

## Notes to Financial Statements

(In Thousands of Dollars)

Year Ended March 31, 2022

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### 1. NATURE OF OPERATIONS

The First Peoples' Heritage, Language & Culture Council (the "Council") is a Crown Corporation, established under the *First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Act* and is an agent of the Crown. The Council commenced operations April 1, 1991. The Council is exempt from federal and provincial income taxes. The mission of the Council is as follows:

- To preserve, restore and enhance First Nations' heritage, language and culture;
- To increase understanding and sharing of knowledge, within both First Nations' and non-First Nations' communities; and
- To heighten appreciation and acceptance of the wealth of cultural diversity among British Columbians.

### 2. COVID-19 IMPACT

In March 2020, the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The situation is constantly evolving, and continues to have wide reaching implications which affect every community, including the operations of the Council.

The Council follows the BC provincial guidance and orders to conduct their operations within the Provincial Health Officer Orders (PHO), federal and BC provincial government recommendations, BC Workers' Compensation and any other guidelines to conduct its' operations in a safe manner.

The Council is continuing to use technology, work remotely and offer support and programs for grant recipients and Indigenous communities, within their mandate. Management has assessed implications and adjusted estimates and accruals, where possible. Certain areas of service delivery has been reduced due to the nature or ability to conduct these programs in a remote/online environment. Management has no information that would result in a going concern issue for the Council.

### 3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### Basis of presentation

These financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Budgeted figures have been provided for comparison purposes and have been derived from the estimates approved by the Board of Directors and reported as per the Service Plan for 2021/22.

#### Comparative figures

Certain comparative amounts have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.

#### Cash and cash equivalents

Cash includes cash and cash equivalents. Cash equivalents are investments in term deposits and are valued at cost plus accrued interest. The carrying amounts approximate fair value because they have maturities at the date of purchase of less than ninety days or are cashable.

(continues)

# FIRST PEOPLES' HERITAGE, LANGUAGE & CULTURE COUNCIL

## Notes to Financial Statements

(In Thousands of Dollars)

Year Ended March 31, 2022

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### 3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

#### Financial instruments

The Council's financial instruments consist of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued liabilities, all of which are reported at amortized cost.

#### Tangible capital assets

Tangible capital assets are stated at cost or deemed cost less accumulated amortization. Tangible capital assets are amortized over their estimated useful lives on a straight-line basis at the following rates:

Computer equipment	3 years
Computer software	3 years
Furniture and equipment	5 years
Leasehold improvements	7 years

No amortization has been taken on the Art Collection.

#### Revenue recognition

Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

#### Donated services and materials

Donated materials are recorded both as donations and expenses at their fair value when fair value can be reasonably estimated. Donated services are not recorded in the financial statements, as they cannot be reasonably estimated. The Council also receives a number of volunteer hours from the Board of Directors, which have not been recognized, due to the difficulty of estimating their value.

#### Measurement uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian public sector accounting standards requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Such estimates are periodically reviewed and any adjustments necessary are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. Actual results could differ from these estimates. Accounts impacted by estimates include collectability of accounts receivable, accrual of accounts payable, and useful life of tangible capital assets.

Grant expenditures are recorded based on the various grant awards and may differ on whether the payable or holdback is set up initially or whether a payable is set up at year end, to reflect an approximation of the expenses for the fiscal year.

At the end of the year, management assessed the various grant awards and programs and have estimated any impairments to grant awards, based on information available at that time. The actual grants paid relating to this fiscal year will vary due to holdbacks and funding that the recipient may not be able to complete based on various factors, including the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis.

**FIRST PEOPLES' HERITAGE, LANGUAGE & CULTURE COUNCIL**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**(In Thousands of Dollars)**  
**Year Ended March 31, 2022**

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**4. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

The Council's Board of Directors and Advisory Committee are appointed by the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. There are two parallel processes for appointment for these positions. Three board positions are appointed by the Board Development Office by application and the other nine directors on the board are selected by the Council's board of governance committee through an application process. These board members are from BC First Nations communities. The Council's Advisory Committee has thirty-four positions, one for each BC First Nations Language, and these Advisory Committee members are selected by the Council's governance committee.

It is inevitable that there will be grants made to the community may be linked to one of the Council's Board or Advisory Committee members. The standard application process and the peer review processes by which the Council selects grants ensures there is not a conflict of interest.

The Council works closely with the First Peoples' Cultural Foundation (the "Foundation") on shared language revitalization goals, including the FirstVoices program. The Foundation is an independent organization with a separate Board of Directors. Transactions with this entity are made under normal operational terms and conditions.

The First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council is related through common ownership to all Province of British Columbia ministries, agencies and Crown corporations. Transactions with these entities are made under normal operational terms and conditions.

**5. DUE FROM GOVERNMENT**

Due from government consists of the following:

(In Thousands of Dollars)

	<b>March 31, 2022</b>	<b>March 31, 2021</b>
Due from Federal Government	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 827</b>

**FIRST PEOPLES' HERITAGE, LANGUAGE & CULTURE COUNCIL**

**Notes to Financial Statements**

**(In Thousands of Dollars)**

**Year Ended March 31, 2022**

**6. TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS**

(In Thousands of Dollars)

<u>Cost</u>	March 31, 2021 Balance	Additions	Disposals	March 31, 2022 Balance
Art Collection	\$ 171	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 171
Computer equipment	620	16	-	636
Computer software	55	2	-	57
Furniture and Equipment	440	3	-	443
Leasehold Improvements	789	3	-	792
	<u>\$ 2,075</u>	<u>\$ 24</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 2,099</u>

	2021		Accumulated Amortization	2022
<u>Accumulated Amortization</u>	Balance	Amortization	on Disposals	Balance
Art Collection	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Computer equipment	531	68	-	599
Computer software	52	2	-	54
Furniture and Equipment	267	72	-	339
Leasehold Improvements	414	93	-	507
	<u>\$ 1,264</u>	<u>\$ 235</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,499</u>

<u>Net book value</u>	March 31, 2022	March 31, 2021
Art Collection	\$ 171	\$ 171
Computer equipment	37	89
Computer software	3	3
Furniture and Equipment	104	173
Leasehold Improvements	<u>285</u>	<u>375</u>
	<u>\$ 600</u>	<u>\$ 811</u>

# FIRST PEOPLES' HERITAGE, LANGUAGE & CULTURE COUNCIL

## Notes to Financial Statements

(In Thousands of Dollars)

Year Ended March 31, 2022

### 7. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS

Deferred contributions consists of funding under contribution agreements and other restricted contributions. Contributions are recognized as revenue in the fiscal year the related expenses are incurred or services are performed. Deferred contributions consists of the following:

	(in Thousands of Dollars)			
	Balance April 1, 2021	Receipts during year	Transferred to revenue	Balance March 31, 2022
BC Arts Council	\$ 221	\$ -	\$ 221	\$ -
Creative BC	369	-	369	-
Department of Canadian Heritage	-	18,114	11,454	6,660
First Peoples' Cultural Foundation	-	750	93	657
FPCF (Heritage Branch)	204	-	72	132
Indigenous Services Canada	57	-	57	-
Margaret A. Cargill Foundation	373	383	730	26
Ministry of Environment	29	-	29	-
RSF Social Finance	191	561	143	609
Yukon Native Language Centre	-	25	15	10
	<u>\$ 1,444</u>	<u>\$ 19,833</u>	<u>\$ 13,183</u>	<u>\$ 8,094</u>

	(in Thousands of Dollars)			
	Balance April 1, 2020	Receipts during year	Transferred to revenue	Balance March 31, 2021
BC Arts Council	\$ -	\$ 1,504	\$ 1,283	\$ 221
Creative BC	155	369	155	369
Department of Canadian Heritage	423	6,772	7,195	-
First Peoples' Cultural Foundation	73	14,937	15,010	-
FPCF (Heritage Branch)	-	220	16	204
Indigenous Services Canada	160	-	103	57
Margaret A. Cargill Foundation	361	149	137	373
Ministry of Environment	-	81	52	29
RSF Social Finance	-	191	-	191
	<u>\$ 1,172</u>	<u>\$ 24,223</u>	<u>\$ 23,951</u>	<u>\$ 1,444</u>

**FIRST PEOPLES' HERITAGE, LANGUAGE & CULTURE COUNCIL****Notes to Financial Statements****(In Thousands of Dollars)****Year Ended March 31, 2022****8. EXPENDITURES BY OBJECT**

The following is a summary of expenditures by object (in Thousands of Dollars):

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
<u>Expenditures</u>		
Grants	\$ 25,430	\$ 20,360
Salaries and Benefits	3,670	3,478
Purchased services	1,279	991
Office Overhead and Operating Costs	357	388
Community Resources, R&D and Jury Costs	315	208
Professional Fees	240	246
Amortization	233	265
Facilities Rent, Heating and Maintenance	205	139
Board and Advisory	8	17
	<u>\$ 31,739</u>	<u>\$ 26,092</u>

**9. CAPITAL STOCK**

The capital of the Council is one share with a par value of \$100. The share is issued to and held by Her Majesty the Queen in right of the Province of British Columbia.

**10. LEASE COMMITMENTS**

The Council leases premises under a long term lease that expires on August 31, 2025. Under the lease, the Council is required to pay a base rent of \$78,000. In addition to the above base rent, the Council must pay for its proportionate share of utilities and other related costs for the leased premises.

The minimum annual operating lease payments for the next five years are as follows:

2023	\$ 78
2024	78
2025	33
	<u>\$ 189</u>

In addition, the Council has 2 one-year leases for additional premises at separate locations. These leases require rent in the amount of \$22,200 per annum with the Council paying additional utilities and \$3,800 per annum. The current signed lease is for the period November 15, 2021 to November 14, 2022 and April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023 respectively.

**FIRST PEOPLES' HERITAGE, LANGUAGE & CULTURE COUNCIL**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**(In Thousands of Dollars)**  
**Year Ended March 31, 2022**

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**11. PUBLIC SERVICE PENSION PLAN**

The Council and its employees contribute to the BC Public Service Pension Plan. The plan is a multi-employer defined benefit plan administered by the British Columbia Pension Corporation in accordance with the *Public Sector Pension Plans Act*.

The plan is accounted for as a defined contribution plan. For the year ended March 31, 2022 the Council paid \$260 (2021: \$249) for employer contributions to the plan.

The plan provides defined pension benefits to employees based on their length of service and rates of pay. The risks and rewards associated with the Plan's unfunded liability or surplus are shared between the employers and the Plan's members and may be reflected in their future contributions. No pension liability for this type of plan is included in the financial statements. Based on the most recent actuarial valuation (March 31, 2020 Actuarial Valuation Report), the financial position of this plan is in a surplus position.

# FIRST PEOPLES' HERITAGE, LANGUAGE AND CULTURE COUNCIL

## Schedule of Grant Revenue

Year Ended March 31, 2022

(In Thousands of Dollars)

	Budget	2022	2021
<b>Revenue</b>			
BC Ministry of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation	\$ 1,051	\$ 1,281	\$ 1,051
BC Arts Council	1,725	1,725	1,504
Other Provincial Ministries			
Heritage Branch	210	150	220
BC Ministry of Environment	110	210	81
<b>Grants from BC Provincial Ministries</b>	<b>3,096</b>	<b>3,366</b>	<b>2,856</b>
Department of Canadian Heritage	6,258	11,454	6,772
<b>Grants from Federal Ministries</b>	<b>6,258</b>	<b>11,454</b>	<b>6,772</b>
Aboriginal Neighbors	25	20	25
BC Ferries	-	14	4
Creative BC	192	84	138
First Peoples' Cultural Foundation	19,275	15,078	14,937
Margaret A. Cargill Foundation	280	357	149
Tamalpais Trust	-	6	-
University of Victoria	-	-	16
United Church	-	15	-
Yukon Native Language Center	-	15	-
<b>Grants from Non-Governmental Organizations</b>	<b>19,772</b>	<b>15,589</b>	<b>15,269</b>
	<b>\$ 29,126</b>	<b>\$ 30,409</b>	<b>\$ 24,897</b>

## **FPCC CEO and Board Member Biographies**

### **Carla Lewis, Board Chair**

Carla Lewis is a member of the Gitdumden Clan of the Wet'suwet'en Nation. She holds a bachelor's degree in Anthropology and First Nations Studies and a master's degree in Indigenous Governance. Through her career and life journey, Carla has been actively participating in the resurgence of Indigenous culture and language through participatory and land-based activities. Carla currently works for the First Nations Health Authority as a Traditional Wellness Specialist. She also advises and supports programs and services of the Wet'suwet'en Language and Culture Society and continues to take on exciting projects around Indigenous culture and language through her company, Yintah Consulting.

### **Tamara Goddard, Director**

Tamara has an extraordinary understanding of Nation Building, Indigenous business, First Nations governance, culture, and history. Of the Saulteau First Nation in North Eastern BC, she continues to work on identifying and creating solutions to collate Canadian and Indigenous Economy in Canada in a productive and sustainable way. Tamara completed her Master's Degree in Indigenous Business & Leadership at SFU. Tamara's primary focus is the study of Indigenous economic ideologies and how they can effectively cofunction within the current western economic systems. Over the past 15 years, Tamara has performed extensive research pertaining to the gaps and opportunities between First Nations, Governments, and Industry. Tamara utilizes this research in her work with multiple First Nation, Indigenous organizations, Crown Corporations, Governments and Industry towards developing and implementing economic strategies, financial mechanisms and growth partnerships. With this experience, Tamara leads Four Our Future Indigenous Economics which works on national and regional economic development projects, major projects and business development projects. As CEO of Four Our Future Indigenous Economics, Tamara utilizes her extensive network and experience to build levers of reconciliation by introducing the Indigenous Economics lens into the Canadian economy. Tamara considers Indigenous economics a natural step stemming from the success of Indigenous Law and Canada's commitment to the United Nations Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Four Our Future currently works with companies such as Telus, Canada Lands Corporation, National Indigenous Capital Corporation, Canada Council for Indigenous Business, Assembly of First Nations, and many First Nations on projects with significant economic impacts nationally.

### **Connie Linda Watts, Director**

Connie Watts is the Associate Director, Aboriginal Programs at Emily Carr University of Art + Design. She is an interdisciplinary artist, writer, curator, educator and designer of Nuu- chah-nulth, Gitxsan and Kwakwaka'wakw ancestry. Born and raised in Campbell River, Connie has a Bachelor of Interior Design from the University of Manitoba, and a BFA from Emily Carr. Her award-winning work is often rooted in forms and knowledge drawn from First Nations cultures, while her sculptural objects incorporate modern fabrication and design techniques. She has shown nationally and internationally, and her work is included in numerous corporate and civic collections. Some highlights include her graduation project,

## FPCC CEO and Board Member Biographies

Vereinigung, exhibited for two years at the Museum of Anthropology (and now hangs permanently at the Harborview Medical Centre in Seattle, Wash.); her subsequent thunderbird installation, Hetux, was purchased for permanent display at the Vancouver International Airport; and Strength from Within, a more recent installation Connie calls one of her “most meaningful,” was created to commemorate the children of the Alberni Indian Residential School for the Tseshaht Nation. In more recent years, Connie completed the interior design for the Songhees Wellness Centre — a 48,000 square foot contemporary commercial building that fuses art, architecture, and design with the Songhees culture — and was the project manager for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Committee’s Aboriginal Art Program. As curator on that project, she was responsible for the procurement, commissioning, execution and installation of over 50 artworks in the 16 official Olympic venues — an accomplishment marked by the publication of “O Siyam,” a book celebrating the Aboriginal Olympic artworks. Connie previously sat on the Emily Carr Board of Governors for six years. She has also been affiliated with the British Columbia Arts Council, the First Peoples Cultural Council, the Vancouver Foundation and the Contemporary Art Gallery, among other institutions.

### **Shulqwilum Ray Harris, Director**

Ray Harris, a member of the Chemanius First Nation, has a broad range of cultural, political and on the ground experience in First Nations issues. Mr. Harris is an active commercial fisherman who travels yearly up and down the BC coast. He has been instrumental in organizing the Coast Salish Gatherings and the formation of the Coast Salish Council which focuses on environmental and resource health in the Coast Salish Sea and region. As co-chair of the First Nation Summit - for his fifth consecutive term - he works on issues related to treaty negotiations in BC. Ray is a father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. All Ray’s experiences are guided by his deep connection and participation in the cultural traditions of the Coast Salish.

### **Grant Alphonse, Director**

My name is Grant Alphonse,Personal Information  
Personal Information

Personal Information

I also obtained my Masters of Education to help further this goal. I look forward to increasing our language proficiency in creating new Tsilhqot’in words and making it more adaptable and fluid to grow with our future generations.

## **FPCC CEO and Board Member Biographies**

### **William James Sterritt, Director**

William James Sterritt (Jamie) began his professional career as the First Nations Liaison for Klohn-Crippen Consultants, an environmental consulting firm based in Vancouver BC. At Klohn-Crippen, he built a solid reputation in community engagement and consultation and in commercial information technology applications. In 2005, Jamie launched Sa'hetxw Consulting where he has planned and delivered a wide range of successful projects for his clients, from broadband network projects and customized computer science courses to community capacity development and planning. Now, as both an Information & Communications Technology (ICT) expert and a seasoned Aboriginal Governance consultant and facilitator, who has a background in traditional and digital arts, Jamie brings a truly unique blend of expertise, a remarkably diverse skill set, and a wealth of experience to any project he takes on. He also brings his passion and boundless energy. He's a member of the Gitksan Nation and currently sits as Chair of the Board of Governors for Nicola Valley Institute of Technology. He relishes the overlap between his various disciplines and fields of knowledge, embracing both the traditional and the modern.

### **Etimot Sharlene Frank, Director**

Sharlene Frank is from the SałŁt clan, members of whom belong to the Whale House of the K'ómoks First Nation. Her focus and passion are working with First Nations to rebuild their governance according to their cultural traditions. This has led to several community- based initiatives, including language camps, traditional governance research, and research and mentorship projects involving elders and other knowledge keepers. Sharlene holds a master's in public administration from Queen's University. She resides in her home community and is currently an independent contractor working extensively on the North Island.

### **Málågius Gerald Lawson, Director**

Málågius Gerald Lawson is from the Heiltsuk Nation and is an enthusiastic new language learner. He currently manages the Oral History and Language Lab at the UBC Museum of Anthropology and is dedicated to supporting Indigenous control of cultural heritage. Mr. Lawson developed many of the resources that have grown into the UBC Indigitization Grant Program, acts as the program Technology Lead and sits on the Indigitization Steering Committee. He primarily works to remove barriers of colonial information practice that impede the cultural goals of B.C. First Nations. To this end he currently sits on the Canadian Federation of Library Associations Indigenous Matters Committee and the Association of Canadian Archivists Truth and Reconciliation Task Force.

## **FPCC CEO and Board Member Biographies**

### **Addie Price (Ministerial Order is being drafted as of September 14, 2022)**

Addie Pryce is from the Nisga'a Nation of Gingolx, on the north coast of British Columbia. Throughout her career, Addie has been committed to the health and well-being of all Aboriginal people and communities. Addie has held leadership roles within B.C. and Ontario, including working with the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, Indigenous Services Canada (formerly Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development), the First Nations Information Governance Centre, and as the Director of the Health Sector for the Assembly of First Nations, where she advocated for First Nations' health and well-being. In her role as Vice President, Aboriginal Partnerships for the Interior Health Authority, Addie is committed to the health and well-being of all Aboriginal people and communities in the Interior region. She fosters relationships with First Nations and Métis partners and organizations, and provides executive leadership to IH's work in cultural safety and humility.

### **Jennifer Melles, Director (non-voting)**

Jennifer Melles was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation in August 2019. Jennifer Melles' bio is already in the transition binder for MIRR ADMs.

### **Tracey Herbert, CEO**

Tracey is a member of the St'uxwtews First Nation (Bonaparte Band), located in the territory of the Secwepemc Tribe in the Thompson region of B.C.'s interior. While serving as the band's only female councillor in the 1990s, Tracey saw firsthand the many challenges facing her community, which inspired her to create positive change and seek opportunities for First Nations people across the province. Tracey has spent 27 years in the service of First Nations communities across the country, motivated by a strong belief that Indigenous peoples must be recognized and respected as experts of their own cultures. On September 20, 2018, Tracey was honoured with the Order of B.C. in acknowledgment of her decades of work advocating for B.C.'s First Nations people. Prior to her role at FPCC, Tracey was part of a team at Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada that developed the first B.C. Region Strategic Plan. Tracey also worked at the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch. Tracey holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Victoria. She is currently the Chair of the Governance Council for the Endangered Languages Project, launched in partnership with Google.org, University of Hawaii at Manoa and Eastern Michigan University in 2012. She has been a consultant on Canadian International Development Agency projects in Africa and China sharing best practices in Indigenous cultural program delivery and development.

## What Do We Do? – Highlights

### Reconciliation and Transformation Strategies Division

#### Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act 101

ADM Responsible: Ann Marie Sam

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The *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act) was unanimously passed by the British Columbia Legislative Assembly in November 2019. This made B.C. the first jurisdiction in Canada to adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration).

The Declaration Act established the UN Declaration as the Province's framework for reconciliation, as called for by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The UN Declaration is a "universal framework of minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the Indigenous Peoples of the world and it elaborates on existing human rights standards and fundamental freedoms as they apply to the specific situation of Indigenous Peoples.

The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act contributes to the implementation of the UN Declaration in B.C. by enabling legislative, regulatory and policy changes to be made over time to support implementation. The Act:

- requires the Province, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples to take all measures necessary to ensure the laws of B.C. are consistent with the UN Declaration (section 3);
- requires the development and implementation of an action plan, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples, to achieve the objectives of the UN Declaration (section 4);
- requires the Province to report annually on progress made toward alignment of laws and achievement of the goals in the action plan (section 5); and
- enables agreements with Indigenous governing bodies, including joint or consent-based decision-making agreements that reflect free, prior and informed consent (sections 6 and 7).

#### Alignment of Laws (section 3)

- The alignment of laws requires a whole-of-government approach, with each ministry responsible for ensuring their legislation meets these Declaration Act obligations.
- The Province is developing processes and protocols to ensure consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples so that the alignment of laws is efficient, effective and comprehensive.
- In 2021 and 2022, the Province has introduced legislation that demonstrates tangible progress on the alignment of laws to the UN Declaration, including legislation upholding Indigenous human rights through the BC Human Rights Code and amending the *Interpretation Act* to include a universal non-derogation clause which makes it explicit that provincial laws uphold, and do not abrogate or derogate from, the rights of Indigenous peoples under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* and to provide that all provincial acts and regulations must be read to be

## What Do We Do? – Highlights

consistent with the UN Declaration.

- The 2022 Budget Speech announced the creation of the Declaration Act Secretariat that will guide and assist the Province in meeting its obligation to ensure legislation is consistent with the UN Declaration, and is developed in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples.

### Action Plan (section 4)

- After two years of intensive engagement, the Province released the first Declaration Act Action Plan on March 30, 2022
- Developed in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples, the action plan includes collectively identified goals and outcomes that provide the long-term strategic vision for achieving the objectives of the UN Declaration.
- It outlines 89 tangible, achievable actions in the areas of self-determination and self-government, rights and title, ending anti-Indigenous racism and enhancing social, cultural and economic well being

### Annual Report (section 5)

- The Province has tabled 3 annual reports since the passage of the Declaration Act.
- Each report has covered progress made on the alignment of provincial laws with the UN Declaration, the development of an action plan to achieve the objectives of the UN Declaration as well as work to advance the implementation of the UN Declaration more broadly.
- The next annual report will be the first that will report on the implementation of the action plan.

### Agreements with Indigenous governing bodies (sections 6 and 7)

- On June 6, 2022, the Tahltan Central Government and the Province announced that they had entered into the first consent-based decision-making agreement under the Declaration Act.
- The Tahltan agreement outlines consent-based decision-making related to the environmental assessment of the Eskay Creek Revitalization Project.
- On August 2, 2022, the Province announced that the shíshálh Nation and the Province of British Columbia are starting negotiations on the first joint decision-making agreement to be negotiated under section 7 of the Declaration Act.
- The shíshálh Nation agreement will support ongoing work to achieve long-term comprehensive reconciliation and land-use predictability by providing transparent requirements for dock applicants, mitigating ecological impacts to the foreshore, protecting archeological resources, and advancing collaborative management of shíshálh swiya (territory/birthplace/world).

## What Do We Do? – Highlights

### Reconciliation and Transformation Strategies Division

#### Concrete Actions

ADM Responsible: Ann Marie Sam

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#### Implementing the Commitment Document (2015): Concrete Actions

- In 2016, the B.C. Cabinet and the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) endorsed the Commitment Document, articulating the commitment to a government-to-government relationship.
- May 2017, a new government was formed, which committed to work with First Nations to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (U.N. Declaration), the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Calls to Action, and the Tsilhqot'in decision.
- To reflect this new approach, B.C. and the FNLC updated and refreshed in 2018 the Commitment Document and the associated Joint Agenda:
  - Implementing the Commitment Document – Shared Vision, Guiding Principles, Goals and Objectives ("Vision"); and
  - Implementing the Commitment Document - Concrete Actions: Transforming Laws, Policies, Processes and Structures ("Concrete Actions").
- To achieve the shared Vision, the Concrete Actions focus on systemic change and establishing new institutions, processes, and structures to support/facilitate reconciliation efforts, enabling new negotiations and dispute resolution approaches, and providing capacity and governance development support for First Nations and BC.
- To support an effective process to carry out the Concrete Actions, a structure has been established that includes collaboration at political and technical levels as follows:
  - *Joint Core Leadership Table (JCLT)*: Meets annually to oversee implementation of the Joint Agenda will be overseen by Members of the Provincial Cabinet and the FNLC;
  - *Joint Core Political Table (JCPT)*: Meets bi-monthly to monitor the implementation of the Joint Agenda by the FNLC, the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and the Attorney General; and
  - *Joint Core Working Group (JCWG)*: A joint senior official technical working group meets monthly to ensure consistent progress of Concrete Actions.
- There has been significant progress in implementing the Joint Agenda demonstrated by completing and substantially progressing commitments under the Concrete Actions, such as:
  - Concrete Action 1 - Implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:

## What Do We Do? – Highlights

- Passing of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.
- Release of the *Declaration Act* Action Plan and Annual Reports.
- Concrete Action 3 - Strong Government-to-Government Relationships:
  - Completed a long-term agreement to share gaming revenues.
  - Conclusion of agreements demonstrating alternative approaches to comprehensive reconciliation (e.g.: Lake Babine Nation Foundation Agreement).
  - Negotiation and approval of the Declaration Act Consent Decision-Making Agreement for Eskay Creek Revitalization Project, under section 7 of the *Declaration Act*.
- Concrete Action 4 - Legislation, Policy and Practice Review and Reform
  - Declaration Act Secretariat established on April 1, 2022.
  - Working group established to advance Indigenous child and family jurisdiction and self-government.
  - Working group established to advance priority issues related to forestry sector and forestry legislation (e.g.: *Forest and Range Practices Act*).
- Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications
- Co-development of a new fiscal relationship and framework with Indigenous peoples and Canada.

## What Do We Do? – Highlights

### Reconciliation and Transformation Strategies Division

#### Action Plan

ADM Responsible: Ann Marie Sam

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- Section 4 of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act) states that the government must prepare and implement an action plan, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples, to achieve the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration).
- On March 30, 2022 the first Declaration Act Action Plan was released. It is a five-year, cross-government plan developed in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples.
- A two-year, multi-phase engagement process informed the development of the Action Plan. During this time, the Province welcomed feedback on all components of the action plan – from themes, to goals, outcome statements and actions.
- Feedback was sought directly from rights and title holders, as well as from the First Nations Leadership Council, Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations, Métis Nation BC, First Nations organizations, and Indigenous service organizations. The Province hosted 150 meetings with First Nations and Indigenous Organizations.
- The engagement process also included feedback from the Union of BC Municipalities, Business Council of BC, BC Chamber of Commerce, Council of Forest Industries, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, Explorers and Producers Association of Canada, Mining Association of BC, and the Association for Mineral Exploration, among others.
- The Action Plan is structured around four themes that draw from the articles of the UN Declaration:
  1. Self Determination and Self Government;
  2. Title and Rights of Indigenous People;
  3. Ending Indigenous-specific Racism and Discrimination; and
  4. Social, Cultural and Economic Well-being.
- Each theme includes a goal with specific outcomes and 89 proposed actions for implementation between 2022 and 2027.
- All 26 government agencies are represented in the plan. Lead ministries will work in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples to deliver on their specific actions.
- The Action Plan does not include all current or planned provincial initiatives to advance reconciliation in B.C.
- Implementation of the Action Plan is underway; as of September 2022, two actions have already been completed. The Province has committed to initiating all actions over the next five years.
- Section 5 of the Declaration Act requires the Province to report annually on the implementation of the Action Plan. MIRR is currently working closely with action leads to develop progress indicators which will play a key part in future annual reports.
- The Action Plan will be comprehensively updated in 5 years.

## What Do We Do? – Highlights

### Reconciliation and Transformation Strategies Division

#### Annual Report

ADM Responsible: Ann Marie Sam

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- The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act) establishes the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) as the Province's framework for reconciliation in British Columbia.
- Section 5 of the Declaration Act requires the Province to produce an annual report on:
  - progress made on the alignment of provincial laws with the UN Declaration (Section 3), and
  - the development and implementation of an action plan to achieve the objectives of the UN Declaration (Section 4).
- The annual report must be prepared in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples in B.C.
- The annual report must be laid before the Legislative Assembly (or the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly if the Legislative Assembly is not sitting) by June 30 of each year and report on the 12-month period ending on March 31.
- The third annual report was released on June 30, 2022. It covers activities from April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022.
- Consultation and cooperation efforts for the third annual report were twofold:
  1. MIRR led engagement with the First Nation Leadership Council, Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations and Métis Nation BC on the proposed approach and content of the overall report
  2. Ministries reached out to the Indigenous partners mentioned in the report for feedback and guidance to inform the development of content.
- 2021-2022 Annual Report Highlights:
  - Section 3 (Alignment of Laws): seven new or amended laws that progress towards alignment to the *Declaration Act* over the course of the year.
  - In March 2022, the *Declaration Act* Secretariat was established to lead the alignment of laws process for B.C.
  - Section 4 (Declaration Act Action Plan): the inaugural Action Plan was tabled on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The 2021/2022 annual report recounts the finalization and launch of the Plan.
  - 19 key initiatives that advance implementation of the UN Declaration and reconciliation commitments more broadly were also included.
- Progress indicators for the action plan will be a key part of future annual reports. MIRR is working closely with ministry action leads in the development of these indicators and is exploring how to involve Indigenous partners.

## What Do We Do?

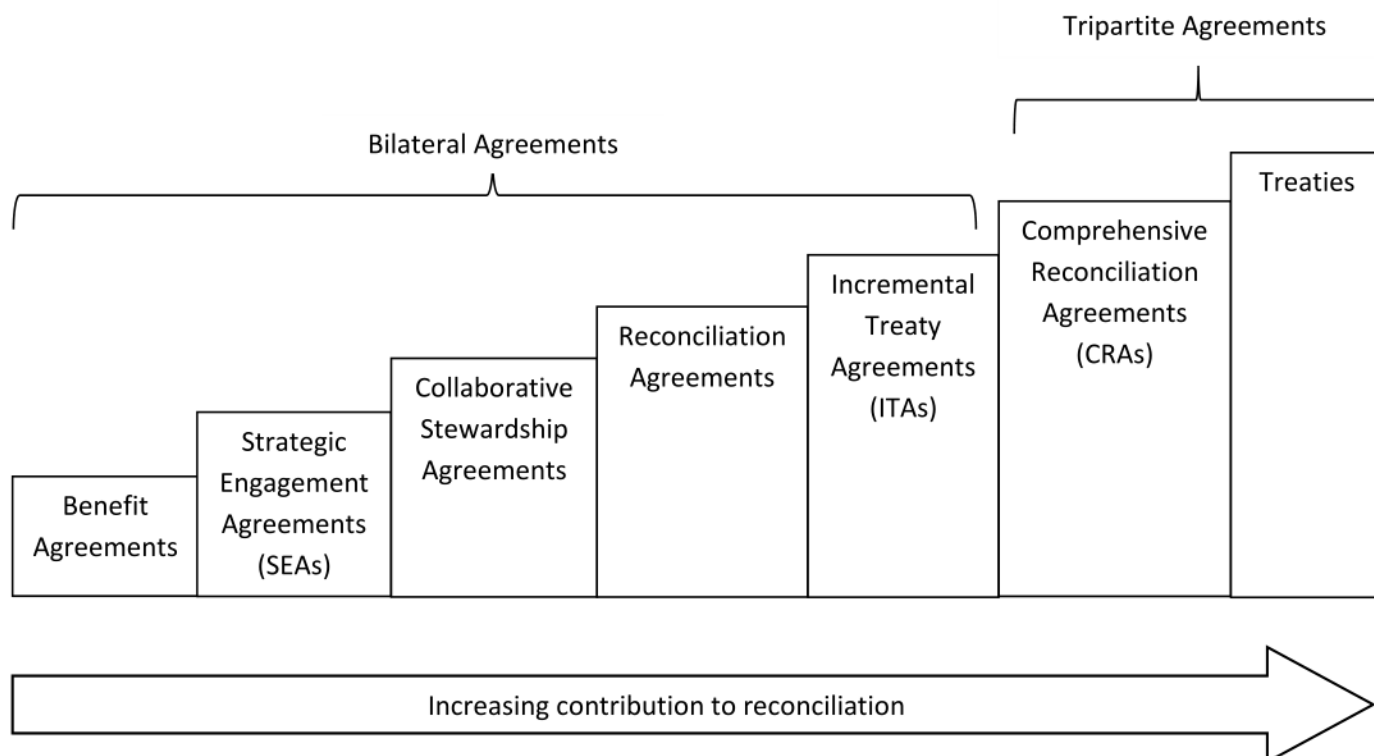
### Negotiations and Regional Operations Division

#### Types of Agreements

A/ADM Responsible: Alexandra Banford

#### Background

- There are many different types of agreements between Indigenous peoples and the Province. Treaties and other agreements are important tools to build relationships with First Nations, resolve conflicts, and create mechanisms to advance reconciliation and achieve shared goals.
- The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples refers to a range of agreements as "treaties, agreements, or other constructive arrangements". As reflected in Principle 5 of the Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples, *"the Province prefers no one mechanism of reconciliation to another. It is prepared to enter into innovative and flexible arrangements with Indigenous peoples that will ensure that the relationship accords with the aspirations, needs, and circumstances of the Crown-Indigenous relationship."*
- These different types of agreements fall along a spectrum of incrementally significant contributions to reconciliation, illustrated below.



## What Do We Do?

### Treaties

- Treaties are the most comprehensive form of reconciliation and the embodiment of living relationships between First Nations, B.C. and Canada. These constitutionally entrenched agreements recognize Aboriginal title and rights and provide for the co-existence of the Crown and First Nation governments and laws.
- Treaties established prior to 1923 in Canada are referred to as “historic treaties.” The historic treaties in British Columbia are the 14 Douglas Treaties on Vancouver Island (established between 1850-1854) and Treaty 8 in northeastern British Columbia (established in 1899).
- B.C. has four modern treaties in effect with eight First Nations: Nisga’a treaty, Tsawwassen First Nation treaty, the Maa-nulth treaty (five First Nations) and the Tla’amin Nation treaty. The Nisga’a treaty was negotiated outside the British Columbia Treaty Commission (BCTC) process.
- The Recognition and Reconciliation of Rights Policy for Treaty Negotiations in British Columbia (3R Policy) is a tripartite expression of the intentions of treaty transformation. It was endorsed by the Principals in 2019 – B.C., Canada, and the First Nations Summit.
- The new Recognition and Predictability approach ensures that Aboriginal Rights are no longer extinguished or modified by treaty but continue as exercisable treaty rights. Treaties now also include Periodic Renewal and Orderly Process language, ensuring treaties are living documents that can evolve to incorporate new rights.
- The 3R policy enables the co-development of treaty mandates by government and First Nations, supports incremental, staged or stepping-stone approaches to negotiating treaties, and expresses a willingness to explore the negotiation of Indigenous title through a treaty, rather than having it declared through the courts.
- The negotiation of treaties is one of highest priorities for MIRR in terms of resource allocation.
- The primary provincial contribution to treaty settlements is land, with Canada providing the majority of cash contributions to settlements.
- Cabinet Confidences; Intergovernmental Communications

### Comprehensive Reconciliation Agreements (CRAs)

- CRAs are also tripartite agreements, but structure an incremental approach to reconciliation. In their initial stages CRAs do not address Section 35 as is the case in treaties, but as they progress over time, the objective is that a late stage CRA will be very similar to a treaty.
- CRAs rely on the same mandate considerations as treaties to ensure there is equity between different approaches to reconciliation, but provide an alternate path to reconciliation.
- CRA provisions address multiple issues and interests for First Nations and the Province. <sup>Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications</sup>
- CRAs may include provisions related to shared decision-making, land use planning, Crown land transfers, and support for the establishment of First Nations governance and institutions required to implement the agreement.

## What Do We Do?

- The Province only pursues CRAs with First Nations that have demonstrated a strong interest in pursuing comprehensive reconciliation, developing strong partnerships founded on mutual interests, and building regional economies. CRAs also require the participation of the federal government in the later stages.
- Involvement in smaller-scale G2G agreements (e.g. a Strategic Engagement Agreement or Reconciliation Agreement) may lead to CRA negotiations.
- In 2019 Cabinet adopted a CRA Framework to guide the Province's pursuit of CRAs.
  - Examples: Lake Babine Nation Foundation Agreement; Tuígila "To Make a Path Forward" Agreement for Implementation of Heiltsuk Title, Rights and Self-government

### Incremental Treaty Agreements (ITAs)

- An ITA is a legally binding, bilateral, pre-treaty agreement negotiated by the Province and First Nation(s) at a treaty negotiation table to advance treaty-related benefits for the First Nations and the Province prior to a Final Agreement (Stage 5 of the BC Treaty Process).
- ITAs build trust among the parties, create incentives to reach further milestones (such as Agreements-in-Principle) and provide increased certainty over land and resources.
- 27 First Nations in British Columbia have entered ITAs with the Province.
  - Examples: Halalt Incremental Treaty Agreement; Malahat Nation Incremental Treaty Agreement; Klahoose First Nation Incremental Treaty Agreement

### Reconciliation Agreements

- Reconciliation Agreements include a range of bilateral agreements between the Province and First Nations in support of the goal of tripartite reconciliation.
- They advance relationships with First Nations in British Columbia that are based on respect, recognition and accommodation of Indigenous title and rights; respect for each others' laws and responsibilities; and reconciliation of Indigenous and Crown titles and jurisdictions.
- Reconciliation Agreements often focus on specific areas of interest or resolving specific conflicts, including land and resource management, or closing socio-economic gaps that separate Indigenous people from other British Columbians.
  - Examples: Carrier Sekani Tribal Council Pathways Forward 2.0 Agreement; shishalh Framework Agreement; Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs - Memorandum of Understanding B.C. and Canada to implement Wet'suwet'en rights and title.

### Collaborative Stewardship Agreements

- Collaborative Stewardship Agreements address landscape-level stewardship projects.
- Typically regional in scope, these agreements and processes related to them deal with multiple First Nations.
- Implementation involves the collaborative development of shared and trusted ecological information on key ecosystem values. Building on this information, the parties may develop

## What Do We Do?

recommendations for natural resource management or land use planning.

- Examples: Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI); Collaborative Stewardship Framework (CSF); S'ólh Téméxw Stewardship Alliance (CSF enabling agreement example).

### Strategic Engagement Agreements (SEA)

- SEAs establish mutually agreed upon procedures for consultation and accommodation.
- They encourage a positive and respectful government-to-government (G2G) relationship and strengthen B.C.'s investment climate.
- They also provide an opportunity for First Nations not in the treaty process to take a more active role decision-making processes and develop a stronger G2G relationship with the Province, potentially facilitating more thorough reconciliation agreements in the future.
  - Examples: Stó:lō Téméxw Stewardship Alliance SEA, Tahltan Nation Shared Decision Making Agreement, Tsilhqot'in Nation SEA

### Benefit Agreements

- Benefit Agreements are accommodation measures that provide financial and/or land benefits to First Nations in support of significant projects or policy developments. They are mechanisms for a First Nation to participate and benefit from resource development in their traditional territory.
  - **Economic and Community Development Agreements (ECDAs):** Agreements between Government and First Nations for sharing the direct mineral tax revenue on new mines and major mine expansions. Example: Tahltan Revenue Sharing Agreement (Brucejack Gold Mine IBA).
  - **Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreements (FCRSAs):** Agreements that provide First Nations with direct economic benefits based on harvest activities in their asserted traditional territories. The FCRSA program is being re-evaluated in the context of the New Fiscal Framework and interim increases to revenue sharing were approved to support the involvement of First Nations. Example: Saik'uz Interim Forestry Revenue Sharing Agreement (more: First Nations Forestry Agreements).
  - **Pipeline Benefit Agreements (PBAs):** Economic agreements providing financial and/or land benefits in support of pipeline projects. Examples: Natural Gas Benefits Agreements (example: Wet'suwet'en Natural Gas Pipeline Benefits Agreement).
  - **Atmospheric Benefit Sharing Agreements (ABSAs):** Agreements enabling First Nations' participation in local and international carbon markets. Example: Coastal First Nations 2015 Atmospheric Benefit Sharing Agreement (more: Atmospheric Benefit Sharing Agreements).
- Impact Benefit Agreements (IBAs) between First Nations and project proponents will typically accompany Benefit Agreements between First Nations and the Province.

## What Do We Do?

### Negotiations and Regionals Operations Division

#### Treaty Making

A/ADM Responsible: Alexandra Banford

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#### Treaty Background

- Treaties are the most comprehensive form of reconciliation and the embodiment of living relationships between First Nations, B.C. and Canada. These constitutionally entrenched agreements recognize Aboriginal title and rights and provide for the co-existence of the Crown and First Nation governments and laws.
- B.C. has four modern treaties in effect with eight First Nations: the Nisga'a treaty, the Tsawwassen First Nation treaty, the Maa-nulth treaty (five First Nations) and the Tla'amin Nation treaty. The Nisga'a treaty was negotiated outside the British Columbia Treaty Commission (BCTC) process.
- The new Recognition and Predictability approach ensures that Aboriginal Rights are no longer extinguished or modified by treaty, but continue as exercisable treaty rights. Treaties now also include Periodic Renewal and Orderly Process language, ensuring treaties are living documents that can evolve to incorporate new rights.
- Cabinet Confidences; Intergovernmental Communications

#### Recognition and Reconciliation of Rights Policy for treaty negotiations in British Columbia

- In 2019, the Recognition and Reconciliation of Rights Policy for treaty negotiations in British Columbia (RRR Policy) was endorsed by the Principals.
- A central feature of the RRR Policy is basing negotiations on the recognition and continuation of rights without those rights being modified, surrendered or extinguished when treaties, agreements or other constructive arrangements are signed or concluded.
- The RRR policy enables the co-development of treaty mandates by government and First Nations, supports incremental, staged or stepping-stone approaches to negotiating treaties, and expresses a willingness to explore the negotiation of Indigenous title through a treaty, rather than having it declared through the courts.
- Under the RRR policy, BC and several First Nations codeveloped a new shared decision-making chapter for treaties that reflects the language and goals of the Declaration Act on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations Declaration.
- The Principals to the Treaty Process have also established a Lands Working Group to explore lands related issues, set out in Appendix A of the RRR policy, starting with the constitutional status of treaty lands.

## **What Do We Do?**

- The Principals are currently reviewing the six-stage treaty process and exploring potential adaptations to support more flexible approaches to treaty negotiations, recognizing the needs of a more incremental approach enabled by the RRR Policy.

### **Federal Loan Forgiveness**

- In 2019, Canada committed to eliminating the use of loans to support negotiations and replaced loans with non-repayable contribution funding. Canada has forgiven outstanding negotiation loan debt and reimbursed groups that have repaid the negotiation loan debt.

### **Section 87 Tax Exemption**

- Canada recently announced a significant change in its policy approach which will allow the tax exemption for eligible individuals to continue indefinitely for federal taxes until a Treaty Nation exercises a federal tax authority, or in the case where s.87 of Indian Act ceases to exist for all. BC's existing modern treaties include provisions that phase out s.87 tax exemption under the Indian Act over a period of 8 years for transaction taxes (e.g. sales taxes) and a period of 12 years for all other taxes (e.g., income and property taxes). BC will also allow the tax exemption to continue indefinitely for provincial taxes, within the existing provincial approach to treaty tax arrangements. The Ministry of Finance is currently working with the federal government and First Nations to implement these policy shifts in existing and future treaties.

## What Do We Do? – Highlights

### Treaty Making – Treaty Implementation

ADM Responsible: Jennifer Melles

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- Modern treaties are constitutionally protected agreements that represent the highest form of reconciliation between Canada, the Province of British Columbia (BC) and First Nations. Modern treaties are living agreements that set out the rights and responsibilities of the parties and are a framework for Modern Treaty Nations to rebuild self-governance. Modern treaties negotiated in British Columbia are negotiated under the six stage BC Treaty Commission Process.
- In British Columbia there are four modern treaties currently in effect: Nisga'a (2000), Tsawwassen (2009), Maa-nulth (2011) and Tla'amin (2016). There are five First Nation signatories to the Maa-nulth Treaty: Uchucklesaht Tribe, Huu-ay-aht First Nations, Yuułu?if?ath Government (Ucluelet First Nation), Toquaht Nation, and Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k:tles7et'h' First Nations.
- Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Intergovernmental Communications
- While the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliations is responsible for treaty settlement legislation and is signatory to modern treaties on behalf of British Columbia, as a whole, the provincial government is party to modern treaties and all provincial ministries and agencies hold responsibility for upholding obligations under treaty.
- On behalf of British Columbia, the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) plays a lead role in working in partnership with modern treaty nations to help ensure they meet their health, social, cultural, and economic objectives; fostering the living government to government relationships between treaty partners; and working across ministries to help ensure British Columbia meets its treaty obligations.
- Within MIRR, the Treaty Relations, Implementation and Policy Branch (TRIP) provides advice and analysis to ministry partners on implementing obligations under modern treaties, participates in cross-government policy and legislation initiatives affecting Modern Treaty Nations, and champions a whole-of-government approach to modern treaty implementation.
- TRIP is also responsible bringing modern treaties into effect (from Stage 5 to Stage 6 of the BC Treaty Commission Process) which includes: supporting eligibility and enrollment activities, developing implementation and closing plans, leading BC's treaty ratification process, and leading/coordinating effective date responsibilities.
- A key component of treaty relations and implementation is British Columbia's relationship with the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations and the Shared Priorities Framework (See Attachment 1- Shared Priorities Framework) which was signed by the Premier and the members of the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations (see tab II-G) in March 2022. The Shared Priorities Framework renews a commitment to timely, effective and appropriately resourced implementation of modern treaties.

#### Attachments:

Attachment 1- Shared Priorities Framework

# SHARED PRIORITIES FRAMEWORK

between

## the Province of British Columbia (the Province) and Members of the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations

This framework establishes a shared path for advancing the implementation of modern treaties in British Columbia.

Modern treaties provide a blueprint for reconciliation and a foundation for government-to-government relationships based on mutual respect and established rights.

The modern treaty nations in British Columbia are Nisga'a Nation, Tsawwassen First Nation, Huu-ay-aht First Nations, Ka'yuk'h/Chek'tles7et'h' First Nations, Toquaht Nation, Uchucklesaht Tribe, Yuułu7il7ath (Ucluelet First Nation), and Tla'amin Nation. Together these modern treaty nations form the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations (the 'Alliance').

The Province and the Alliance have a shared vision to ensure that:

- » Modern treaties are recognized, observed, and enforced;
- » Modern treaty nations and the Province are resourced for a whole of government approach to timely and effective treaty implementation;
- » The Province's relationships with modern treaty nations are distinct and reflect their established rights; and
- » The Province's relationships with modern treaty nations are dynamic and evolve and improve over time.

### OUR SHARED PRIORITIES:

The Province and modern treaty nations, working through the Alliance, agree to work collaboratively on the following shared priorities:

**ESTABLISH** fiscal arrangements to fulfil treaty rights and obligations that ensure:

- » Modern treaty nations are appropriately resourced to fully implement their Treaties;
- » The Province's fiscal mechanisms reflect the jurisdiction and autonomy of modern treaty nation governments and the tripartite nature of treaties; and,
- » Modern treaty nations can meaningfully participate in the development of new fiscal policies and programs.

**ESTABLISH** meaningful participation of modern treaty nations in the Province's legislative and policy initiatives to ensure:

- » Early consideration of modern treaty rights in the development of policy and legislation so that modern treaty rights are recognized, observed and enforced;

- » The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act is implemented in a manner consistent with distinct modern treaty rights; and,
- » Effective communication and engagement mechanisms that facilitate co-development and implementation of policy and legislation.

**ESTABLISH** organizational and policy changes in the provincial public service to advance a whole of government approach to treaty implementation which will ensure:

- » Provincial accountability and oversight to uphold modern treaty rights to ensure timely, effective and appropriately resourced treaty implementation;
- » Provincial staff and elected officials understand and enforce treaty rights and obligations and uphold the government-to-government relationship between the Province and modern treaty nations; and,
- » Formalization of communication channels between the Alliance and the Province to identify and advance shared interests.

### OUR SHARED COMMITMENT:

The Alliance, each of the modern treaty nations, and the Province will work collaboratively to achieve our shared priorities in a manner that reflects and respects our unique government-to-government relationships.

The Alliance and the Province will report on implementation progress of these shared priorities in the Declaration Act Annual Report and will revisit this framework annually.

The Province and the Alliance will explore governance structures and capacity-building mechanisms to enable the Alliance to advance common interests of modern treaty nations.

The Province and individual modern treaty nations will continue to maintain their unique government-to-government relationships and will work bilaterally on issues specific to those modern treaty nations.

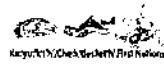
Elected Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr.  
Huu-ay-aht First Nations



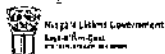
Chief Charlie Cootes  
Uchucklesaht Tribe



Vice Chief Kevin Jules  
Ka'yuk'h/Chek'tles7et'h' First Nations



President Eva Clayton  
Nisga'a Nation



Hegus John Hackett  
Tla'amin Nation



President Charles McCarthy  
Yuułu7il7ath Government



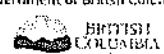
taayil ha7wit, Anne Mack  
Toquaht Nation



swannaset, Chief Ken Baird  
Tsawwassen First Nation



Premier John Horgan  
Government of British Columbia



## What Do We Do? – Highlights

### Treaty Making: Federal-Provincial Cost Sharing

ADM Responsible: Jennifer Melles

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- BC and Canada share the cost of treaty settlement with First Nations in BC. The details are set out in the Memorandum of Understanding Between Canada and BC Respecting the Sharing of Pre-treaty Costs, Settlement Costs, Implementation Costs and the Costs of Self-Government (the 1993 MOU) signed in 1993.
- BC contributes primarily Crown land and Canada contributes primarily cash. As BC Crown land is transferred at net book value (generally nil) this arrangement ensures that treaty settlement benefits have limited impact on the provincial fiscal plan.
- BC shares the total costs of treaties with Canada equally under the 1993 MOU. Intergovernmental Communications
- The size and composition of treaty settlements are determined through negotiations in accordance with the mandates obtained by the Parties.
- Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences
- Intergovernmental Communications
- Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Intergovernmental Communications
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- In the meantime, Deputy Ministers confirmed the 1993 MOU will continue to apply to advanced tables in the treaty process seeking closing settlement offers.

## What Do We Do?

### Litigation Resolution

A/ADM Responsible: Alexandra Banford

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- The Negotiations and Regional Operations Division is increasingly focused on the resolution of litigation between the Province and First Nations through substantive negotiations.
- This priority aligns with the *Directives on Civil Litigation Involving Indigenous Peoples*, particularly Directive #4, which provides that “Counsel should vigorously pursue all alternative forms of resolution throughout the litigation process.”
- These resolution-focused negotiation efforts include both resolution of title claims as well as other claims, including with respect to historic loss of land and impacts from development.
- Successful resolution of these agreements can sometimes be accomplished through an initial fulsome settlement resulting in a discontinuance of litigation. In other instances, the agreement creates implementation obligations, and the litigation is put into abeyance or set aside until further implementation stages have been achieved, at which point it is discontinued.
- MIRR is also involved in negotiations where the litigation has ended, and the courts have made declarations which require negotiations. The precedent-setting *Yahey* decision, and the current negotiations between the Province and Blueberry River First Nations, are a recent example.
- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications
- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

- West Moberly Site C Agreement (non-title): In early 2022, a settlement to the West Moberly Site C litigation was reached through substantive and complex negotiations involving West Moberly, the Province, and BC Hydro. While the discontinuance was immediate, there remain substantive agreement implementation obligations.

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Legal Information ; Intergovernmental Communications

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Legal Information ; Intergovernmental Communications

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Legal Information ; Intergovernmental Communications

## What Do We Do?

### Negotiation Policy – Governance Policy and Indigenous Governing Bodies (Declaration Act s. 6)

A/ADM Responsible: Alexandra Banford

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- Indigenous governing bodies (IGBs) are defined in the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act) as “an entity that is authorized to act on behalf of Indigenous peoples that hold rights recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.”
- Section 6 of the Declaration Act authorizes a member of the Executive Council, on behalf of the government, to enter into an agreement with an IGB.
- The purpose of the IGB concept is to align with and affirm the right of self-determination as identified in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by respecting that a rights holding group determines what entity represents it for a particular purpose.
- IGBs are intended to be an instrument enabling Indigenous Peoples to come together and form representative and accountable bodies of their own, outside those imposed by colonial constructs.
- The idea of “authorization” in the definition of IGB must be read as a form of “authorization” pursuant to Indigenous legal processes, traditions, and standards, consistent with
- the UN Declaration, that are undertaken as part of Nations expressing, re-building, and implementing their governance systems.
- The Province does not have a role in authorizing an IGB, but does have the responsibility to confirm that the IGB is appropriately authorized to enter into the proposed agreement.<sup>Intergovernmental Communications</sup>
- The Declaration Act creates space for the government to enter into a variety of agreements with IGBs. This includes:
  - Agreements for joint exercise of a statutory power of decision or consent prior to the exercise of statutory power of decision (section 7); and
  - Any other type of collaborative process that the government and IGBs may want to establish agreement on (section 6).
- Treaty First Nations are good examples of clearly authorized Indigenous Governing bodies; Tahltan Nation and Shishalh Nation are other examples, by virtue of their rigorous internal gov

### Background

- IGBs are also contemplated and defined in federal Indigenous child welfare legislation (An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families). This Act is being implemented by the federal government in partnership with national and regional Indigenous partners as well as provinces and territories (including BC).
- The Ministry of Children and Family Development tracks IGBs for the purpose of receiving notification of significant measures under the federal Indigenous child welfare legislation. The Declaration Act uses the same definition of IGB as the federal legislation.

## What Do We Do?

### Negotiation Policy – Natural Resource Policy and Shared Decision Making (Declaration Act s. 7) A/ADM Responsible: Alexandra Banford

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The Natural Resources Policy (NR Policy) team (Negotiations and Regional Operations Division (NROD)) provides support to NROD negotiation teams and collaborates with other natural resource agencies across government to provide policy expertise and advance strategic policy priorities in respect of reconciliation and land and resource issues (i.e., lands, water, fish, and wildlife).

The NR Policy team is focused on:

- supporting the successful conclusion of advanced treaty negotiations,
- designing effective policy solutions to new and dynamic policy areas (e.g., title, shared decision-making),
- improving coordination across negotiations, and
- improving the efficacy of negotiations over time through staff education and the development of guidance resources.

The NR Policy Team includes the Land Transfers and Implementation group, responsible for supporting successful and efficient land transfers to First Nations.

One of the key areas of work being led or supported by Natural Resources Policy is Shared Decision-Making, including under Section 7 of the Declaration Act:

**Section 7, Declaration Act:** The Province intends to achieve agreements with Indigenous Governing Bodies (IGBs) that deepen cooperation and develop innovative, accountable, practical, and predictable processes of joint, or consent-based decision-making under Section 7 of the Declaration Act. The Declaration Act Action Plan includes the following actions related to the implementation of Sections 6 and 7:

- **Action 1.3:** Utilize Sections 6 and 7 of the Declaration Act to complete and implement government-to-government agreements that recognize Indigenous self-government and self-determination
- **Action 2.4:** Negotiate new joint decision-making and consent agreements under Section 7 of the Declaration Act that include clear accountabilities, transparency and administrative fairness between the Province and Indigenous Governing Bodies. Seek all necessary legislative amendments to enable the implementation of any section 7 agreements.

Unless already amended, the implementation of section 7 agreements will require consequential amendments to the legislation containing the statutory decision that a joint or consent-based decision-making arrangement would replace.

Two section 7 mandates have been approved to date:

- A mandate with Tahltan Nation for a section 7 Agreement related to the Environmental Assessment decision for the Eskay Creek mine re-start. That agreement has been negotiated,

## What Do We Do? – Highlights

### Crown Land Reconciliation

ADM Responsible: Jennifer Melles

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- Over 95% of land in British Columbia is provincial Crown land, with the majority subject to unresolved claims of asserted Aboriginal rights and title.
  - Existing policies significantly constrain the ability to use crown land for negotiations. Land may be unavailable due to existing third-party interests. These third-party interests can be costly to compensate and/or require a transfer of governance to the nation. Alternatively, to avoid impacts to those interests, the lands are offered in negotiations subject to limitations on the First Nation's ability to enjoy the full benefits of the land or to exercise full decision-making over the use of the land.
  - These circumstances either diminish that value of land in the view of the First Nation or direct the negotiations towards unencumbered lands that offer less opportunity for the First Nation to successfully achieve objectives for economic and community development.
  - Where provincial Crown land is successfully negotiated for transfer to First Nations, the subsequent work of establishing First Nation ownership is heavily legislated and subject to complex processes that were not designed to manage the scale of the Province's reconciliation commitments in an effective or efficient way.
  - Staff is currently working to transfer over 70,000 hectares of provincial Crown land committed to transfer in fee simple to First Nations through Incremental Treaty Agreements, Reconciliation Agreements, and accommodation and settlement agreements.
  - The resulting bottlenecks cause significant relationship and, in some cases, legal risks, as well as putting strain on already limited government capacity.
  - Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Intergovernmental Communications
- 
- MIRR and LWRS are jointly leading the **Crown Land Reconciliation** initiative to confirm direction and work with Natural Resource Ministries to develop options and recommendations for government.
  - Addressing this challenge in a meaningful way will require fundamental shifts in how we approach provincial Crown land for reconciliation purposes.
  - One key consideration in those shifts is how land can best contribute to the well-being of the Province, including how First Nation ownership of land can contribute to that well-being.

## What Do We Do?

approved by Tahltan and the Province, and announced. It did not require a legislative amendment, as the Environmental Assessment Act (2018) provided for the consent-based decision.

- A mandate with shishalh Nation for a section 7 Agreement related to management of private and commercial docks under the Lands Act. This agreement has not yet been negotiated, and requires an amendment to the Land Act.

As legislation is aligned consistent with the Declaration Act, MIRR is seeking opportunities to make pro-active amendments to provide for the implementation of section 7 agreements across multiple pieces of legislation.

**Treaty Shared Decision-Making Chapter:** Under the Treaty Transformation mandate, the Province and First Nations at advanced treaty tables co-developed new treaty language that enables shared decision-making negotiations on land and natural resource matters after the conclusion of treaties. The Shared Decision-Making Chapter is broad and enabling and does not prescribe what a Shared Decision-Making agreement will look like, but instead sets out common process and considerations for future negotiations. Implementation of joint or consent decision-making agreements under the Chapter may use the Declaration Act or follow comparable processes to ensure consistent expectations for these types of agreements. This chapter will be included in the treaties that are expected to be concluded in the next 2 years.

## What Do We Do? – Highlights

### Residential School Response/Nation Day of Truth and Reconciliation/Orange Shirt Day

ADM Responsible: Jennifer Melles

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#### Residential School Response

- There were 18 Indian Residential Schools and 3 Indian Hospitals that operated in BC.
- In May 2021, Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc announced their findings of approximately 200 unmarked graves on the grounds of the former Kamloops Residential School.
- In July 2021, the Province appointed Charlene Belleau and Chief Lydia Hwitsum as First Nation Liaisons to provide advice and assistance to First Nations who wish to investigate these sites. Charlene continues to serve in her role as a Liaison. Chief Hwitsum has since resigned her role due to her election as Chief of Cowichan Tribes.
- In September 2021, the Province allocated \$10.5 million to support First Nation-led investigations on the sites of former Indian Residential Schools and Indian Hospitals in BC and \$1.5 million to enhance Indigenous-delivered mental health and wellness supports.
- First Nations who have been identified as the lead community or coordinating body for site-specific activities are eligible to apply for up to \$475,000 per site. Since September 2021, the Province has allocated \$9.1 million of the \$10.5 million available to support 18 First Nations and Tribal Councils with work on 18 of the 21 sites in BC. Proposals are currently being developed by First Nations to access the remainder of the provincial funding
- The provincial funding is fully flexible, needs-based, and designed to address gaps in federal funding programs.
- The Province and the Government of Canada have adopted a 'no wrong door' approach that allows federal and provincial funders to work with communities in a coordinated way, including cost sharing.
- The Government of Canada remains the primary funder for work on the sites of former Indian Residential Schools due to its historical relationship to and role in the administration of these institutions.
- The Government of Canada has made a series of announcements since September 2021 that has provided funding for research, commemoration, renovating or demolishing buildings associated with residential schools, and mental health and wellness supports. This funding is administered through the Departments of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC).
- As of September 2022, most First Nations are in the planning and project development phase due to the significant complexity of these investigations.
- Williams Lake First Nation and Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc are the only communities in BC who have released preliminary findings related to the search for unmarked graves. It is anticipated

## What Do We Do? – Highlights

that more First Nations will release preliminary findings this fall.

- First Nations conducting these searches have been clear that these results are preliminary and further study and research is required.
- MIRR maintains a primary role in monitoring site-specific activities and working with the appropriate provincial agencies to facilitate a proactive, coordinated, and culturally safe response to emerging issues.
- A key priority for First Nations investigating these sites has been access to records in the possession of the federal and provincial government and the churches.
- In March 2022, the Province provided the UBC Residential School History and Dialogue Centre with \$425,000 to work with the Royal BC Museum to expedite the review and release of residential school records in the possession of the provincial government. This includes collections of two catholic church entities – the Oblates of Mary Immaculate and the Sisters of St. Ann – who administered 10 Indian Residential Schools in BC

## National Day for Truth and Reconciliation/Orange Shirt Day

- In June 2021, the federal government passed legislation to designate September 30<sup>th</sup> as a federal statutory holiday.
- This was done in direct response to Call to Action #80 which called upon the federal government to establish a national holiday to be observed as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.
- The federal statutory holiday applies to approximately 6 percent of the workforce in BC.
- In September 2021, the Province directed the provincial public sector to observe September 30<sup>th</sup> as a statutory holiday with a commitment to consult Indigenous communities, business, and labour on future approaches.
- MIRR has since completed a targeted consultation with Indigenous communities and partners on (a) the decision to designate September 30<sup>th</sup> as a provincial statutory holiday and (b) how the Province should observe September 30<sup>th</sup> each year.
- There is strong support among Indigenous communities for the creation of a new provincial statutory holiday on the basis that it advances public education interests.
- The outcome of these consultations continues to shape how the Province approaches September 30<sup>th</sup>, including the ways in which it uses its public platform to engage and educate British Columbians about the meaning and significance of the day.
- Government has not made a final decision on the creation of a new provincial statutory holiday.
- MIRR has assumed a cross-government coordination role for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, which includes tracking key activities and promoting a consistent approach to communication across government platforms.

## What Do We Do? – Highlights

### Distinctions Based Approach to Reconciliation

ADM Responsible: Ann Marie Sam / Jennifer Melles

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#### Background

- First Nations, the Métis, and Inuit are the Indigenous Peoples of Canada, with Aboriginal rights recognized and affirmed in section 35(1) of the *Constitution Act, 1982* and Indigenous human rights affirmed in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration).
- First Nations, Métis and Inuit people have distinct rights that derive from, and are tied to, their unique histories, cultures, laws, legal orders, traditions, practices, political, social, economic structures, and relationships to land.
- The Province takes a distinctions-based approach (DBA) in its relations with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples and has affirmed the requirement to take such an approach in the *Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous People* and the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act), Principle 10.
- The following definition of a DBA was provided in the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan:

The Province is committed to a distinctions-based approach. This requires that the Province's dealings with First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples be conducted in a manner that acknowledges the specific rights, interests, priorities and concerns of each, while respecting and acknowledging these distinct Peoples with unique cultures, histories, rights, laws and governments. Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, recognizes and affirms the rights of Aboriginal Peoples of Canada, while all Indigenous Peoples have human rights that are expressed in the UN Declaration. However, not all rights are uniform or the same among or between all Indigenous Peoples. In many cases, a distinctions-based approach may require that the Province's relationship and engagement with First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples include different approaches or actions and result in different outcomes.

- Each ministry and agency across the provincial government must apply a distinctions-based approach in the development and implementation of its policies and legislation, programs, operations and funding initiatives, and in its engagement and relationships with First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples. This work must be done in consultation and cooperation with First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples, in a manner that reflects a distinctions-based approach and correctly identifies and engages with the appropriate rights-holders and Indigenous governing bodies.
- The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, with support from other ministries, provides guidance regarding a distinctions-based approach, and also provides strategic advice for implementation of a distinctions-based approach across government.

## What Do We Do? – Highlights

### Discussion

- As the Province implements the Declaration Act and the Declaration Act Action Plan, public service employees are increasingly reaching to MIRR and the Legal Information Legal Information
- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications
- There is a significant body of jurisprudence confirming the existence of Aboriginal and treaty rights of First Nations in BC. This includes a wide range of site-specific First Nations rights related to land and resources, including Aboriginal title and governance rights.
- Intergovernmental Communications; Legal Information

### Work Underway

- A high-level policy document on DBA is in development to support public service employees' understanding of the context and case law for site-specific rights in BC. Additional policy tools and learning resources will be needed to build foundational understanding of the distinct rights of First Nations, Métis and Inuit people in BC.
- The Province and MNBC signed a Letter of Intent that commits the Parties to formalize dialogue and integrate engagement on Métis priorities across all of government through a new Métis Relations Working Table, and as this work progresses, it will inform the DBA policy document.
- Further resources will be needed to support staff in navigating application of a DBA in relation to the development and enhancement of government policy, legislation, programs and services, including determining appropriate approaches to consultation and cooperation in this work.

## What Do We Do? – Highlights

### First Nation Clean Energy Business Fund

ADM Responsible: Jennifer Melles

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- The BC First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund (FNCEBF) is a legislated program enabled by the *Clean Energy Act* (CEA) that promotes increased Indigenous participation in the clean energy sector to meet community energy needs and shares provincial revenues from clean energy projects within First Nation's territories.
- The FNCEBF is self-sustaining through receipts of annual revenues from clean energy power projects based on a percentage of land and water rentals.
- The FNCEBF allocates a percentage of annual revenues to diesel displacement initiatives in remote, off-grid First Nation communities. This initiative responds to the CleanBC Plan climate targets to reduce province-wide diesel consumption for generating electricity in remote communities by 80% by 2030.
- To date, the FNCEBF has:
  - 71 revenue sharing agreements with 46 First Nations in B.C. sharing approximately \$31.4M in revenues from Independent Power Projects since inception;
  - Completed 23 semi-annual intakes providing a total of almost \$19M in capacity and equity funding to support First Nations-owned clean energy projects in B.C.; and
  - Provided over \$4.4M in funding to 17 remote, Indigenous communities to support clean energy projects focused on permanently displacing diesel fuel sourced energy generation.
- Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

## What Do We Do? – Highlights

### Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives Division

#### New Fiscal Framework

Executive Lead Responsible: Richard Purnell

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#### Background

- The 2022-2027 Declaration Act Action Plan contains three actions related to establishing a new fiscal framework with Indigenous Peoples (1.4, 1.5, and 4.49).
- These actions are jointly led by IRR and the Ministry of Finance. The Executive Lead for the New Fiscal Framework, Richard Purnell, reports to the Deputy Ministers of both IRR and Finance. A steering committee of four ADMs from IRR, FIN, and LWRS provides strategic direction.
- The Declaration Act actions related to co-developing a new fiscal framework reflect earlier commitments made by the Province to Indigenous Peoples, including Principle 8 of the Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples, Action 3 of the 2018 Concrete Actions document, and the 2022 Shared Priorities Framework with the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations.
- As an initial step, the Province committed to, and subsequently finalized, a long-term gaming revenue sharing arrangement that since 2019 distributes about \$100 million annually in gaming revenues to First Nations.
- In April 2022, the Province announced that it will co-develop a new forestry revenue sharing model with First Nations as a next step towards a new fiscal framework.

#### Initiative

- The work of developing a new fiscal framework has been considered urgent by government and First Nations:
  - Indigenous governments are facing economic and fiscal pressures and require new and enhanced sources of revenue.
  - New revenue sharing approaches are needed to help alleviate economic pressures in natural resource sectors such as oil and gas where there is uncertainty due to the Yahey decision.
  - Enhanced revenue sharing may contribute to solutions to permitting challenges across the natural resource sector.
  - The Province's current transactional approach to First Nations capacity funding is a high-cost and less sustainable model.
- Co-development of a new fiscal framework represents an opportunity to work in a principled way to produce an outcome that is enduring, comprehensive, and rights based.
- To address this urgent reality while also ensuring the work is done properly and comprehensively, the Province intends to proceed on two simultaneous and interrelated tracks:
  - Track 1 is the co-development of a new model or models of fiscal relations, including the vision, objectives, principles, and tools, and how those will be applied comprehensively. This is a comprehensive stream of work that will take time and is envisioned to be

## What Do We Do? – Highlights

developed during the five-year time span of the Action Plan. Components of the framework will require significant collaboration with Canada.

- Track 2 is the co-development of near-term changes to revenue-sharing streams that can be implemented while track 1 is still being fully developed. Track 2 changes will allow for the application and testing of new principles and mechanisms, while also providing increased revenues to First Nations without having to wait for the full co-development of a new fiscal framework. Forestry revenue sharing is the first sector that will be addressed through track 2. IRR and FIN are partnering with the Ministry of Forests (FOR) on this work.

### Forestry

- The early focus on forestry in track 2 reflects the significance of the provincial forest economy, significant permitting challenges across the forest sector, the large number of First Nations impacted, and a shared interest in advancing comprehensive agreements with First Nations on forestry and forest stewardship.
- As an interim step, the Province is providing a temporary increase to revenues shared under the existing Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreement (FCRSA) program. While this interim enhancement was not co-developed, it signals the Province's commitment to meaningful change and provides space for the co-development of a new model.
- As co-development of a new forestry revenue sharing model takes place, the Province is continuing work to reform forest legislation, regulations, and policy to reflect a shared strategic vision with First Nations that upholds the rights and objectives of the UN Declaration (Declaration Act Action Plan Action 2.10).
- Implementation of the Old Growth Strategic Review, Indigenous collaborative stewardship, forest landscape planning, modernized land-use planning, shared decision-making and greater access to forest tenure are all key to advancing integrated economic and land co-management opportunities. These elements need to work in tandem with revenue sharing so that comprehensive approaches to forestry and forest stewardship can be implemented government-to-government through various forms of agreements.

### Immediate Next Steps

- Engagement on the new fiscal framework continued in November 2022 with a discussion paper shared with all First Nation rights and title holders setting out the Province's initial thinking on the vision and purpose of the work, details on the engagement process, and discussion questions.
- Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information

## Communications Opportunities - Winter 2022 - Spring 2023

### Introduction

All ministers across government received mandates in 2017 that included working to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Calls to Action. Since then, the provincial government has made substantial progress to implement the UN Declaration and advance reconciliation.

Government has been focussed on rebuilding the foundation for reconciliation, getting its house in order, and is poised to make even more progress. Key accomplishments include passing the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act) in 2019, consulting and co-operating with Indigenous Peoples on the first ever, five-year Declaration Act Action Plan, taking the first steps to develop a new fiscal framework with First Nations by signing a long-term agreement to share Government a year in gaming revenues, supports for new affordable housing both on and off reserve, an unprecedented Government to support language, culture arts, and heritage revitalization in First Nations communities, stable core funding for friendship centres, a new Indigenous learning graduation requirement for all students in B.C. that will begin in 2023/24, improvements to child welfare legislation, and waiving post-secondary tuition for former children in care. A number of significant long-term reconciliation agreements and agreements to advance treaty negotiations have also been signed with First Nations.

B.C.'s leadership on the Declaration Act in November 2019 placed further attention on the provincial government's commitment to reconciliation, as has the extensive national and international public and Indigenous support for Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs' high-profile opposition to the Coastal Gaslink pipeline project. B.C.'s decision not to appeal the BC Supreme Court Yahey (Blueberry River First Nation) ruling in Treaty 8 territory has also received significant attention.

Expectations of progress on reconciliation and implementation of the UN Declaration have been and continue to be high amongst Indigenous Peoples. While significant accomplishments have been achieved since 2017, government continues to face criticism of not doing enough fast enough.

We continue to make progress by:

- Fundamentally shifting how we develop and implement **provincial laws, policies and practices** in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples,
- Establishing a **Declaration Act Secretariat** as a dedicated body to support government's reconciliation efforts to ensure laws, policies and practices are consistent with the Act,
- Advancing agreements under Section 7 of the Declaration Act to **share statutory decision-making** with First Nations, including signing the first shared decision-making agreement with the Talhantan Nation for environmental assessment of the Eskay Creek Revitalization Project, and announcing negotiations of a second agreement with shíshálh Nation for joint decision making on dock applications in shíshálh swiya (territory),
- Releasing **annual reports**, highlighting work and progress on implementation of the Act,
- Committing to co-develop a new forestry revenue sharing model as the next step in

developing a **new fiscal framework** that recognizes the inherent rights and jurisdiction of First Nations, and

- Standing in solidarity with families and communities after the preliminary findings on the grounds of former **residential schools**. We are working with First Nations communities and Canada to support work of finding answers for the generations of families taken to and impacted by these institutions.

The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) has a number of upcoming proactive communications opportunities in the next three - six months that can demonstrate continued government action on reconciliation. These opportunities have been identified in the roll-out of potential announcements and events found below. (Please note while timing estimates have been provided, these still need to be finalized with respective First Nations and Indigenous partners, central government's corporate calendar planning, and in some cases other levels of government.)

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Advice/Recommendations ; Intergovernmental Communications

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Advice/Recommendations ; Intergovernmental Communications

### **Indigenous Peoples and B.C. lead the way forward**

In British Columbia, there is a shared commitment to ensure that the province is a place where the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples are recognized, and First Nations, Métis and Inuit people thrive.

Reconciliation is a provincial imperative, embedded in law, and we are seeing real progress and change. In 2019, we collaborated with Indigenous Peoples to develop and pass the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act – the first legislation of its kind in Canada. This is the province’s framework for implementing the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Through this work we are building a province where Indigenous’ excellence, leadership, governance, and self-determination is recognized and respected.

#### Reconciliation in action

#### **Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

- **Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act passes, recognizing the human rights of Indigenous peoples in law:** B.C. became the first province in Canada to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples through legislation developed in collaboration with First Nations partners. (November 2019)
- Together with Indigenous Peoples, the Province released the historic **Declaration Act Action Plan**. It was developed in consultation with Indigenous Peoples and outlines 89 specific actions every Ministry in government will take. The action plan includes a requirement that government work with Indigenous Peoples on implementing the actions, as well as reporting out on progress on implementation through an annual report. (March 2022)

We continue to make progress by:

- Fundamentally shifting how we develop and implement **provincial laws, policies and practices** in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples.
- Establishing a **Declaration Act Secretariat** as a dedicated body to support government’s reconciliation efforts to ensure laws, policies and practices are consistent with the Act.
- Advancing agreements under Section 7 of the Declaration Act to **share statutory decision-making** with First Nations.
- Annual reports, highlighting work and progress on implementation of the Act.

## New Fiscal Framework

- Announced in partnership with First Nations, the **co-development of a new fiscal framework**. The development will take place over the next two years. Ahead of that, there will be an interim boost for the forestry revenue sharing increase of \$63 million for B.C. First Nations. (April 2022)
- **First Nations share in provincial gaming revenue:** A long-term agreement to share 7% of the BC Lottery Corporation's net income is expected to provide B.C. First Nations with approximately \$3 billion over the next 25 years. This means First Nations can plan for the long term and invest in the services they decide their communities need to thrive and prosper. (September 2020)
- First Nations get support for **pandemic recovery with one time \$74-million grant** to make up for loss of shared gaming revenues because of COVID-19 economic downturn. First Nations had to put on hold significant projects and initiatives during the pandemic and this funding will help to get those projects back on track. (April 2022)

## Supporting residential school survivors:

- Set aside \$12 million to support First Nations-led investigations at the sites of former Indian Residential Schools and Indian Hospitals throughout B.C. The funding enhances existing services provided by the Indian Residential School Survivors Society, Tsow-Tun-Le-Lum Society and Métis Nation BC. This will ensure survivors can access culturally safe and trauma-informed supports when and where they need them. (June 2021).
  - \$475,000 has been allocated for each of the 18 Indian Residential School sites and three Indian Hospital sites in B.C.
  - \$9.1 million is supporting 18 First Nations and Tribal Councils at 18 of the 21 sites in B.C.
  - The funding complements funding provided by Canada. It is multi-year and flexible to meet the diverse needs of communities.
  - Of the \$12 million, \$1.5 million is assisting Indigenous service providers to respond to the immediate wellness, cultural and mental health needs of Indigenous Peoples throughout British Columbia.
- Created a **First Nations liaison position** to assist First Nations access the B.C. residential school response fund. First Nations with former Indian Residential School and Indian Hospital sites in or near their communities were able to access the fund. B.C. appointed Charlene Belleau as First Nations liaison, a respected leader who brings the experience, relationships and expertise needed to advance the work. (July 2021)

## Sustainable communities

- **Emergency preparedness funding:** The Province has provided funding to First Nations across B.C. through the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund, which supports

programs that strengthen the resilience of communities to prepare for and respond to natural disasters and climate change. Since 2017, First Nations and local governments have received more than \$50.8 million through CEPF for more than 1,000 projects that help communities mitigate and prepare for disasters and climate-related emergencies. (Latest announcement in September 2022)

- **Indigenous Food Systems and Agriculture Partnership Program:** Supports Indigenous-led projects that create benefits to the community, environment or toward increasing food security within local food systems. The funding can be used for activities involved in agriculture, food processing and food systems planning, training and skills development, technological adoption, scaling up productivity and profitability, and climate-change adaptations. First Nations and Indigenous communities, businesses and organizations are eligible to apply (September 2022)
- **High-speed connectivity infrastructure for Haida Gwaii:** The Connected Coast project is laying 87 kilometres of fibre-optic cable stretching across the seabed of Hecate Strait, which will bring high-speed connectivity to Haida Gwaii. (July 2022)
- **Supporting greener Indigenous communities:** \$19 million in capacity and equity funding has been delivered to 136 Indigenous communities through First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund. (July 2022). The Province also supports local governments, First Nations, Indigenous organizations, not-for-profit and for-profit organizations throughout British Columbia for investments in clean-energy projects. Funding is from the Province and the Government of Canada through the CleanBC Communities Fund.
- **Moving forward with new Indigenous centre in Vancouver:** A concept plan for a new Indigenous centre is moving forward. The new centre will be a permanent purpose-built home for Urban Native Youth Association and the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT) Vancouver campus. The new centre will include a youth centre, a post-secondary education and skills training campus, affordable homes, a child care centre and cultural and support services. (May 2022)
- **Expanding community shuttle bus service for remote and Indigenous communities.** Community shuttle grants support access to affordable public transportation in B.C.'s North. (March 2022)
- **Partnering to make vital safety improvements to Bamfield Road:** Contributed \$25.7 million to the \$30.7 million Huu-ay-aht First Nation run project that will pave 76 kilometres of unpaved industrial road – Bamfield Main – on the west coast of Vancouver Island. (Oct 2021)
- **Contributed \$9 million for shíshálh Nation affordable housing:** A three-year investment supports the shíshálh Nation's plans to build and operate new culturally appropriate housing for their members, with a particular focus on Elders, women and children, and others in need of affordable housing in their community. (July 2021)

- **Cellular service expansion on Highway 16 – The Highway of Tears:** Up to \$4.5 million in funding from the Connecting British Columbia program and the Government of Canada's Universal Broadband Fund was allocated towards installing cellular infrastructure in the remaining 252 kms of weak signal strength between Prince Rupert and Smithers on Highway 16 (the Highway of Tears). (May 2021)
- **Helping remote and rural communities build vital infrastructure.** \$20 million supports more than 80 transportation and infrastructure projects to make getting around rural Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities safer and easier. (December 2020)
- **New housing for Indigenous families:** A 10-year, \$550-million investment to build and operate 1,750 new housing units, on and off reserve. (February 2019)
- **Historic investment in rural internet service:** \$50 million to expand high-speed internet service for people living in 200 rural and Indigenous communities. (March 2019)
- **Expansion of B.C. Indigenous Agriculture Development Program:** Additional funding amounts to \$145,000 to support Indigenous entrepreneurs to strengthen and grow food and agriculture business. Contributes to local jobs and increased food security in remote and rural communities. (June 2020)
- **Together BC – the Province's first Poverty Reduction Strategy announced:** Includes cross-government initiatives to address disproportionate rates of poverty among Indigenous peoples, both on and off reserve. (March 2019)
- **Better drinking water and wastewater systems:** Joint provincial and federal government funding creates projects to provide safe, reliable drinking water in small communities, including First Nations communities, and provide new and upgraded wastewater systems in growing communities. (August 2019)
- **Safe link between communities for people in northern B.C.:** Highway 16 Transportation Action Plan funds \$800,000 to expand inter-community transit services. (May 2019)
- **First Nations Driver Education Program:** More than 200 students have participated in driver training in locations along the Highway 16 corridor, helping Indigenous peoples find good jobs. (May 2019)
- **Government partners with communities on wildfire risks:** New Community Investment Program provides \$50 million over three years to local governments and First Nations to help reduce wildfire risks in communities. (September 2018)
- **New infrastructure investments build stronger communities:** \$100 million over 10 years to rural and Indigenous communities to meet infrastructure, community and cultural priorities, including Indigenous health and educational facilities. (September 2018)

- **Friendship Centre support for better services for urban Indigenous peoples:** \$6.45 million over three years, tripling the financial support for Friendship Centres through the B.C. Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, which represents B.C.'s 25 Aboriginal Friendship Centres. (April 2018)

## **Education, jobs and opportunities**

- **Four BC First Nations conclude self-government agreements regarding education:** Four First Nations - Cowichan Tribes, Lil'wat Nation, ʔaq'am, and Seabird Island - were recognized and celebrated for concluding self-government agreements regarding education on their lands. The completed education jurisdiction agreements are landmark agreements that set the foundation for the four participating First Nations to make decisions and pass laws in the best interests of their learners and exercise control over their education on their lands. (July 2022)
- **Cultural learning can give students grad credit:** First Nations can create and approve their language and cultural learning programs for recognition by the Ministry of Education and Child Care as external credentials that students can use toward graduating. (July 2022)
- **Indigenous-Focused Graduation Requirement:** New grad requirement ensures students expand their knowledge about Indigenous perspectives, histories, cultures. Effective the 2023/24 school year, all students working toward a B.C. Certificate of Graduation ("Dogwood Diploma"), in English or French, must successfully complete at least 4 credits in Indigenous-focused coursework. Learning about the experiences, cultures, and world views of Indigenous Peoples is an important part of reconciliation and will help prepare students for the rest of their lives. (March 2022)
- **More post-secondary supports for First Nations learners:** First Nations students have increased access to post-secondary education in their own communities because of new government funding provided to First Nations-led institutes throughout B.C. The Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training, in partnership with the Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association and First Nations Education Steering Committee, provided \$4 million to support the operating costs of 10 First Nations-led institutes, to help deliver post-secondary education and training programs through COVID-19 and beyond. (November 2021)
- **New Indigenous language fluency degree first of its kind:** The Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training invested \$2 million towards the Indigenous Language Proficiency/Fluency Degree Framework, providing a pathway for communities, Indigenous institutes and post-secondary institutions to collaboratively establish degree programs in Indigenous languages. (March 2021)
- **\$13 million for University of Victoria's National Centre for Indigenous Laws:** The new addition will be home to the world's first joint degree in Indigenous legal orders and

Canadian common law (JD/JID), which launched at UVic in 2018, and to the Indigenous Law Research Unit. (September 2020)

- **\$4 million throughout 2018-19 awarded for skills development:** 296 people in 12 communities get the opportunity to build skills for jobs in e-commerce, entrepreneurship and tourism; supporting Indigenous communities through the Community Workforce Response Grant program. (2018-19)
- **Expanded Export Navigator Program:** A new Indigenous export planning services advisor will provide free support to help Indigenous small businesses in six rural economic development regions grow their businesses through exporting. (October 2019)
- **First Nations students benefit from BC Tripartite Education Agreement:** The only agreement of its kind in Canada, bringing \$100 million in federal funding over five years to ensure an equitable education for all First Nations students, no matter where they live or go to school in B.C. (January 2019)
- **Curriculum transformation:** All subjects and grades in the B.C. school curriculum now include Indigenous perspectives, and several Indigenous-focused courses were introduced as a part of the new graduation program (2017-19).
- **Educator professional development:** K-12 educators gain a designated non-instructional day to focus on Indigenous perspectives in the classroom and Indigenous student achievement (September 2019).
- **Opening doors and creating pathways for Indigenous teachers:** A \$2.7-million investment in Indigenous teacher education training to bring more Indigenous teachers into classrooms. (June 2019)
- **First Nations supported in education decision-making:** \$3 million in funding for education agreements with school boards to ensure First Nations are directly involved in decisions about how their children are educated. (June 2019)
- **New teaching standard strengthens Truth and Reconciliation in the classroom:** Indigenous students become better supported and more connected in school with new professional standard that requires teachers to commit to truth, reconciliation and healing. (June 2019)
- **Indigenous languages:** \$190,000 (\$10,000 for 19 districts) for 17 Indigenous language curricula in K-12, with more on the way. (March 2018).
- **Provincial Tuition Waiver Program expansion:** 1,195 former youth in care are benefiting from the provincial tuition waiver program, compared to 189 youth in 2016-17 under the initial voluntary program — an increase of over 500%. (June 2020)

- **Expanded support for youth aging out of care:** \$7.7 million to ensure that young adults who have spent time in government care receive more financial support for rent, childcare and health care while in post-secondary programs. (February 2018)
- **Indigenous Emergency Assistance Fund:** The fund provided \$1.5 million in 2020 to public post-secondary institutions for emergency funding for Indigenous learners. (April 2020)
- **Indigenous Language Fluency:** Provided \$2 million to the First Nations Education Steering Committee to pilot the Indigenous Language Fluency Degree in communities. (March 2019)
- **The First Nations Children and Youth in Care Protocol:** A commitment from the Province and First Nations to work together to engage in dialogue and joint action on specific issues and initiatives, seeking to improve the educational outcomes and well-being of Indigenous children and youth in care, and former youth in care through legislative, policy and practice reform. (May 2020)

## People and culture

- **Ancestral Haida name restored to Haida Gwaii village:** The name of the former Village of Queen Charlotte on Haida Gwaii was officially changed to the Village of Daajing Giids (daw-jean geeds), restoring its ancestral Haida name. (July 2022)
- **First Nations language, arts, culture and heritage revitalization:** providing close to \$35 million in new funding to the First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) and the First Peoples' Cultural Foundation (FPCF) to support First Nations languages, arts, and cultural heritage revitalization programming and operations. This investment builds upon a landmark \$50-million grant provided to FPCC in 2018 to address the language crisis and help revitalize Indigenous languages in B.C. (June 2022)
- **Anti-racism data legislation enacted:** The Anti-Racism Data Act – the first of its kind in Canada to be co-developed with Indigenous partners – charts a new path forward in partnership with Indigenous Peoples and racialized communities to use and share data safely to help address systemic racism and make government programs and services work better for more people. (June 2022)
- **Litigation directives uphold Indigenous rights:** To better protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples and as a step toward implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act), the Province, in collaboration with Indigenous Peoples, has developed a new approach to litigation. (April 2022)

- **Funding supports Indigenous tourism recovery:** \$3.7 million to Indigenous Tourism BC to support future capacity and growth of the Indigenous tourism sector in B.C. (January 2022)
- **StrongerBC supports Indigenous tourism businesses through pandemic recovery:** Indigenous tourism businesses in B.C. have received over \$28 million for 60 projects to support recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. (June 2021)
- **More funding to support sexual assault survivors.** The Ending Violence Association of BC (EVA BC) received an additional \$10 million to assist more community-based sexual assault response service programs throughout the Province. In recognition of the substantial need for locally relevant and culturally safe supports for survivors in Indigenous communities in B.C., approximately half of the grant funding was allocated to an Indigenous services stream led by Indigenous leaders. In March 2020, government provided EVA BC with \$10 million to establish and administer a multi-year Emergency Sexual Assault Services grant program to support the delivery of co-ordinated, community-based emergency sexual assault response services in regions throughout B.C. (May 2021)
- **Provided funding for Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women (MACIW):** The \$200,000 goes to Indigenous communities and organizations working to end gender-based violence. The grants support community-led initiatives that encourage dialogue about gender-based violence and opportunities for healing, such as land-based cultural practices and retreats, healing circles, knowledge sharing, monthly gatherings, ceremonies and writing workshops. (December 2020)
- **Partnership between the B.C. government and Indigenous Tourism BC:** Through Destination BC, the Province provided Indigenous Tourism BC with \$4 million over three years and an increase of \$1 million over the previous three years. It will go toward funding Indigenous tourism specialists throughout the province and enhancing Indigenous Tourism BC's digital resources. (April 2020)
- **New and improved culture and recreation centres for Indigenous peoples and communities:** For the first time, First Nations can apply for infrastructure funding for community, culture and recreation facilities, under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure program. (September 2019)
- **Enabling more B.C. athletes to participate at the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG):** \$1.46 million to offset fees and travel costs for participants at the 2020 NAIG. (June 2019)
- **Helping kids thrive through the power of sport:** \$2.5 million to expand Sport BC's KidSport program to encourage greater participation from under-represented children, including Indigenous youth. (May 2019)

- **Royal BC Museum repatriation handbook:** The museum introduced the first repatriation handbook to be created by and for Indigenous peoples. The handbook will be a resource for communities throughout B.C. and around the world as they undertake this important work. (March 2019)

## Health and wellness

- **New culturally informed mental-wellness supports will help Indigenous families:** Indigenous families with children three to 12 who are experiencing big worries and fears will have access to free, culturally grounded wellness practices through a virtual parent and caregiver coaching program. (July 2022)
- **Grants help youth in and from government care get in the game:** Young people in and from care face barriers that limit their participation in sport and other activities. Financial barriers such as sport registration fees or practical challenges like getting to and from practices can become obstacles. The Province is investing \$3.6 million to give equal opportunities with the new RISE Grant Program. (May 2022)
- **Partnered with the federal government to pledge \$31 million to support the 2025 games:** In the spirit of truth and reconciliation, the Invictus Games Vancouver-Whistler 2025 is dedicated to respecting territorial protocols and cooperating with local Indigenous communities in the planning, execution and participation of the Games. As such, these Games are a demonstration of reconciliation in action, with meaningful participation from the Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh and Lil'Wat First Nations. (May 2022)
- **Award-winning Indigenous Sport Gallery bridges into virtual world:** The Province is investing \$198,000 for the expansion of the Indigenous Sport Gallery into an interactive online experience and for translation of the gallery's content into Indigenous languages. This investment is in addition to a provincial grant of \$50,000 in May 2021 through the BC Arts Council. (November, 2021)
- **Contributed to new multi-purpose community building in Kaska Dena Community of Lower Post:** Joined the federal government and Daylu Dena Council in helping to demolish a former residential school building and create a new building. Of the \$11.5 million created for the project, B.C. invested \$1.5 million. (April 2021)
- **More options for substance use treatment and recovery for all people in British Columbia, also help address long-standing service gaps for Indigenous Peoples:** 105 newly added substance use beds include priority beds for Indigenous people. (December 2021)
- **Review recommends steps to solve widespread racism in B.C. health care:** The In Plain Sight: Addressing Indigenous-specific Racism and Discrimination in B.C. Health Care review was launched in June 2020 by Adrian Dix, Minister of Health. Since then,

government has taken several steps to implement the recommendations made in the report. (November 2020)

- **Support for engagement with urban Indigenous peoples:** \$1.125 million over three years (2019-20 to 2021-22) to support initiatives led by the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, including engagement across the 25 Friendship Centres in B.C. in the development of a new Urban Indigenous Wellness Framework that provides much-needed direction on how all system partners and stakeholders can work together to improve health and wellness outcomes of urban Indigenous peoples in B.C. (2019)
- **Support for Métis-led mental health and wellness initiatives:** \$1.125 million over three years (2019/20-2021/22) to Métis Nation BC to support Métis-led health and wellness initiatives, including the development of a Métis cultural wellness curriculum, harm reduction and overdose prevention, a Métis-specific crisis line support and the Métis Youth Mental Health and Wellness Initiative. (2019)
- **Upgrade to First Nations-operated treatment centres:** \$20 million in 2019-20 from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, matched with \$20 million from the First Nations Health Authority, to support the replacement of six existing treatment facilities and the construction of two new urban treatment facilities. (May 2019)
- **Expansion of First Nations Land-based Healing Initiatives:** \$23.25 million over three years to the First Nations Health Authority to support First Nations-led land-based healing and treatment initiatives at local and regional level. (2018)
- **Tripartite partnership to improve mental health and wellness services:** \$30 million over three years was committed to improve mental health and wellness of Indigenous peoples. The Province, First Nations Health Council and the Government of Canada signed a MOU to support Nation rebuilding and wellness through a community-driven, Nation-based approach to the design, planning and delivery of First Nations mental health and wellness services and supports. (July 2018)
- **Support for First Nations Health Authority overdose response:** \$24 million over three years will support First Nations Health Authority and the implementation of its Framework for Action: Responding to the Overdose/Opioid Public Health Emergency for First Nations. (2018)

#### **Land, wildlife and natural resources**

- **Marine Protected Areas Network:** Partnered with coastal First Nations to launch a public engagement process for a plan to guide the implementation of a network of marine protected areas from northern Vancouver Island to the Alaska border. (September 2022)

- **New grants increase opportunities for Indigenous people in forest sector:** Provincial funding of \$437,000 will support the First Nations Forestry Council in developing new online forestry careers-matching tool to help increase the number of Indigenous students and community members studying and working in the forest sector. (June 2022)
- **Indigenous guardians pilot program:** A new MOU with Nuxalk and Kitasoo Xai'xais Nations establishes a pilot project that designates Indigenous guardians with the same legal authorities as BC Parks rangers – the first project of its kind in B.C. (June 2022)
- **Funding for Coastal First Nations-Great Bear Initiative:** Additional funding amounts to a total of nearly \$3.5 million to help First Nations clean up marine debris along the coast of the Great Bear Rainforest and create opportunities for lasting change through community awareness and education. (August 2022)
- **Improving the health of B.C.'s watersheds:** \$30 million to support ongoing efforts to restore watersheds and wetlands in the province, with \$15 million going to projects that are led or co-led by First Nations to strengthen local ecosystems. (April 2022)
- **Establishment of new Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship:** The new ministry was officially established on April 1, 2022, signalling a new approach to land and resource stewardship in B.C. that brings Indigenous Peoples in as partners from the start. Our work together aligns with three goals: reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, environmental sustainability, and economic opportunities. (February 2022)
- **StrongerBC Economic Plan:** The Economic Plan focuses on advancing true, lasting and meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, including supporting the co-development of an Indigenous-led agency focusing on Indigenous economic development. (February 2022)
- **Funding for clean up of B.C.'s coastlines and more than 100 derelict vessels in partnership with coastal First Nations:** More than \$9.5 million from the Clean Coast, Clean Waters Initiative Fund will be used to tackle shoreline cleanups and derelict vessel removal in partnership with Indigenous communities on up to 1,200 km of coastline from the north coast of the province to southern Vancouver Island. (April 2021)
- **Historic agreement signed with Leq'á:mel, Matsqui and Sumas First Nations and the City of Mission:** Under the agreement, the Province transferred approximately 60 hectares of Crown land to the LMS Society, which represents the three First Nations. The transferred lands will be used to create new public parklands and recreational areas. (July 2021)
- **New roles for First Nations and communities in the energy sector:** The Phase 2 interim report of the BC Hydro Review addressed future opportunities for First Nations in the development, ownership or operation of electrical infrastructure or services, and recommendations of ways to enhance First Nations' participation in the energy sector. (March 2020)

- **Tsartlip First Nation take control of Woodwyn Farm Property:** B.C. and Tsartlip sign an historic agreement to transfer the 78 hectare property from B.C. Housing to the Nation. The property was purchased through B.C. Housing and made possible by a \$7.77 million provincial grant. (December 2020)
- **Caribou protection in northeastern B.C.:** The B.C. government partnered with the Saulteau and West Moberly First Nations and the federal government to achieve a historic agreement that strives to protect southern mountain caribou in northeastern B.C., while considering the social and economic well-being of communities and stakeholders in the region. (February 2020)
- **Investments in wild salmon conservation, habitat restoration and research science projects:** The governments of Canada and B.C. launched the \$143-million B.C. Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund. (September 2019)
- **The Minister's Indigenous Advisory Group on Agriculture:** Formed to provide strategic advice and better support the interests of Indigenous communities and businesses engaging in land-based agriculture, expand related economic development activities and help create a new relationship between Indigenous peoples and the ministry. (September 2019)
- **Wildfire recovery:** \$22 million to assist rural and Indigenous communities to recover from natural resources affected by wildfires. (2018)
- **\$101-million investment in wildfire prevention and preparedness:** Supports local governments and First Nations to reduce wildfire risks by completing fuel management projects, developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans and implementing FireSmart principles. (August 2019)
- **Improvements to Forest and Range Practices Act support reconciliation with Indigenous peoples:** Guiding principles include: putting resiliency of the land first, public trust, reconciliation with First Nations and scientific knowledge, flexibility and adaptation. (May 2019)
- **Shared decision-making with Tsilhqot'in National Government on moose management:** Roundtable discussion focuses on efforts to protect moose and the way of life for many people who live in Cariboo Chilcotin. (December 2018)
- **First Nations, B.C. reach landmark agreement on fish farms in the Broughton Archipelago:** 'Namgis, Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis, Mamalilikulla First Nations, and the Province complete historic, government-to-government agreement to protect and restore wild salmon stocks, allow an orderly transition plan for open-pen finfish for the Broughton area and create a more sustainable future for local communities and workers. (December 2018)
- **End to grizzly bear hunt:** Province commits to improve wildlife management in B.C. and develops a focused grizzly bear management plan. (December 2018)

- **Xeni Gwet'in First Nation, conservation officers collaborate on enforcement:** MOU to work together to promote the sustainability of wildlife. (December 2018)
- **New legislation revitalizes environmental assessment process:** Provides a clear, timely path for project approvals, supports reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, increases public engagement and transparency and delivers stronger environmental protections. (November 2018)
- **Indigenous communities get support to develop agriculture businesses, protect food security:** Through the B.C. Indigenous Agriculture Development program, develop skills from professional, qualified business consultants. (October 2018)
- **Nicola Watershed Governance Project:** MOU with five Nicola Nations uses collaboration and innovation to sustainably govern water resources in the Nicola watershed for the benefit of future generations. (March 2018)

## Children and families

- **Entered into first community agreement under the Child, Family and Community Service Act with Simpcw First Nation:** Tcwesétmentem: Walking Together Agreement, is the first of its kind in B.C. The agreement recognizes elements of the federal Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families, and outlines how the Simpcw and the ministry will work together to support the well-being of Simpcw families. (April 2022)
- **An Act representing First Nations, Inuit and Métis Children, Youth and Families:** Three main areas of focus are the establishment of new national principles, setting minimum national standards for provision of all child and family services to Indigenous children, taking into account their safety, security, well-being, culture and family origins and affirms Indigenous Peoples' inherent rights to jurisdiction over child and family services for all their citizens. To date, MCFD is engaged with four First Nations in tripartite coordination agreement discussions under the Federal Act. (January 2020)
- **An end to birth alerts:** B.C. ends the practice of issuing "birth alerts" for what are deemed high-risk parents. The alerts have been primarily issued for marginalized and Indigenous women. Through a collaborative model, health-care providers and social service workers will no longer share information about expectant parents without consent from those parents. (September 2019)
- **Tripartite MOU on Secwépemc jurisdiction for child and family services:** MOU provides framework that charts the path forward in recognizing and implementing Secwépemc jurisdiction for child and family services. (July 2019)
- **Caregivers for B.C.'s most vulnerable get first pay increase in a decade:** Indigenous children in care benefit from a boost of \$109 million over three years to foster parents,

adoptive caregivers, family members caring for children and Community Living BC home-share providers. (February 2019)

- **Indigenous communities benefit from new child-care partnerships:** \$30 million is being invested to expand the Aboriginal Head Start program to provide culturally based, inclusive childcare, family bonding and prevention services to Indigenous families. \$3.6 million over three years will support 11 new early learning and childcare planning positions to address the specific needs of Indigenous children, families and communities. (November 2018)
- **Métis take control of their own child welfare:** B.C. and Métis Nation BC sign a joint commitment setting the goal to transfer authority for Metis child welfare by 2021. (June 2018)
- **Changes to the Child, Family and Community Services Act:** Legislative amendments will help keep Indigenous children out of care and ensure Indigenous communities have greater involvement in child welfare decisions. (May 2018)

There are 204 distinct First Nations in British Columbia, each with its own unique traditions and history. Many are working with the Province on constructive agreements, including treaty agreements, comprehensive reconciliation agreements, foundation agreements and more.

#### **Treaty agreements:**

- Tlowitsis Nation - Transition to Stage 5 Treaty negotiations with Tripartite Agreement (February 2021)
- Lake Babine Nation- Tripartite (builds upon 2018 MOU) Landmark Reconciliation (September 2020)
- Halalt First Nation - Incremental Treaty Agreement (May 2020)
- Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group - Transition to Stage 5 and Treaty Revitalization Agreement (August 2019)
- K'ómoks First Nation - Treaty Revitalization Agreement (August 2019)
- We Wai Kai Nation - Transition to Stage 5 Negotiations Under the BC Treaty Process and Incremental Treaty Agreement (August 2019)
- Wei Wai Kum First Nation - Transition to Stage 5 Negotiations Under the BC Treaty Process (August 2019)
- Kwiakah First Nation - Transition to Stage 5 Negotiations Under the BC Treaty Process (August 2019)

- Ditidaht and Pacheedaht First Nations - Agreement-in-Principle (June 2019)
- Metlakatla First Nation - Transition to Stage 5 and Treaty Revitalization Agreement (February 2019)
- Ktunaxa Nation - Rights Recognition and Core Treaty Memorandum of Understanding (December 2018)
- Stó:lō Xwexwilmexw - Stage 5 Treaty Negotiations Memorandum of Understanding (October 2018)
- Northern Secwepemc te Qelmucw - Agreement-in-Principle (June 2018)
- Malahat Nation - Incremental Treaty Agreement (March 2018)

### **Reconciliation agreements**

- Sts'ailes First Nation - Reconciliation Agreement (March 2022)
- 'Namgis First Nation - Letter of intent to negotiate forestry reconciliation (October 2021)
- Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation - Pathway Agreement (October 2021)
- Cowichan (Quw'utsun) Nation - Reconciliation Agreement (September 2021)
- Lake Babine - Foundation Agreement (September 2021)
- Snuneymuxw First Nation - Tripartite memorandum of understanding (July 2021)
- Heiltsuk Nation - Reconciliation Agreement (June 2021)
- Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs - Memorandum of Understanding B.C. and Canada to implement Wet'suwet'en rights and title (April 2021)
- Carrier Sekani First Nations - Pathways Forward 2.0 Agreement (January 2020)
- Heiltsuk Nation - Tuigila "To Make a Path Forward" Agreement for Implementation of Heiltsuk Title, Rights and Self-government (August 2019)
- Secwepemc - Letter of Commitment (March 2019)
- Cheslatta Carrier Nation - Interim Reconciliation Agreement and Settlement Agreement (January 2019)
- Lake Babine Nation - Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding to Guide Rights Implementation and Reconciliation Negotiations (December 2018)

- shíshálh Nation - Foundation Agreement (October 2018)
- Southern Dakelh Nation Alliance - Foundation Framework Agreement (Hubulhsooninats'Uhoot'alh) (August 2018)
- Coastal First Nations - Memorandum of Understanding for Reconciliation Protocol 2.0 (July 2020)

#### **Government-to-government agreements:**

- Tahltan Central Government - First consent-based decision-making agreement under Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. (June 2022)
- Metis Nation B.C. - Letter signed to advance reconciliation (November 2021): With the Letter of Intent and the implementation of the Declaration Act, there is a commitment to be more inclusive of Métis peoples' culture, language and history in the development of policies, practises, programs and legislation in B.C.
- Haida Nation - GayGahlda "Changing Tide" Agreement (August 2021)
- Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs (Nation/Huwilp) - Gitanyow Governance Accord (August 2021)
- Esquimalt and Songhees First Nations – Reconciliation Agreement (Thetis Cove Property) (February 2021)
- Tsilhqot'in Nation - Gwets'en Nilt'l Pathway Agreement (August 2019)
- Northern Secwepemc te Qelmucw - Yecweminul'ecw Agreement (October 2018)
- Maa-nulth First Nations - to strengthen and affirm treaty partnership (January 2018)
- Union of B.C. Municipalities/ Indigenous Peoples of B.C. – MOU on cross-government responsibility (September 2021)

#### **Economic development agreements:**

- Tahltan Central Government, Iskut Band Council, Tahltan Council - Shared Prosperity Agreement (May 2021)
- Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs- Signed Memorandum of Understanding to support work to implement Wet'suwet'en title and rights. (April 2021)
- Lake Babine- Lake Babine (accelerated) Foundation Agreement (April 2021)
- shíshálh Nation- Foundation Agreement (February 2021)

- Lhoosk'uz Dené Nation and Ulkatcho First Nation - Economic Community Development Agreement (January 2020)
- Gitxaala First Nation - Coastal Benefits Agreement and LNG Benefits Agreement (March 2019)
- Kitsumkalum First Nation - Coastal Benefits Agreement and LNG Benefits Agreement (March 2019)
- Nicola Valley First Nations - Economic Development Protocol Agreement (March 2019)
- Tahltan - Revenue Sharing Agreement (June 2018)
- Nisga'a Nation - Economic and Community Development Agreement for the Brucejack Gold Mine (January 2018)

Media            Ministry of Indigenous Relations and  
Contact        Reconconciliation 250-896-4348

## KEY MESSAGES – Reconciliation Accomplishments:

- In 2019, we collaborated with Indigenous Peoples to develop and pass the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act – the first legislation of its kind in Canada.
- We continue to make progress by:
  - fundamentally shifting how we develop and implement provincial **laws, policies and practices** in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples.
  - establishing a **Declaration Act Secretariat** as a dedicated body to support government's reconciliation efforts by ensuring laws, policies and practices are consistent with the Act.
  - adopting a five-year, cross-government **action plan – with 89 specific actions** – to guide our work to implement the UN Declaration.
  - And advancing agreements under Section 7 of the Declaration Act to **share statutory decision-making** with First Nations. This includes the signing of the first consent-based agreement with the Tahltan Nation in June and the start of negotiations on the first joint decision-making agreement with the shíshálh [She-shal-h] Nation in August.

- We are continuing our work on reconciliation by:
  - standing with and **supporting residential school survivors**, their families and communities who are seeking truth and justice for the children that never came home.
  - making an unprecedented investment of \$84 million since 2018 in the First Peoples' Cultural Council **to revitalize Indigenous languages, heritage, culture, and arts.**
  - **transforming Indigenous child welfare** by passing the Indigenous Self-Government in Child and Family Services Amendment Act. This makes B.C. the first jurisdiction in Canada to recognize an inherent right of self-government specifically in provincial legislation. It will help keep Indigenous children and youth safely connected to their families, cultures, and communities.
  - implementing a **new graduation requirement** to ensure all students complete Indigenous-focused coursework before they graduate from the BC Education system.
  - acting on the recommendations in the 2020 report, ***In Plain Sight: Addressing Indigenous-specific Racism and Discrimination in B.C. Health Care.***
  - committing to open 10 **new Indigenous Justice Centres**, in addition to the four centres already operating, to provide free, culturally appropriate, and regionally tailored services to Indigenous Peoples.

The next five centres will open in urban areas next year.

- and investing \$550 million over 10 years to build **1,750 new homes for Indigenous Peoples on and off reserve** throughout B.C. There are more than 1,400 homes open, under construction or in development.
- We are committed to building a respectful relationship that supports Indigenous self-determination and inherent right to self-government by:
  - **sharing approximately \$100 million annually in gaming revenue** with First Nations, providing stable revenue and supporting programs and services in communities according to their individual priorities.
  - providing a one-time \$74-million grant to address **the economic impact of COVID** on First Nations communities.
  - working to recognize First Nations as full partners in **sustainable forest management** and committing to **co-develop a new forestry revenue sharing formula** with a doubling of shared revenues in the interim.
  - creating **innovative treaties** with First Nations and Canada that better address the needs of individual First Nations and recognize and reconcile their rights.
  - And shifting from short-term transactional arrangements with First Nations to **developing long-term, government-to-government agreements** that recognize and support reconciliation, self-

determination, decision-making and economic independence.

## Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

## ISSUES NOTES

**A. CURRENT MEDIA ISSUES**

- a) Wet'suwet'en MOU Funding, Wet'suwet'en Reconciliation – Issues Notes
- b) Nuchatlaht Title Claim
- c) Blueberry River First Nations
- d) Treaty 8 – Treaty Land Entitlement claims
- e) Tenure holders in Tsilhqot'in National Government Declared Title Lands
- f) Tiny House Warriors encampment

**B. FOUNDATIONAL BACKGROUND**

- g) Stakeholder Engagement and First Nations
- h) Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act
- i) United Nations Declaration – Free, Prior and Informed Consent
- j) LNG Canada/Coastal Gas Link Agreements
- k) Nisga'a Nation – Nasoga Gulf
- l) Lightning Rock Site Protection
- m) Private Land Claims
- n) Ministry 2022/23 budget

**C. RECENT & UPCOMING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

N/A

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

### CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Indigenous Relations and  
Reconciliation

Date: Sept. 14, 2022

Minister Responsible: Hon. Murray Rankin

## Wet'suwet'en reconciliation/ CGL Protests

### KEY MESSAGES:

- This is an incredibly challenging situation for the Wet'suwet'en Nation, and for people in Smithers, Hazelton and neighbouring communities – dividing families, friends and neighbours.
- For years, we have taken steps to try and bring the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs and Coastal GasLink representatives together to find a resolution.
- In response, government has and continues to work to engage the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs and CGL in a dialogue with the aim of finding a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

### If asked about next steps:

- This is an extremely complex issue, balancing provincial law with Wet'suwet'en Law, and the unfinished business of reconciling those laws, including truly implementing the Delgamuukw-Gisday-wa decision from over 20 years ago.
- Some Hereditary Chiefs are opposed to the pipeline project while the elected Chiefs support it. This division within the Wet'suwet'en community is partly a result of the ongoing impacts and trauma of colonialism.
- We're committed to implementing Wet'suwet'en title. Any solutions must involve the Wet'suwet'en people, which includes Wet'suwet'en Hereditary and Elected leaders.
- Unity is the way forward. Governance matters of the Wet'suwet'en Nation must be resolved by Wet'suwet'en people – that is central to self-determination. Reunification within Wet'suwet'en Nation is essential for this work to move forward successfully. It is a central feature of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to reconcile Wet'suwet'en rights and title in the Yintah.

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

- There will be many important questions that need answering and much healing will be required.
- We remain resolute in our determination to undertake this necessary work at the rights and title table, together with the Wet'suwet'en and Government of Canada.
- Indigenous self-determination is a key tenet of UNDRIP and a key objective of the Declaration Act.
- Resolving these issues will help avoid conflicts on the land, and support work together that will benefit all communities and people who live in the region.
- The Province has provided funding to the Wet'suwet'en to support their work under the MOU, including expanding governance capacity, engaging in unity-building activities and participating in the ongoing negotiations.
- The Province and Wet'suwet'en have formed an advisory council to ensure input from broader community in the negotiations, to ensure transparency.

### **If asked about government action to resolve the dispute:**

- Government has and continues to work to engage the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs and CGL in a dialogue with the aim of finding a peaceful resolution to the conflict.
- Ministers and senior government staff have had many conversations via phone, sent letters and met in person with representatives of both the nation and the company.
- In September 2021, over two days, I had meetings in the Yintah with members of both hereditary and elected Wet'suwet'en leadership, as well as community leaders from non-Indigenous communities in the area.
- We continue to invite to both elected and Hereditary Leaders for a Summit to address Wet'suwet'en reunification and to determine how BC can support them.
- Also in September, B.C. engaged Miles Richardson as an interlocutor to encourage dialogue among the parties. Mr. Richardson has also had many, many conversations with the company, nation, federal and provincial governments, RCMP and other interested groups.

## **ADVICE TO MINISTER**

- I continue to work with my colleagues across government and engage my federal counterpart, Minister Marc Miller, in developing solutions to the impasse.
- The federal minister has offered his government's support to advance dialogue to help de-escalate the situation and reaffirmed their commitment to the tripartite MOU to reconcile Wet'suwet'en rights and title in the Yintah.
- I have also heard from the elected Chiefs of the Wet'suwet'en who called for an end to the blockade, and wanted to ensure their people working on the project are safe and the community can continue to benefit from the agreements they worked incredibly hard to reach with both government and the company.
- I can assure British Columbians that our government is working very hard to engage the company and Hereditary Chiefs in a dialogue with the aim of finding a peaceful resolution to this complex problem.

### **If asked about work on the MOU:**

- Our government is working to address matters of Wet'suwet'en rights and title outstanding since the Delgamuukw-Gisday-wa decision more than 20 years ago.
- An MOU was signed in May 2020 between ten Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs and the provincial and federal governments.
- At the time the MOU was reached, all parties at the table recognized the differences relating to the CGL project remain. That has not changed.
- We recognize Wet'suwet'en rights and title and respect the authority of the Hereditary Chiefs. We can work together to implement title and rights, while also supporting the completion of the Coastal Gaslink project.
- The Province remains committed to this work.
- The Province has provided \$7.22 million in funding to the Wet'suwet'en to support their work under the MOU, including expanding governance capacity, engaging in unity-building activities and participating in the ongoing negotiations.
- The funds also included capacity for further work on Wet'suwet'en priorities, such as eco-system monitoring and landscape-level

## **ADVICE TO MINISTER**

planning, and provided further funding to enable renovations at the former Lake Kathlyn School property, which the community bought through a \$1.23-million grant from the Province in 2020.

- The MOU was just the start – it is an agreement to negotiate a series of agreements to affirm and implement Wet'suwet'en title and rights.
- Our progress has not been as quick as we'd hoped due to a number of factors. An important part of the work to move forward in implementing rights and title is making progress on governance and unity issues within the broader Wet'suwet'en Nation, and that work has been incredibly difficult for all parties involved.
- I have invited both Wet'suwet'en Hereditary and elected leaders to a Summit in the hopes that the Wet'suwet'en can make progress on reunification

### **If asked about the MOU funding:**

- The Province provided a \$7.22-million grant to Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs to create governance capacity, engage in unity-building activities and facilitate ongoing discussions under the 2020 MOU.
- The funding is intended to support the Wet'suwet'en in their work on an internal engagement process to advance unity-building, which will be inclusive of all Wet'suwet'en members.
- It is also meant to support new staff and initiatives that ensure Wet'suwet'en Nation can participate meaningfully in collaborative stewardship and management of land and resources in Wet'suwet'en territory – for example with water stewardship, wildlife programs and eco-system monitoring.
- Some of the new funding has also been earmarked to renovate a recently purchased former school property to be used for a new Wet'suwet'en Nation government building with administration offices and community resources.

### **If asked about the interlocutor:**

- In September 2021, B.C. retained the services of Miles Richardson, a prominent Indigenous leader from the Haida Nation with an extensive background in Indigenous and Canadian government relations, to assist in dialogue between parties related to the CGL project.

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

- Mr. Richardson's role is as an interlocutor – helping facilitate important conversations between government, Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs, CGL, the federal government, the RCMP and other involved parties.
- The Province is not directing who or where he has conversations with, or what he is relaying. His role is to help the parties connect with each other as appropriate.

### *If asked about working with Hereditary and/or elected Chiefs:*

- Ultimately it is for the Wet'suwet'en people to resolve their own governance matters – that is central to self-determination.
- Reunification within Wet'suwet'en Nation is essential for this work to move forward successfully. It is a central feature of the MOU.
- I can also say that Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs have expressed a commitment to reunification.
- They have committed to engaging with all clan members, to ensure transparency around the negotiations and to support this work to build a strong and united Nation.

### *If asked whether government is violating UNDRIP by removing Indigenous Peoples from their lands:*

- We recognize how incredibly challenging the direct action situation is for the Wet'suwet'en people.
- I can assure British Columbians that our government continues to work very hard to engage the company and Hereditary Chiefs in a dialogue with the aim of finding a peaceful resolution to this complex problem.
- The Coastal GasLink project has all the permits in place for the construction activities underway.

Intergovernmental Communications

- This lack of unity is very difficult for all involved.
- The Province is available to support conversations between the hereditary and elected leadership if it would be helpful – but ultimately Wet'suwet'en governance matters are for the Wet'suwet'en to address.

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

- The way forward and decisions about who represents the Wet'suwet'en people, and how, is for the Wet'suwet'en people to decide.

### **If asked about journalists being arrested:**

- Freedom of the press is fundamental to our democracy. Journalists have a right to do their jobs independently.

- Advice/Recommendations

- When people believe the police have acted inappropriately, there are complaints processes available.
- This includes the courts and the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP.

### **If asked about First Nations having different opinions of the project/arrests:**

- I respect that there are differing opinions among the local First Nations communities regarding the project – many are supportive while others are not.
- This lack of unity is very difficult for all involved.

- Security Concern; Intergovernmental Communications

### **If asked about criticism of the MOU by Hereditary Chiefs:**

- The MOU was developed over an intensive three-day negotiation in Smithers in February 2020. Ten hereditary leaders signed the MOU in May 2020 following consultation with Wet'suwet'en house groups.
- The MOU was just the start – it is an agreement to negotiate a series of agreements to affirm and implement Wet'suwet'en title and rights. That is the work we are engaged in now.

### **If asked about elected leadership opposition to funding and MOU negotiations:**

- Ultimately it is for the Wet'suwet'en people to resolve their own governance matters – that is central to self-determination.

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

- **Governance matters and reunification within Wet'suwet'en Nation is an important element in the MOU, and is essential for moving forward successfully.**

- **Intergovernmental Communications**

- **The Province provides funding to band councils of the Wet'suwet'en through various financial arrangements related to forestry, pipelines, and children and family services – agreements worth millions of dollars to these communities.**
- **I have invited both Wet'suwet'en Hereditary and elected leaders to a Summit in the hopes that we can make progress on Wet'suwet'en reunification**

**If asked about elected chiefs' concerns over transparency & involvement:**

- **Under the MOU, there must be consultation with all Wet'suwet'en about any agreement, as well as clarity on Wet'suwet'en governance structures and systems.**
- **Part of the provincial funding is intended to support this work, through an internal engagement process to advance unity-building.**
- **Hereditary Chiefs have advised they will be engaging with all Wet'suwet'en members under this process to ensure transparency as we move forward together with negotiations.**

**If asked about the status of negotiations:**

- **We are committed to working together to determine how best to implement Wet'suwet'en rights and title.**
- **Together with Minister of Crown Indigenous Relations, we have made several requests to meet with hereditary chiefs and elected band chiefs for a three-day "Wet'suwet'en – Crown Leadership Summit."**
- **It is our preference to work with all parties to design the agenda in a respectful way and to structure the time together so that we can move forward on the many important issues in front of us.**
- **At this time, we don't have an updated timeline but we remain steadfast in our commitment to work with all Wet'suwet'en on**

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

**approaches for advancing governance and unity among the Wet'suwet'en Nation.**

### **If asked about the status of the CGL project in relation to negotiations:**

- **The Coastal GasLink project is permitted and approved to proceed.**
- **B.C. engaged extensively with Indigenous communities on the Coastal GasLink project, including both Hereditary Chiefs and elected leadership.**
- **At the time the MOU was reached, all parties at the table recognized the differences relating to the CGL project remain. That has not changed.**

## **BACKGROUND**

### **Peace and Unity Tour**

- Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs Woos, Na'Moks, Madeek, Gisday'wa, and followers are visiting other Indigenous Nations across Canada on a Nation-to-Nation 18-day tour that began on August 2 and will be ending on the Yintah on August 19. '
- A caravan is expected to visit Vancouver - Tsleil-Waututh on August 15, Blue River – Tiny House Warriors on August 16, Williams Lake on August 17, and Prince George on August 18 before returning to the Yintah on August 19 to begin 10 days of 'ceremony' in the vicinity of the drill site on the Morice River. The caravan can be expected to support protestors at Hope due to recent media reports of authorized TMX trenching activities across the Coquihalla River.
- The tour followed a four-day Peace and Unity Summit on the Yintah that began on July 26. Attendees including MLAs Adam Olsen and Sonia Furstenau witnessed the arrest of a protestor when they were touring the new feast hall at Lamprey Creek before rafting on Morice River.
- Government has worked to engage the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs and CGL in a dialogue with the aim of finding a peaceful resolution to the conflict. In September 2021, the Province engaged Miles Richardson as an interlocutor to encourage dialogue among the parties. Mr. Richardson has had many conversations with the company, nation, federal and provincial governments, RCMP and other interested groups.
- The Province has consistently maintained, as a top priority, that progress on unity and governance matters of the Wet'suwet'en Nation is essential to advancing reconciliation, and is needing to be advanced by Wet'suwet'en people as a central feature of self-determination. Reunification is a central feature of the May 14, 2020 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to reconcile Wet'suwet'en rights and title in the Yintah. The Province remains resolute in our determination to continue this necessary work at the rights and title table, together with the Wet'suwet'en and Government of Canada.

### **CGL Vandalism – Feb. 17**

- On Feb. 17, 2022 an attack occurred at a CGL worksite at the Morice River drill site.
- Following the attack, Wet'suwet'en Chiefs Express Concerns over Safety on the yintah. They noted they have a trapping program on the yintah and members living on the yintah in this area, Press release is available [here](#).
- On Feb. 23, 2022, 119 Wet'suwet'en members wrote to Chief Woos and Molly Wickham "Sleydo" of the Gidumt'en expressing concern that the nation is divided, militant outside influences have created a violent and confrontation dynamic in the territory and seeking a

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

Wet'suwe'ten nation-wide meeting followed by an All-Clan Bahlats as soon as possible.

### Enforcement – November 2021

- In May 2022, the Crown Prosecution Service announced it would be proceeding with charges against 15 protesters, and in July, the announced charges against four more including Sleydo, also known as Molly Wichman. Coastal Gas link announced it would not be pursuing civil contempt charges. 27 individuals who were arrested over a period of six days between September and November 2021.
- On Sunday, Nov. 14, the Gidumt'en provided Coastal GasLink (CGL) with a 'mandatory evacuation', with the details of it broadcasted on social media throughout the day. The eviction notice requested CGL remove their workers and equipment from the area. Failure to comply would result in the closure of the Morice Forest Service Road (MSFR). This road provides essential access for CGL to and from the workforce lodges and construction sites in the territory.
- On the same day, blockades were erected on the MSFR and other areas providing access. Obstacles included felled trees, vehicles and individuals who were challenges access. Video footage can be found online showing CGL's equipment being used to construct blockades on the MSFR. At the time, there were over 500 CGL workers in the area. Critical supplies (food, water etc.) were not able to reach them. CGL was also unable to remove sewage from the worksites as well because trucks could not access the area.
- The elected Chief and Council of the Wet'suwet'en First Nation distributed a statement following the events, identifying the fact that Wet'suwet'en members are working on the CGL project; some of the individuals were trapped in the lodges.
- On the morning of Thursday, Nov. 18, the RCMP announced it was moving forward with a rescue and enforcement operation.
- Since notice of the RCMP enforcement, social media posts from Gidumt'en supports focused on the RCMP and enforcement actions. There was a total of 14 individuals arrested. Enforcement actions continued on Friday, Nov. 19, resulting 15 people being arrested for breaching the court injunction.
- Also of note, two independent journalists have been arrested, promoting criticism from the Canadian Association of Journalists and other supporters online.
- The enforcement kicked off solidarity protests in numerous places including Kitimat, where members of the Haisla Nation staged a walkout. Additional protests have taken place in Victoria, Vancouver, Burnaby, Smithers, Prince George, Toronto and Winnipeg; in Caledonia, Ont. a highway bypass was blocked.
- The provincial government released a statement on Monday, Nov. 15, requesting that individuals involved in illegal blockades work to deescalate the situation. It included details of the provincial government's efforts to engage in good faith with the Office of the Wet'suwet'en.

### Opposition Comments

- Skeena Liberal MP Ellis Ross shared a video on social media on Sunday, Nov. 21 stating that 'self appointed' Hereditary Chiefs claim birthright to lead versus elected leaders who are voted in by the community; he contends the Queen doesn't. He also states that non Indigenous protestors and the NDP are exploiting the tension between hereditary and elected leaders in First Nations communities for their own agendas. Also posted that WFN people and elected leaders have been trying to be heard for years and been ignored and insulted by outsiders and the NDP. Ross also accuses the NDP of "playing politics with Aboriginal rights and title".
- Green Party MLA Adam Olsen posted that removing Indigenous Peoples from their lands violates UNDRIP Article 10 and the government is incongruent with its support of addressing climate change while continuing LNG development. He accuses the NDP of saying one thing and doing another. In QP on Nov. 22, he accused government of 'hiding behind the injunction', questioning why reconciliation is taking so long, accused the government of acting in bad faith and disceiving British Columbians, and exploiting Indigenous communities.

## **ADVICE TO MINISTER**

### **First Nation statements/comments**

- On Nov. 14, the elected Chief and Council of the Wet'suwet'en First Nation issued a statement calling for an immediate end to the escalating conflict. The statement says a few members of the Gidimt'en Clan who claimed to evict CGL and the RCMP do not represent the collective views of the Clan or of most Wet'suwet'en people. The statement says "the Wet'suwet'en people have given their support to this project and expect to realize benefits for our people. We went through long and complex processes of consultation with our members, government, and the industry before agreeing to participate. Despite numerous opportunities to work together, the small group of Hereditary Chiefs who oppose the project, as well as their Office of the Wet'suwet'en, refused to engage and neither they, nor their non-Indigenous supporters, have offered any meaningful alternatives."
- On Nov. 20, Haisla Chief Councillor Crystal Smith issued a statement saying "Haisla Nation Council has supported the development of LNG projects for years, and any attempts to hold back these projects and their pipelines, holds our Nation back too." However, Haisla member Brandi Moran doesn't support the RCMP action and posted a video noting her concerns.
- On Nov. 20, the Haida Nation issued a statement noting it stands firmly with the Gidimt'en Clan as they uphold Wet'suwet'en law in opposition of the Coastal Gaslink pipeline project on their territory.

### **Interim measures term sheet**

- The Province and the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs reached an agreement in March 2021 that provides \$7.22 million to support work to implement Wet'suwet'en rights and title. Capacity funding to participate in the negotiations was a condition in the tripartite 2020 MOU.
- According to the financial agreement, the funding will support:
  - Wet'suwet'en in work on governance development, and the shared goal of reunification within Wet'suwet'en Nation. The Office of the Wet'suwet'en will undertake an internal engagement process to advance unity-building, which will be inclusive of all Wet'suwet'en House members.
  - More resources for Wet'suwet'en self-government, including hiring staff and developing governance structures for water stewardship, wildlife programs, eco-system monitoring and other initiatives to enhance collaborative stewardship and management of land and resources in the Yintah.
  - Renovations at the former Lake Kathlyn School property, which Wet'suwet'en Nation bought through a \$1.23-million grant from the Province in 2020. The site will be used for a Wet'suwet'en Nation seat of government, with space for administration offices and community resources.

### **Reaction from Wet'suwet'en First Nation**

- The elected council of Wet'suwet'en First Nation opposed the interim measures agreement, with a highly critical media statement on April 21, 2021 which calls the Office of the Wet'suwet'en a "an unelected, unrepresentative, unmandated, unaccountable society".
- The statement alleges their concerns have been repeatedly ignored by the provincial and federal governments, and that negotiations on matters that will affect their rights and interests and the future jurisdiction on their territory have been conducted in absolute secrecy.
- The statement asks that ongoing negotiations stop until the Wet'suwet'en people can make an informed decision about the process.

### **Status of negotiations**

- The MOU timeline called for the first of several subsequent agreements to be completed within three months signing (May 14, 2020), however, negotiations were slowed due to the pandemic.
- The next agreement, which will affirm title, had an original deadline of August 14, 2020.

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

- A tripartite joint statement was issued on Aug. 13, 2020, reiterating a commitment from all parties to continue the negotiations.
- External community engagement is underway, with the first quarterly Regional Engagement Group meeting held on Sept. 10, 2020, and subsequent meetings on February 11 and June 3, 2021. A Core Advisory Council first met on Feb. 10, 2021 and has been meeting monthly since.

### Memorandum of understanding

- The draft MOU was announced on March 1, 2020, after three days of talks on establishing an expedited process to affirm and implement Wet'suwet'en rights and title.
- The MOU was not made public at the time, pending a Wet'suwet'en ratification process with clan members, over which the Province faced significant criticism.
- Following the pandemic declaration, the final clan ratification was carried out virtually and Office of the Wet'suwet'en advised B.C. and Canada of clan approval on April 23, 2020.
- The MOU has been publicly denounced at each stage by elected Wet'suwet'en Chiefs, who have opposed the Province negotiating with the Hereditary Chiefs without their participation.
- The Wet'suwet'en Matrilineal Coalition wrote the Province on Oct. 30, 2020 and issued a news release on Nov. 23, 2020 challenging the validity of the MOU, and asserting that the Wet'suwet'en signatories did not have proper authority to do so under Wet'suwet'en law. It also stated they have launched human rights complaints to the BC and Canadian Human Rights Commissions alleging gender discrimination. They call on the Province and Canada to pause negotiations to allow time for a Wet'suwet'en governance healing process. Counsel for the Province and Wet'suwet'en Matrilineal Coalition are meeting to try and agree on a mediation approach.
- Directors of the Wet'suwet'en Matrilineal Coalition hold traditional governance roles in the Wet'suwet'en House system, with Hereditary House Chief status (or alternate status) and Hereditary Chiefs' names. They assert that two Hereditary Chiefs have wrongly assumed their titles.

### Reconciliation discussions

- Following a period of heightened direct action on the Morice Forest Service Road in Wet'suwet'en territory in opposition to the Coastal Gaslink pipeline project in early 2019, the Province and Wet'suwet'en Nation started a formal reconciliation negotiation process together in April 2019. (Note: These talks have since been merged with the MOU negotiations.)
- The reconciliation process was not connected to the project, but rather focused on recognizing and implementing Wet'suwet'en title, rights, laws and governance in the territory.
- A traditional smoke feast – an established protocol under Wet'suwet'en traditional hereditary system – hosted by the Laksilyu Clan of the Wet'suwet'en on March 16, 2019 was the first formal step to initiate the rights and title discussions.
- B.C.'s Minister of Indigenous Relations had met with Wet'suwet'en leadership in May 2018 in Smithers, and the Premier and Minister did again in Aug. 2018. At the August meeting, the Premier reiterated that the Province is supportive of LNG.

### Provincial negotiators

- Former NDP MP and lawyer Murray Rankin was B.C.'s representative in reconciliation discussions beginning in April 2019, and he later joined the MOU negotiations.
- Former NDP MP Nathan Cullen served as a liaison for the Province beginning in February 2020.
- The government has been criticized by the Opposition and media for these contracts.
- The ministry immediately terminated their contracts in September 2020 when they announced their intentions to run in the provincial election.
- Both were appointed as Cabinet ministers in November 2020 following the October 2020 provincial election.

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

- In September 2021, B.C. retained the services of Miles Richardson, a prominent Indigenous leader from the Haida Nation with an extensive background in Indigenous and Canadian government relations, to assist in dialogue between parties related to the CGL project.
- Mr. Richardson's role is as an interlocutor – helping facilitate important conversations between government, Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs, CGL, the federal government, the RCMP and other involved parties.

### Previous Direct Action

- In February 2020, RCMP enforcement of a court injunction that allowed CGL pipeline construction led to the arrests of 28 protestors blocking the project in support of Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs.
- This followed an unsuccessful attempt between the Province and Hereditary Chiefs to find a peaceful resolution to the conflict over the Coastal GasLink LNG pipeline project through Wiggus (Respect) Table several days before. Nathan Cullen acted as an intermediary to set up the table, after several weeks of protests in support of the Hereditary Chiefs.
- The February 2020 arrests by RCMP incited six weeks of protests and blockades that shut down railroads and ports across the country. A rally blocked entrances to the B.C. Legislature on the first day of the spring legislative session on Feb. 11, 2020.
- On Feb. 27, 2020, the federal and provincial governments entered into emergency talks with Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Leadership on rights and title and the pipeline controversy.
- Intergovernmental Communications
- While Wet'suwet'en members and supporters had established the Unist'ot'en action camp back in 2009 to oppose any planned pipelines in the area, the conflict had escalated in late 2018 as CGL prepared to begin work at the site, and obtained an initial interim injunction that led to several arrests in January 2019. The situation further escalated with the Dec. 2019 interlocutory injunction, sought by the company to allow actual construction to begin.
- Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs issued an eviction notice to Coastal GasLink contractors on Jan. 4, 2020, stating they reject the B.C. Supreme Court injunction granted on Dec. 31, 2019, allowing pipeline construction to continue. Hereditary Chiefs refused to meet with CGL, stating that they would only meet with decision-makers (the provincial and federal governments, and RCMP).
- In mid-January 2020, several small protests in support of the Hereditary Chiefs were held, including at the Swartz Bay ferry terminal, an MLA's constituency office, and the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources building in Victoria. The latter resulted in several arrests.
- Also at this time, a United Nations committee called on Canada and B.C. to stop three projects – the Coastal GasLink pipeline, Site C, and Trans Mountain, until there is full First Nations consent. B.C.'s Human Rights Commissioner also called on the Province to stop the CGL project.
- On Dec. 20, 2019, The Guardian had published a story that RCMP documents show the RCMP was prepared to use "lethal oversight" and other inflammatory references regarding the confrontation between police and protestors at a Gidimt'en checkpoint on the forest service Road that led to the arrests in January 2019.
- Coastal GasLink has agreements with all elected councils of the 20 First Nations along the pipeline route, and the Province has engaged extensively with both elected and hereditary representatives on the project over a number of years.

### Lake Kathlyn school purchase

- Office of the Wet'suwet'en was the successful bidder to purchase the former Lake Kathlyn school in Smithers, which now houses a childcare facility with 130 children. They intend to use the school as a government administration building for Wet'suwet'en Nation

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

- \$1.23 million in provincial funding was provided for the purchase as part of the ongoing reconciliation talks between the Province and Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs.
- Wet'suwet'en announced the purchase to local media on Feb. 20, 2020, but did not include information about the Province's role.
- Parents of the daycare expressed concerns to the daycare operator about the centre's future. The Ministry and Office of the Wet'suwet'en met with the school district and daycare operator on Feb. 12, 2020, to provide information and discuss transition plans for the building's use.
- As part of the sale, the existing lease, which runs through June 2021, must be honoured.  
Business Information

Communications contacts: Chris Harbord

Program area contacts: Tom McCarthy/Stuart Dickson

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

<p><b>CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE</b></p> <p>Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Date: Aug. 14, 2022 Minister Responsible: Hon. Murray Rankin</p>	<p><b>Wet'suwet'en MOU Funding - Status</b></p>
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### KEY MESSAGES:

- We are working hard to engage community leaders and do the unfinished business of reconciling Wet'suwet'en law with provincial law and implementing the Delgamuukw-Gisday-wa decision from over 20 years ago.
- We remain resolute in our determination to undertake this work at the rights and title table, together with the Wet'suwet'en and Government of Canada.
- Indigenous self-determination is a key tenet of UNDRIP and a key objective of the Declaration Act.
- Resolving these issues will help avoid conflicts on the land, heal the community, and support work together that will benefit everyone who lives in the region.

### KEY MESSAGES - FUNDING:

- The Province provided \$7.22 million to the Wet'suwet'en to support work under the tripartite MOU, including expanding governance capacity, engaging in unity-building activities and participating in ongoing negotiations to reconcile rights and title.
- The funds support capacity for further work on Wet'suwet'en priorities, such as eco-system monitoring, landscape-level planning, and enable renovations at the former Lake Kathlyn School property which the community bought through a \$1.23-million grant from the Province in 2020.
- The MOU is a government-to-government-to-government understanding that outlines work all parties must do to advance reconciliation. A priority topic is development of a Wet'suwet'en Reunification Strategy.

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

- Intergovernmental Communications

- **We look forward to hearing more from the Wet'suwet'en on the status of their work under the MOU and how they have used the funding allocation.**

***If asked why government is providing funding to the Hereditary Chiefs and not the Elected Chiefs:***

- **The tripartite MOU recognizes that Wet'suwet'en rights and title are held by the Wet'suwet'en Houses under their system of governance.**
- **The MOU also states that the parties will work together to resolve issues of Wet'suwet'en governance in order to implement their title.**

### **BACKGROUND:**

#### **Update**

- In July 15, 2022, Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs met in Smithers. In a press release posted on the Office of the Wet'suwet'en website, they stated they "had serious deliberations about the MOU and our vision of healthy people, healthy lands, for our grandchildren."
- The press releases states: "It is our duty to uphold the vision and purpose of the Delgamuukw-Gisday'wa Litigation against Canada and British Columbia. It is now 7 generations past those who brought forward onto the world stage the aboriginal rights and title case. It is the leadership of today that must implement the goals of the litigation to create new memories for the next 7 generations ahead. We cannot do this alone, we must collectively work together to continue on this path, to listen, to reach out and to rebuild and reclaim our inherent responsibility to one another as Wet'suwet'en descendants.... As we continue to plan and strategize, we encourage Wet'suwet'en members to connect with your respective house chief to discuss your visions and aspirations."
- BC continues to propose a Wet'suwet'en – Crown Leadership Summit, most recently reaching out to the hereditary chiefs in a joint letter with the Hon Marc Miller, Minister of Crown Indigenous Relations in July.

#### **MOU Discussions - Current Status**

- MOU discussions have occurred only intermittently since June 2021 and have been impacted by the federal election, COVID-19, and lack of engagement by Wet'suwet'en Chiefs and the negotiating table.
- At the direction of the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs, negotiation meetings and communications have significantly decreased since police enforced a court order and arrested CGL pipeline opponents at the Morice River (Widzin Kwah) drilling site on November 18/19, 2021.
- Technical discussions have continued for the priority topics under the MOU of water and child and family wellness.

#### **Funding Status**

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

- The Province provided \$7.22 million to the Hereditary Chiefs on March 31, 2021, to support five priority topics under the MOU: renovations of school, negotiation and reunification support, governance capacity, water stewardship and governance, and nation visibility.
- Stipulations of the grant include annual reports, with the first due March 31, 2022, and possible repayment if funds are not used for their specified purpose by March 31, 2024. An annual report was provided March 31, 2022.
- Intergovernmental Communications
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### Memorandum of Understanding

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- The MOU was not made public at the time, pending a Wet'suwet'en ratification process with clan members, over which the Province faced significant criticism.
- Following the pandemic declaration, the final clan ratification was carried out virtually and Office of the Wet'suwet'en advised B.C. and Canada of clan approval on April 23, 2020.
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- The Wet'suwet'en Matrilineal Coalition (WMC) has launched human rights complaints to the BC and Canadian Human Rights Commissions alleging gender discrimination. Directors of the WMC hold traditional governance roles in the Wet'suwet'en House system, with Hereditary House Chief status (or alternate status) and Hereditary Chiefs' names. They assert that two Hereditary Chiefs have wrongly assumed their titles.

Communications Contact: Leanne Ritchie

Program Area Contact(s): Stewart Dickson, Tom McCarthy

## Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

<b>Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation</b> <b>Date: Aug. 8, 2022</b> <b>Minister Responsible:</b> Hon. Murray Rankin	<b>Nuchatlaht First Nation title claim</b>
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### RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

### BACKGROUND:

- Nuchatlaht filed a claim in B.C. Supreme Court in January 2017 seeking a declaration of Aboriginal title to the northern portion of Nootka Island and adjacent smaller islands, off the west coast of Vancouver Island. In addition, the claim challenges the application of the *Forest Act* and the *Park Act* (Nuchatlitz Provincial Park).
- The central legal question in the claim is whether the Nuchatlaht can prove that they had exclusive possession of the Claim Area at the time of Crown sovereignty (no later than 1846).
- The case is among the first to apply the precedent-setting 2014 Tsilhqot'in decision, which granted the Tsilhqot'in Nation title to 1,750 square kilometres of territory. Other Supreme Court of Canada precedents will be equally applicable, including *Delgamuukw*, and *Marshall* and *Bernard*.
- The trial in Vancouver commenced on March 21, 2022, and the evidentiary portion of the trial concluded on May 26, 2022 (day 40). Final arguments are scheduled to commence on September 26<sup>th</sup> and to conclude no later than October 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Intergovernmental Communications

## Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

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- Advice/Recommendations

- There has been significant media coverage and the Wilderness Committee launched a letter-writing campaign through their website. <https://www.wildernesscommittee.org/take-action/support-nuchatlaht-nation>

- Intergovernmental Communications; Legal Information

- According to media stories and a Nuchatlaht news release, the band filed their claim because of frustration with the treaty process, a desire for legal recognition of their asserted Aboriginal title, and control over land and resource use. <http://www.nuchatlaht.com/land-title-claim.html>
- The claim excludes private lands, submerged lands and Indian reserves. It also doesn't include all lands over which the Nuchatlaht previously asserted Aboriginal title, nor does it claim damages.
- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

### MEDIA

- Advice/Recommendations

- Media also reported on the change in policy from AG and wondered why it didn't apply in the Nuchatlaht case.

- June 7, 2022 – <https://thenarwhal.ca/nuchatlaht-title-case-evidence/>

## Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

- April 22, 2022 – BC FN 'shocked' by decision not to amend case based on new policy | Vancouver Sun
- March 22, 2022 - B.C. government lawyer disputes Nuchatlaht First Nation's land claim | CBC News
- Nov. 25, 2020 – <https://thenarwhal.ca/bc-nuchatlaht-title-case-undrip/>
- Dec. 13, 2019 – <https://thenarwhal.ca/in-the-wake-of-indigenous-rights-declaration-b-c-s-lawyers-make-distasteful-arguments-in-first-nations-title-case/>

Communications Contact: Leanne Ritchie

Program Area Contact: Jeff Echols

## Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

<b>Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation</b> <b>Date:</b> September 20, 2022 <b>Minister Responsible:</b> Hon. Murray Rankin	<b>Blueberry River First Nations Response to Burke Decision</b>
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### RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

#### *Key Messages*

- Our government is committed to advancing lasting reconciliation with Blueberry River First Nations and other Treaty 8 First Nations.
- We are working together to create and implement a new way of managing land, wildlife and resources in Treaty 8 territory.
- As the BC Supreme Court made clear, the Province is responsible to address cumulative impacts in a way that prevents further unjustified infringement and ensures the Nations' ability to meaningfully exercise their Treaty 8 rights.
- We understand that the required changes are creating uncertainty for all of us, and decision-making delays have put strain on the natural resource sector.
- The Province has established a strategic solutions table with industry to develop ways to address cumulative effects and restore the land.
- We will continue to provide updates to industry, local governments and Northeast residents on these discussions and will seek input where appropriate.

#### *If asked about the initial agreement*

- The Province and Blueberry River reached an initial agreement in October 2021.
- The initial agreement set the stage for the next phase of negotiations, provided immediate-term stability and certainty for forestry and oil and gas tenure holders and provided cultural, restoration and wildlife funding:
  - \$35 million for Blueberry River to undertake activities to heal the land, create jobs for community members and hire service providers in the northeast region.
  - \$30 million for Blueberry River to protect their Indigenous way of life, including educational activities and work on cultural areas, traplines, cabins and trails.

## **Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER**

- 195 forestry and oil and gas projects which were permitted prior to the court decision – and where activities had not started – have been allowed to proceed.

### ***If asked about the status of negotiations***

- Negotiations continue between our government and Blueberry and other Treaty 8 Nations to improve land and resource stewardship in Treaty 8 territory.
- From our perspective we are making good progress, and we hope to have more to say about this soon.

### ***If asked about effects on other areas of the province***

- As we move forward, we will consider the broader implications of the decision, including the criticisms of the processes to assess and manage cumulative impacts.

### ***If asked about Site C***

- The Province and Blueberry River have agreed to discuss establishing a separate negotiation table related to Site C.
- The Province and BC Hydro will continue working with Blueberry River and all other Treaty 8 Nations on ongoing consultation as construction proceeds in a manner that supports the project's construction schedule.
- The Site C project is in the seventh year of construction and more than 60 per cent complete.
- Construction on all major components of the project is well underway.
- BC Hydro has obtained most of the provincial permits required to complete project construction.
- This includes the environmental assessment certificate issued in 2014, along with water licenses and associated land grants issued in 2016.
- A number of provincial permits are still required for the project.

### ***If asked about the effect on the regional economy***

- This is a significant decision, and we recognize the social and economic implications.
- We are confident we will arrive at a negotiated solution with Blueberry River First Nations, and with Treaty 8 Nations.

## **Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER**

- **Reconciliation is critical to building a strong economy – one that is sustainable, inclusive and innovative.**
- **Business and industry have a key role in the success of this work through partnerships and collaboration.**
- **By working together, we get better outcomes. That is how we create opportunities for Indigenous peoples, B.C. businesses, communities and families everywhere.**

### **BACKGROUND**

- On June 29, 2021, the B.C. Supreme Court declared the Province breached the rights of Blueberry River First Nations (Blueberry River). The decision stated that the cumulative effects of provincially authorized industrial activities in Blueberry River's territory has infringed its ability to meaningfully exercise its Treaty 8 rights to hunt, fish and trap in accordance with a traditional Indigenous way of life.
- The court said the Province cannot continue to authorize activities that infringe on BRFN's treaty rights but stayed this declaration for six months while the province negotiates with BRFN to determine new approval processes that recognize and respect treaty rights.
- The Attorney General announced July 28, 2021, that the Province would not appeal the decision.
- The court decision has caused considerable uncertainty about how the Province is proceeding with resource authorizations in BRFN and Treaty 8 territory, including concerns about mill shutdowns and other impacts on industrial activity in the area, which includes oil and gas, forestry, agriculture and electricity generation (e.g. Site C).
- The Province is negotiating with both BRFN as well as other Treaty 8 Nations (a cross-agency ADM level task force). Negotiations are focused on immediate and longer-term measures to improve land and resource management.
- The Treaty 8 Table has agreed to an interim-process for reviewing the backlog of applications in Treaty 8 territory. Discussions continue with Blueberry regarding how to address the backlog of applications.
- In the meantime, decisions on provincial authorizations for natural resource activities are expected to be delayed, as decision-makers must apply caution and scrutiny and consider the courts finding of infringement in their decision. After the six-month time period, the Province cannot authorize any permits or projects in the claimed territory that further infringes on BRFN's treaty rights.
- In July 2022, the Duncan's First Nation in northern Alberta filed a claim against Alberta for unjustifiable infringement of their Treaty 8 rights on the basis of cumulative effects of develop in their territories, mirroring the Blueberry River settlement.

### **Initial Agreement**

- On October 7, 2021, the Province and BRFN announced an initial agreement that provided \$65 million in funding to BRFN for healing the land and investing in wildlife, culture and capacity

## Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

building activities for the Nation and \$4.123 million to cover BRFN's legal costs. It also included \$2.1 million for capacity funding for the seven other Treaty 8 Nations and \$0.7 million for ministry resourcing.

- As part of the initial agreement, BRFN agreed not to obstruct 195 forestry and oil and gas projects which were permitted prior to the court decision, and where activities had not yet started, to proceed. Twenty authorizations in the claim area are in locations which are of cultural significance to BRFN and have been deferred. Eight forestry-related permits and 12 oil and gas-related permits have been affected by deferrals. All affected permit holders have been notified.
- The Province and BRFN are now working towards a second agreement that includes prioritizing an interim approach for reviewing new applications and decision-making that recognizes and respects Treaty 8 rights as directed by the court.
- Negotiations also include broader, longer-term solutions that heal the land, protect Treaty 8 rights and an Indigenous way of life. Discussions are exploring conservation areas, development planning, cumulative effects management, restoration investments and wildlife management, among others.

### Litigation background

- Blueberry River filed a civil claim in BC Supreme Court against the Province in March 2015 alleging the cumulative impacts of decades of oil and gas development, seismic surveying, pipelines, roads, forestry, agriculture, and work camps have led to irreversible damage to their lands and waters, significantly infringing on their ability to hunt, trap, fish and pursue cultural and economic activity, as protected under Treaty 8.
- This is the first case in B.C. where a First Nation has filed litigation over broad-based "industrial development" and alleged cumulative effects.
- June 2017, B.C. Supreme Court denied a broad based BRFN injunction to limit industrial development while the case proceeded to court. The court said that BRFN has shown there was a serious issue to be tried and sufficiently established irreparable harm to their treaty rights; however, the harm to BRFN, when weighed against the harm to other parties, was not sufficient to grant the injunction.
- An initial adjournment agreement was reached in June 2018 which suspended court proceedings while BRFN and the Province attempted to use new processes to manage resource development concerns in BRFN territory. It was extended in 2019.
- While the Province and BRFN made progress on restoration and wildlife management elements, other areas remained un-resolved and negotiations were stopped.
- Key challenges included the approach to restoration, overlap concerns from other Treaty 8 Nations and consultation processes for oil and gas projects.

Communications Contact: Leanne Ritchie

Program area contacts: Tom McCarthy, Cory Waters, Dale Morgan; Chris Jones

## Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

<b>Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation</b> <b>Date:</b> August 2, 2022 <b>Minister Responsible:</b> Murray Rankin	<b>Treaty 8 - Treaty Land Entitlement claims</b>
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### RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- B.C. and the federal government are honouring the terms of Treaty 8 and making good on lands owed to these First Nations since 1914.
- The provincial and federal governments have been negotiating with five First Nations in northeast B.C. to address a legal liability regarding lands that should have been provided to the First Nations as part of Treaty 8.
- Parcels of Crown land have been identified by all five First Nations.
- Local government, stakeholders and tenure holders are supportive in principle, though some stakeholders have raised concerns about access to public lands beyond the selected parcels.
- For those parcels where people expressed concerns, we have taken practical steps to mitigate those concerns.
- We are now working to finalize agreements with the First Nations.
- To finalize the agreements, Canada, BC and the First Nations initial the agreement, and then the First Nations begin a community ratification process.
- After the ratification process Canada, BC and the First Nations will sign the agreements and will then begin the process to transfer the lands which could take up to 10 years.
- The settling of the Treaty Land Entitlement claims will mark a historic step towards reconciliation in the Peace River area.

If asked about BRFN and Doig River FN announcing the results of their agreement ratification:

- This is exciting news that we welcome from Blueberry River First Nations and Doig First Nation.
- It means that we can continue on our path to get the long-overdue Treaty Land Entitlement Specific Claim settlement signed and implemented.
- There's still a process to go through, including an official signing by each of the Parties (First Nations, BC and Canada), before the agreements are final and the land transfer process can be completed.

## Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

### BACKGROUND:

- Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) claims are intended to settle land debt owed to First Nations who did not receive all the land they were entitled to under Treaty 8 in 1914. The five First Nations involved are Saulteau, West Moberly, Halfway River, Doig River and Blueberry River.
- Treaty 8 historic entitlements included a specific quantity of lands per person. However, at the time of the census, many First Nations were away on seasonal hunts and were missed in the count, which impacted their Treaty 8 land entitlements.
- Treaty Land Entitlement has been discussed publicly since 2016 and public input and tenure holder engagement has been a cornerstone of the process. Every land selection has been presented in multiple formats: public presentations to local governments, Northeast Stakeholder Roundtable meetings, on-line via GovTogether website and community hall meetings.
- On June 20, 2022, Blueberry River First Nation and Doig River First Nation announced that their members had “voted overwhelmingly in favour of the Nations’ negotiated Treaty Land Entitlement settlements.” The nations’ announcement contained a history of TLE negotiations but no details of the agreements themselves. B.C. was not part of the announcement.
- Public response to settling the Treaty obligations have been mostly positive. Residents from three areas have expressed significant concern over land selections: Charlie Lake, Red Creek and Summit Lake (see Charlie Lake and Red Creek issues notes for further detail).
- At the Nov 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting of the Northeast Stakeholder Roundtable, the province presented its “What we Heard Report”, to summarize and wrap up the community and stakeholder engagement the provincial team has undertaken with respect to West Moberly, Halfway River, Doig River and Blueberry River TLE selections.
- Community and stakeholder Engagement with respect to SFN TLE land selections is still ongoing.

Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications

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Advice/Recommendations ; Government Financial Information ; Intergovernmental Communications

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

### CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Indigenous Relations and  
Reconciliation

**Date:** December 06, 2022

**Minister Responsible:** Hon. Murray Rankin

## Former Residential School and Hospital Sites Response

### ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- **We respectfully stand in solidarity with survivors, intergenerational survivors and their families who are grieving after the preliminary findings of unmarked graves on the grounds of former residential schools.**

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

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Advice/Recommendations ; Intergovernmental Communications

## **KEY FACTS:**

On August 25, 2022, the Stó:lō Nation announced that they have begun their search for unmarked graves at the site of the former St. Mary's Residential School in Mission. The ground penetrating radar (GPR) work will take place over a period of time extending into next year.

On July 12, 2022, the Tseshah First Nation, located on central Vancouver Island, has begun the search for unmarked burial sites at a former residential school on its territory. Chief Ken Watts said results of search are expected in Fall 2022.

In February 2022, the shíshálh Nation announced that they have begun their search for unmarked graves at the site of the former Sechelt Indian Residential School. No announcement was made about the timing of results.

In January 2022, Williams Lake First Nation announced that ground-penetrating radar (GPR) found 93 reflections of potential unmarked graves at the former site of St. Joseph's Mission Indian Residential School.

In July 2021, the Penelakut Tribe said at least 160 "undocumented and unmarked graves" were found around the site of Kuper Island Residential School. No further details were provided.

In June 2021, the Lower Kootenay Band announced 182 unmarked graves were located using GPR near the site of St. Eugene's Mission School in Cranbrook. ʔaq'am clarified that these findings were preliminary, and that additional analysis was required to understand the findings and its connection to the residential school.

In May 2021, Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc announced their discovery, with the use of GPR, of approximately 200 unmarked graves at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School.

In all cases, First Nations have been clear that these are preliminary findings, and that further investigation is required. First Nations continue to develop plans to locate, document and protect unmarked graves on the grounds of former residential schools.

## **Provincial response:**

The Province takes its direction from the First Nations leading these investigations and continues to create opportunities for communities to come together to set collective direction on the response.

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

In July 2021, the Province appointed two First Nations Liaisons (Charlene Belleau and Chief Lydia Hwitsum) who are building trust-based relationships with First Nation leaders and working with federal and provincial governments to guide the response moving forward. Chief Hwitsum has since stepped away from her role as a liaison to focus on her leadership responsibilities with the Cowichan Tribes.

Provincial funding supports a range of activities including planning; engagement with former students, families and communities; mental health and wellness supports; cultural supports; archival research; and policy development. In certain cases, provincial funding has been provided to carry out surveys of sites using GPR.

The \$12-million B.C. Residential School Response Fund supports First Nations to develop and implement strategies for the location, documentation, commemoration, and protection of places where children were buried, consistent with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Calls to Action #72 to #76. The fund also includes \$1.5 million for urgently needed mental health and wellness and cultural supports for Indigenous people throughout B.C. The funding was announced on Sept. 27, 2021 and was allocated as follows:

- \$750,000 for the Indian Residential School Survivor Society to sustain and scale up its 24/7 crisis support line. This funding will be administered through the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA).
- \$500,000 for Tsow-Tun Le Lum to provide more in-person mental health and wellness and cultural supports. This funding will also be administered through FNHA.
- \$250,000 to Métis Nation BC (MNBC) to expand an existing program called Métis Counselling Connection and to enable ongoing engagement and support for Métis survivors and intergenerational survivors.

The provincial funding is fully flexible and responsive to community needs with no deadline. The federal and provincial government have set up a coordination structure that allows them to coordinate funding for site-specific activities. This ensures First Nations can make the most of funding available for this purpose.

Intergovernmental Communications

### **B.C. Residential schools:**

For more than a century, approximately 150,000 Indigenous children were forced to attend one of 139 residential schools operated by federal government and church organizations. The 18 schools in B.C. were: Ahousaht, Alberni, Cariboo, Christie, Coqualeetza, Cranbrook, Kamloops, Kitimaat, Kuper Island, Lejac, Lower Post, Port Simpson, Lytton, Mission, Alert Bay, Sechelt, Squamish and Anahim Lake.

The first opened in Mission (St. Mary's) in 1867; it was the final school to close in B.C. in 1984.

There were also three large Indian hospitals in Prince Rupert (Miller Bay), Nanaimo and Sardis (Coqualeetza). Children from B.C. were also taken out of the province to attend residential schools. The TRC estimated that at least 580 children at residential schools in B.C. died, while an unknown number are missing. There are additional federally funded and operated institutions in B.C. that are of significant historical interest and importance to First Nations. This includes day schools, dormitories, sanatoriums and smaller hospitals.

### **Media Interest:**

Since May 2021, when Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc announced their discovery, there has been heightened media and public interest in the findings at former residential schools. Stories regarding the legacy of the residential school system, preliminary findings of unmarked graves on the sites of former residential schools, and the intergenerational trauma suffered by Indigenous Peoples have received global coverage.

Most recently, the Pope's visit to Canada (July 24-29, 2022) and his subsequent apology for residential schools garnered widespread media coverage and received mixed responses from Indigenous people.

Communications Contact: Leanne Ritchie   Program Area Contact(s): Matthew Kinch

## Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

<b>Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation</b> <b>Date:</b> March 23, 2022 <b>Minister Responsible:</b> Hon. Murray Rankin	<b>Tenure holders in TNG Declared Title Lands</b>
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### TOP MESSAGE:

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

### KEY MESSAGES:

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

## **Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER**

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

### **BACKGROUND**

- Since the 2014 Supreme Court of Canada Tsilhqot'in decision, which gave Tsilhqot'in Nation aboriginal title but did not lay out a clear path on how to implement that decision, tenure holders and property owners within the declared title area have expressed concerns about how the decision impacts them and have been asking for clarity and reassurances that they won't be negatively affected. Their concerns center primarily on ongoing access to the area for tenures for grazing and tourism operations, as well as access to private property.
- Tenure holders (ranchers and tourism operators) garnered some media attention in 2020, particularly since the last of the bridging agreements expired on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER**

- In parallel, in June 2020, the West Chilcotin Tourism Association (WTCA), Chilko Operators Association and Chilcotin Ranchers group launched a website (<https://canadiansforfairnessandtransparency.ca/>) to highlight their concerns about the transfer of the declared title area and its affects on local land owners and businesses.
  - Through 2020, the Province received a large volume of template letters from members of the public, tenure holders, and associations such as GOABC - many that were sent through this advocacy campaign website.
  - Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications
- 
- Additional information session(s) will be considered for 2022 and onwards.
  - Following a meeting between Xeni Gwet'in and tenure holders in August 2020, the Guide Outfitting Association of BC (GOABC) restated their request to both the federal and provincial governments to assist with a 'smooth transition' for the declared title area by purchasing businesses affected or providing compensation.
  - Ministry representatives will be attending the annual GOABC meeting on March 25, 2022.
  - Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications
- 
- Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications

### **Tenure Transition and Bridging Agreements**

- From 2014, tenure holders overlapping and within the DTA experienced 'status quo' as Bridging Agreements were in place to preserve Crown authorized tenures. Bridging Agreements created space for Xeni Gwet'in to develop their vision for DTA management, develop governance structures, and work with the Province on tenure transition.
- Bridging agreements provided Tsilhqot'in consent to the application of provincial laws and tenures over the title lands.
- Although these agreements were always intended to be time-limited interim arrangements, Parks, and Recreation Sites and Trails bridging agreements were renewed for another term, and an agreement for angling guiding is under consideration.
- In spring 2020, Xeni Gwet'in and the Province initiated work to develop a detailed tenure transition plan.
- In September 2020, joint letters from TNG, Xeni Gwet'in and the Province were sent to Range Act and Land Act tenure holders and guide outfitters. The letters contained an outline of the short and mid-term plans for management of tenure activities within the declared title area.
- The letters stated that TNG and the Province were collaborating on reviewing Land Act tenures and that tenure holders with active tenures may continue. For tenures that are expired or expiring soon, the Province and TNG will contact the holders in the coming months.
- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

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## ADVICE TO MINISTER

### CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

**Ministry of Indigenous Relations and  
Reconciliation**

**Date:** September 23, 2022

**Minister Responsible:** Hon. Murray Rankin

## Deaths and Disappearances Indigenous Women

### ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

## KEY FACTS:

A series of deaths and disappearances of young Indigenous women in Vancouver in the summer of 2022 has raised media and stakeholder attention. Media are specifically asking what the Province is doing to protect and keep Indigenous women and girls safe. On August 5, former Attorney General Wally Oppal, said on the CBC “all three levels of government need to get involved to ensure police are more accountable,” when it comes to missing persons cases.

- 24-year-old Chelsea Poorman went missing on September 6 2020 in Vancouver’s Shaughnessy neighbourhood.
  - Her body was discovered on April 22, 2022; Vancouver police said she likely died on or near the property the night she disappeared. Poorman’s family, the community, Indigenous leaders, and media speculated that the Vancouver police’s abrupt closure of the case shows the investigation wasn’t taken seriously.
- 13-year old Noelle O’Soup went missing from her Port Coquitlam group home in May of 2021.
  - In May of 2022, her body was found inside an apartment on the Downtown Eastside.
- On August 2, the body of 25-year old Kwem Manuel-Gottfriedson was found inside a building near East Hastings Street.
- On August 5, a body found three months earlier was identified as Tatyanna Harrison, a 20-year old Indigenous woman who was last seen in the Downtown Eastside in May.
  - Cynthia Martin - Gitxsan from New Hazelton BC, was identified in August and she had been missing since Dec 2018
- Chelsea Poorman was Kawacatoose First Nation, Noelle O’Soup was Key First Nation and Saulteau First Nation, Kwem Manuel Gottfriedson was syilx, Tatyanna Harrison was Cree and Metis and Cynthia Martin was Gitxsan.

In September 2016, the federal government established the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). Its purpose was to examine and report on systemic causes of violence experienced by Indigenous women and girls and their greater vulnerability to violence.

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

The final report was released on June 3, 2019. The federal government accepted all 231 recommendations and committed to implementing the report and outlining an action plan. It also confirmed it accepts the finding of the report that these deaths amount to genocide.

On June 3, 2021, the second-year anniversary of the release of the report, a National Action Plan for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People was released. On that day, B.C. also released its own plan, A Path Forward: Priorities and Early Strategies for BC, as well as What We Heard, a report of the 2019 and 2021 community dialogues.

In February 2022, the B.C. Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) was selected to develop and administer the Path Forward Community Fund. The BCAAFC was chosen for its accessibility to diverse populations, community connections, geographical reach and understanding of the causes of violence against women, girls and two-spirit people.

The June 2022 Status Update, released on the first anniversary of BC's A Path Forward, outlines cross-government action to end violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2S+ people. It lists initiatives in various areas including community-based supports, health and wellness, housing, justice and public safety, child welfare and education as well as reconciliation, Indigenous rights and cultural preservation.

The Path Forward is also reflected in Action 3.8 of B.C.'s Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan.

In 2011, the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation created the Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women (MACIW) to provide advice to government on how to improve the quality of life for Indigenous women in B.C. MACIW is comprised of up to 10 respected Indigenous women from across B.C., appointed by the Minister based on criteria of diversity, experience and regional representation.

In 2022, MACIW completed a final draft of an Indigenous Gender Based Analysis Plus (IGBA+) Toolkit, created for meaningful application by government, corporations and Indigenous communities. This draft was never publicly released.

Launched in 2013, Giving Voice (GV), is a MACIW sponsored funding initiative delivered by the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) that gives voice to issues of gender-based violence within Indigenous women's lives through community driven healing projects that inspire change.

- For 6 years between 2013 and 2022, a total of \$1.8M was allocated that includes funds from MIRR, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and, the Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship.
- Approximately 6,000 people from both on and off-reserve participated for a total of 187 community based projects that were delivered throughout all of B.C.

To support their mandate, MACIW has recently identified the following six issues as priorities:

1. Ending violence against Indigenous women and girls;
2. Indigenous education;
3. Housing for Indigenous people;
4. Overrepresentation of Indigenous women in the justice system;
5. Systemic racism in the health care system; and,
6. Mental health and addictions, and the opioid crisis.

**Media Interest:** Major media in the Metro Vancouver area have all reported on the cases, including CBC, The Vancouver Sun and Global. Canadian Press have written articles that have been picked up in some regional outlets. There has been sustained media interest since the first disappearance and has increased as more cases are opened.

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

### CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

**Ministry of Indigenous Relations and  
Reconciliation**

**Date:** Dec. 6, 2022

**Minister Responsible:** Hon. Murray Rankin

## Treaty Taxation

### ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

## **KEY FACTS:**

On July 22, 2022, the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, Marc Miller, issued a statement on [Canada's new approach to Indigenous tax policy](#), announcing that Finance Canada has revised the federal tax policy approach for the application of the tax exemption under section 87 of the Indian Act in the context of modern treaties and other reconciliation arrangements.

First Nations will no longer be required to give up their federal tax exemption on reserve lands when signing a modern treaty. Previously, the modern treaty process required Nations to give up that right when entering into agreements with Canada, which has been a significant roadblock to Nations advancing self-governance. Now, Indigenous governments will have the choice to maintain existing tax arrangements, or to take up direct tax powers on their own timeline.

Since 2017, the B.C. government has focused on modernizing and expediting treaty-making in B.C and has the largest potential of modern treaties, participating in approximately 63 different treaty tables involving 114 First Nations. Of these, 34 tables involving 68 First Nations are actively negotiating or implementing a treaty and meeting regularly; B.C. is currently in advanced treaty negotiations at several tables including Kitselas and Kitsumkalum, K'omoks, Temexw Treaty Association and Pacheedaht.

Canada committed the tax exemption will continue on an Indigenous government's former reserves and on other First Nation reserves in Canada, subject to amendments to s. 87 of the Indian Act, for prospective and existing status Indian modern treaty beneficiaries.

Indigenous governments have the policy choice to take up direct tax powers on their own timeline, consistent with the commitment to advance the priority of Indigenous communities to reclaim jurisdiction over tax matters.

## **Provincial Treaty Taxation Policy Review and Reform:**

The federal announcement comes as the Ministry of Finance is undertaking a comprehensive review of the province's approach to treaty property taxation.

Work began in 2021, and the objective of Ministry of Finance treaty taxation policy reform is to arrive at a new approach to treaty property taxation that is guided by principles of self-determination, flexibility and uniqueness.

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

In response to the federal government announce, the Province has agreed to provide a parallel exemption for provincial taxes. This means that the exemption will remain in place until such time where the treaty Nation wishes to consider provincial treaty tax arrangements, or the s.87 exemption ceases to exist for all.

B.C.'s Ministry of Finance is leading the work on this policy and more details will follow as they engage collaboratively with federal and First Nation partners to implement the new policy approach.

### **Current Provincial Taxation Policy:**

For MIRR/FIN program to fill in a couple of high-level bullets on current treaty taxation policy (i.e., where we are at as FIN completes their comprehensive review, opinions of First Nations on current provincial policies, why a shift is needed)

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

**Media Interest:** When the federal government announced the s. 87 revisions and Canada's new approach to Indigenous tax policy in July 2022, the media was interested in the greater scope of what this reform means for Canadians—Indigenous and non-Indigenous alike. Indigenous media outlets in particular questioned what the next steps forward are for treaty partners.

Similar media coverage would be anticipated for any provincial announcements on treaty taxation reform.

We anticipate further media coverage as modern treaty nations in B.C. propose amendments to their treaties to reflect federal and provincial policy shifts intended to remove what has been identified as one of the biggest barriers to concluding treaties with B.C. First Nations.

Communications Contact: Leanne Ritchie

Program Area Contact: Richard Purnell

## Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

Ministry of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation/  
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Updated: Sept. 30, 2022

Minister Responsible: Hon. Rankin/Hon. Farnworth

### **Tiny House Warriors encampment**

#### **TOP MESSAGE:**

- **Our government believes in a tolerant, welcoming, and inclusive society and recognizes the public's right to engage in peaceful protests and gatherings – and unlawful actions that jeopardize or affect the rights of others will not be tolerated.**

#### **KEY MESSAGES:**

- **Anyone who encounters threats or harassment should call the police right away.**
- **Enforcement decisions and individual investigations occur at arm's length from government and government cannot interfere or direct police on such matters.**
- **This project is approved, regulated, and owned by the federal government, who must be part of the discussion on this situation.**

*If asked about court cases involving protesters:*

- **While this government supports the right to peaceful protests, we also support the rule of law and the judicial process.**
- **It would be inappropriate at this for me to comment at this time as matters are before the courts.**

*If asked about the Simpcw concerns:*

- **The Province is in discussions with Simpcw Nation, meetings have occurred with Kukpi7 Loring and council members several times over the past months.**
- **We understand the concerns of the Simpcw Nation and will continue to work with them to address their concerns.**

*If asked about the provincial stance on the project:*

- **The courts determined the project is legitimate and should proceed.**
- **The provincial government is responsible for issuing permits and monitoring compliance with environmental certificates – as well making sure everything possible is being done to protect the coast.**

## **Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER**

- **The project has a valid BC Environmental Assessment Certificate with 37 conditions and requires about 1,500 provincial permits.**

*If asked about what the police are doing:*

- **The RCMP will take necessary actions to help maintain the peace and keep people safe.**
- **Enforcement decisions and individual investigations occur at arm's length from government and government cannot interfere or direct police on such matters.**
- **While the police will respect lawful protests, they will also consider all the tools and options available to them to protect people, preserve public safety and investigate unlawful conduct.**
- **Again, police exercise their discretion independently of government.**

### **BACKGROUND**

- Tensions continue to escalate the Trans Mountain Expansion Project (TMEP) worker accommodation camp at Blue River.
- On Sept. 15, 2021 workers arrived on site to find the gate blocked and Tiny House Warriors (THW) protesters blocked movement of vehicles in the vicinity. A fence was cut and damaged, large rocks thrown at security and CCTV, and solar panels were damaged. There were physical confrontations with security, some injuries and five arrests. TMC suspended construction activities for the remainder of the day.
- Simpcw Nation has requested again that the Province remove the protestors from their territory.
- On January 13, 2022, a process server representing the Simp'cw FN Council attended to THW occupation on the Myrtle Lake Road in Blue River. The process server left documents with the THW camp occupants, which included a copy of a Band Council Resolution (BCR) calling for the eviction of specified individuals and the THW from the area. The RCMP advised that the document service was without notable incident.
- Individuals associated with the THW continue through the court process in a number of different proceedings involving various incidents in which their conduct led to charges including assaults, trespass and various breaches. These incidents occurred at TMX sites other than the workcamp located in Blue River.

#### **Trans Mountain Expansion Pipeline Project**

- Trans Mountain has obtained necessary federal and provincial authorizations to use a 17 hectare parcel of Crown land at Blue River for a worker accommodation camp.
- Trans Mountain installed perimeter fencing and issued notice of intent to begin construction of the camp, per conditions of the various authorizations, in July 2021. They commenced

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construction of access and tree clearing on the site. Trans Mountain was able to clear one of the three approved access points to the camp; two remain blocked by the THW encampment.

- Trans Mountain has obtained an injunction that applies to the length of the pipeline and associated works and grants them unimpeded access to the project.

### Community response

- Residents and visitors of the community of Blue River and people working on the TMEP have experienced multiple negative interactions with protestors.
- The Thompson Nicola Regional District, Blue River Community Association, Trans Mountain and Simpcw First Nation have all previously asked the Province to have the THW removed.

### Simpcw Nation

- Simpcw Nation supports TMEP and argues they are the rightful title holder of the area within the broader Secwepemc Nation. Simpcw has entered into partnership agreements with Trans Mountain to provide security services and operate the camp located at Blue River.
- Simpcw members have been the subject of harassment and threats by THW, and regard THW as unwelcome squatters.
- All incidents have been reported to police, but Simpcw are frustrated with what they perceive as a lack of action on the part of the Province and increasingly concerned that interactions will escalate as camp construction and operation gets underway.
- Simpcw asserts that while it is part of the larger Secwepemc Nation, they hold the Aboriginal Title, recognizing that other Secwepemc Nations also have Aboriginal Rights over the area.
- Other Secwepemc Nations argue that all of the member Nations have a say in what happens over the entire territory. Simpcw also asserts that as they have no hereditary leadership structure, the elected council speak for the entire territory and jurisdiction is not limited to activities on reserve.
- The Union of BC Indian Chiefs released [another statement](#) August 2021 in support of the THW and have made inquiries to the Province regarding the permitted activities occurring at Blue River.
- Simpcw has indicated that they will take whatever means are necessary to facilitate the removal of the protest camp and ensure safety of their members and the residents of Blue River. They have been reporting all negative interactions with protestors to the authorities and are prepared to issue an eviction notice if the Province will support them in enforcing it. Simpcw was previously not willing to take action themselves against the protestors.
- The Province met with Simpcw on September 8, 2021, where the Nation called again for the camp to be removed to protect the safety and security of their members and requested a meeting with provincial decision makers (ministers or Premier).
- The Province, TMC, and Simpcw met on September 10, 2021. Simpcw reiterated their request to have the encampment removed. TMC stated they feel the existing injunction is adequate for their current needs and they will not seek to expand it at this time.

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- Ministers Rankin and Ralston along with Ian Anderson of TMC met with Chief Loring on September 20, 2021.
- Minister Rankin and representatives from PSSG met with Simpcw Chief and Council at the request of the Nation for a detailed report of the community-wide frustration and allegations of violence against the Tiny House Warriors on November 26, 2021.
- The Simpcw passed a BCR in late 2021 calling for the eviction of the THW and named individuals from the Blue River camp. This was served on the THW in January 2022 without incident

### **Tiny House Warriors**

- THW are a group that claim to represent the Secwepemc Nation in opposition to the TMEP. They have occupied an encampment of six tiny houses blocking the Murtle Lake Road and access to TMEP planned worker accommodation camp near Blue River, B.C., since July 2018.
- The asserted leaders of the THW movement are members of the Neskonlith Indian Band, a Secwepemc Nation which has publicly expressed support for THW. THW oppose the project due to climate change and the historical impacts of worker accommodation facilities with respect to missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.
- THW issued a call to action and invited protesters to join the camp from Sept. 10 to 14, 2021. Approximately 20 individuals knocked down a fence and sat on it until removed by RCMP.
- Local government leaders from Thomson-Nicola Regional District, Clearwater and Blue River complained in 2020 about THW creating conflict and friction with residents and businesses in the area and asked for the Province to intervene in the situation and evict the group.
- The chiefs of the Simpcw and Tk'emlups te Secwepemc Nations issued a statement and media release on July 2, 2020, opposing the Tiny House Warriors occupation of their territory and calling for them to stand down. They have stated in the media that their Nations provided free, prior and informed consent for the TMEP pipeline to be built in their territory.
- On July 15, 2020, the two Nations wrote the Premier asking the government to work with them "to take the necessary, lawful steps to bring this occupation to a peaceful end." The Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation met with the Simpcw and Tk'emlups te Secwepemc leadership on Aug. 10, 2020.

### **Secwepemc Peace-making Process**

- The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) is supporting a broader Secwepemc Peace-making Process (SPP) that aims to bring relevant Secwepemc communities together through a dispute-resolution process.
- The purpose of the SSP is the development of a Nation-based dispute resolution process within the 17 communities of the Secwepemc Nation, which supports Secwepemc governance.
- In 2020/21, MIRR contributed \$150,000 to the Secwepemc in support of the SPP.

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- The relevant Secwepemc communities developed both a SPP workplan and an interim report, which they shared with MIRR in March 2021.
- Summer 2021 was meant to continue to gather research from the identified areas within the work plan, however, due to the wildfires and residential school findings, gathering research and meeting in person was put on hold. Intergovernmental Communications  
Intergovernmental Communications
- Of note, although MIRR supports the SPP, it is not a process within which the BC Government has a role. Further, it is a process to handle dispute resolution, and is not focused on any one particular dispute, e.g. THW encampment nor TMEP.

Comm Contact	Program Contacts	ED	Other Ministries	ADM
Peggy Kulmala	Janice Franklin, Peter Hilton/Gareth Stuart	Cam Filmer	PSSG, EMLI	Jennifer Melles

## Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

<b>Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation</b> <b>Date reviewed:</b> Sept. 30, 2022 <b>Minister Responsible:</b> Hon. Murray Rankin	<b>Stakeholder Engagement</b>
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### TOP MESSAGE:

- **Agreements are more successful when everyone has had a chance to be heard.**
- **When stakeholders and key partners like local government can understand and provide input on key aspects of a negotiation, they are much more likely to support its objectives and outcomes.**

### KEY MESSAGES:

- **The goal of the ministry's stakeholder engagement is to strengthen relationships and understanding among Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners.**
- **Stakeholder engagement supports reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples by creating a broader understanding of what it looks like on the ground, including stewardship of the land.**
- **The Province's approach to stakeholder engagement reflects a commitment to communication, transparency, collaboration, and inclusiveness.**
- **Understanding stakeholder interests leads to better agreements.**
- **Engagement with the community also promotes stronger partnerships between First Nations, local governments, industry, and other stakeholders, and invites everyone to participate in reconciliation, leading to better opportunities for everyone.**
- **In recent years, B.C. has led stakeholder engagement processes regarding a land transfer to the Lake Babine First Nation, Wet'suwet'en, several land transfers with Treaty 8 First Nations and treaty lands SXTA Nations in the Fraser Valley.**
- **Settling matters of rights and title through negotiations rather than litigation brings more certainty and predictability for everyone in B.C.**
- **The best way to build a robust and sustainable economy is to work together to create economic and social opportunities for Indigenous peoples, business and industry, and all British Columbians.**

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### *If asked about secret/closed door negotiations:*

- Any negotiation of potential transfer of Crown lands includes extensive stakeholder engagement for those who may be affected or have an interest in the area.
- The negotiation process takes time, and the Province begins engaging with stakeholders as soon as there is some clarity over areas that could be under consideration.
- The Province is committed to involving stakeholders in the process throughout the various stages of a negotiation, not just at the end.

### *If asked about input from tenure holders and landowners:*

- Stakeholder feedback is a vital tool for creating strong and sustainable agreements that create opportunities for First Nations people and entire regions.
- The Province is committed to openness and transparency in the work to advance reconciliation through engagement with local governments and local stakeholders.

### *If asked about establishing regional roundtables/public forums for all negotiations:*

- There is no standard template for public and stakeholder engagement, as every Nation and negotiation is unique.
- At any given time, the provincial government is involved in many different negotiations across the province, which are at different stages and have very different topics being discussed.
- Each negotiation requires a stakeholder engagement strategy tailored to the matter at hand.
- That means that each engagement strategy may look a little different.

### *If asked about transfer of private land:*

- The Province does not include private lands in negotiations, except on a willing-seller, willing-buyer basis.
- The Province is committed to working with Indigenous Peoples to reconcile Aboriginal rights and title in a manner which balances the interests of all British Columbians.

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### BACKGROUND:

- Negotiating tables have a large degree of independence on when stakeholder engagement begins and what form it should take. The greater the impact of a project on an Indigenous community or stakeholder, the more complex and extensive the engagement strategy will be.
- The B.C. government is responsible for stakeholder engagement across the province, working in close partnership with Indigenous partners and Canada where appropriate and mutually agreeable.
- Every negotiation is unique and there is no one-size-fits-all template for stakeholder engagement.
- The ministry continues to work to improve stakeholder engagement and has placed significant focus on this area since 2017.
- The goal is to be as transparent as possible with stakeholders and bring them into the discussions as early as possible.
- Due to the nature of some negotiations, it is necessary to have agreed upon proposed land areas with all First Nations impacted before releasing maps and details to local government, tenure holders and property owners. Other considerations include the status of the negotiations and the status of government's approval of the land transfers.

### Shared First Nation claims

- One of the challenges of releasing information to stakeholders too soon is the issue of overlapping land or title claims from neighbouring First Nations.
- Disclosing details of one negotiation before all Nations are on the same page could prejudice other negotiations or create significant concern within Nations not yet at the table.
- Resolving these differences often takes significant time and can lead to stakeholders feeling they've been 'kept in the dark' for years about decisions that could impact their lifestyle and livelihoods.

### Ministry Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

- A ministry Stakeholder Engagement Strategy guides the various ministries in facilitating meaningful and consistent engagement with stakeholders on policy and actions relating to negotiations and agreements with First Nations. Most engagement goes deeper than simply informing stakeholders of agreements, but rather actively listening and understanding of stakeholder concerns, as well as working to mitigate them where possible.
- There are six guiding principles that support the ministries' stakeholder engagement strategies
  - Communication – early and open engagement
  - Transparency – clear information and feedback
  - Collaboration – work together on outcomes
  - Inclusiveness – understand and involve
  - Integrity – foster respect and trust
  - Commitment – maintain engagement

### Stakeholder engagement examples:

- Lake Babine Nation – Fee simple land transfer
  - Residents raised concerns in January 2020 regarding a large fee simple land transfer.
  - Following substantial engagement through spring and summer 2020, Lake Babine Nation and BC adjusted proposed areas for transfer, and built a strong relationship with the stakeholder group.
  - The dialogue has created an opportunity for positive interaction between resident groups and Lake Babine Nation, to build trust and further community reconciliation efforts.
  - <https://www.burnslakelakesdistrictnews.com/opinion/friends-of-babine-lake-association-agree-with-signing/>
- Northeast Treaty Land Agreements and Treaty Land Entitlement – Land Transfers

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- Ongoing stakeholder engagement is underway for Treaty Land Entitlements (TLE), which is intended to correct a historic wrong in the amount of land provided to Treaty 8 First Nations; and Tripartite Land Agreements (TLA), which are designed to accommodate First Nations for land used in constructing the Site C dam project.
- Local governments such as Chetwynd, Hudson Hope, and Fort St. John have provided letters of support for many TLE and TLA land transfers as a result of the public engagement process.
- There are over 80 TLE and TLA land parcels selected across the northeast region, and three have raised significant public concern: Charlie Lake, Red Creek and Summit Lake. Following public meetings in all three local communities to hear their concerns and incorporate their input, the concerns have largely been mitigated – though some opposition does still exist. Government expects to make the final decision to transfer these parcels as early as Spring 2021.
- Wet'suwet'en – community engagement
  - Residents initially expressed concern about being excluded from the discussion on implementation of Wet'suwet'en rights and title and about governance issues between elected Indian Bands and Hereditary Chiefs.
  - A jointly developed external community engagement process launched in August 2020 to engage the community. A regional engagement group with representation from local governments, industry, business and recreation groups has met twice (Sept. 2020 and Feb. 2021), and will meet quarterly. A smaller core advisory council was formed in Feb. 2021 and will meet monthly to receive regular updates on the negotiations. Engagement opportunities with the general public are also planned.
- Metlakatla
  - Maps of potential Metlakatla treaty lands were released publicly following the signing of the Transition to Stage 5 and Treaty Revitalization Agreement in February 2019.
  - There is some opposition to one particular parcel located on Smith Island.
  - Provincial negotiators have been engaging regularly with property owners on Smith Island.
- SXTA
  - Chilliwack River Valley residents have voiced concerns with proposed treaty land identified in the Valley. Concerns include the loss of Crown land, access to recreational areas, resource extraction and development, lack of input on future land use planning and impacts on property values.
  - Community engagement meetings were held in May and December of 2019 and will continue as negotiations with SXTA progress.
  - Post Creek community members raised concerns that a proposed transfer of lands may isolate their community and impede access to water and recreation sites. A liaison committee with Post Creek, BC and SXTA representatives has been established to foster ongoing engagement and address concerns.

\*For more information on stakeholder engagement with Tsilhqot'in National Government and the declared title area please see the 'TNG tenure holders' issues note.

Communications Contact: Leanne Ritchie

Program Area Contact(s): Dale Morgan/Tom McCarthy

## Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

<b>Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation</b> <b>Date:</b> Dec. 6, 2022 <b>Minister Responsible:</b> Hon. Murray Rankin	<b>Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act</b>
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### KEY MESSAGES:

- **We are deeply committed to advancing reconciliation in B.C. – guided by the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Declaration Act) and with meaningful consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples.**
- **On Nov. 28, 2019, B.C. became the first jurisdiction in Canada to adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) through legislation.**
- **While the passage of the Declaration Act as a framework to advance reconciliation is something we can take great pride in; we acknowledge it is only a step on our journey to undo 150 years of colonial harms that continue to be felt today.**
- **Since the first discovery at the former B.C. residential school site in Kamloops last May, Canadians coast-to-coast are facing our collective truth about the impacts of colonialism and the ongoing harms that Indigenous Peoples are still experiencing. We need to do better as a government and as a society. We need transformative change.**
- **We are seeing momentum building in the implementation of the Declaration Act, which is increasing our contribution to reconciliation. For example:**
  - **We are hard at work aligning legislation with the UN Declaration. We have amended several laws and many more legislative changes are planned for future sessions.**
  - **We are delivering on the actions promised in the Declaration Act Action Plan, a five-year, cross-government action plan that will guide our work to implement the UN Declaration in B.C.**
  - **We are advancing agreements that share decision-making with First Nations and are shifting from short-term transactional arrangements to co-development of long-term agreements that support reconciliation, self-determination, decision-making, and economic independence.**
  - **We are working in consultation and cooperation with**

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### **Indigenous Peoples on the third annual report, a requirement of Declaration Act.**

- **We are committed to continuing to work together to build an even stronger, more inclusive, and more just B.C. – one that will create a better future for everyone.**

*If asked about alignment of laws/Section 3*

- **The Declaration Act mandates government to bring provincial laws into alignment with the UN Declaration and to do so in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples.**
- **We are fundamentally shifting our approach to how we both develop and implement provincial laws, which is resulting in an increasing number of legislative reforms.**
- **Several bills were passed in fall 2021 that amended existing legislation to align with the UN Declaration. For example, amendments that:**
  - **supported First Nations jurisdiction over education, which includes enabling First Nations to certify and regulate teachers in their own schools.**
  - **added a non-derogation clause to the Interpretation Act, which makes it clear that provincial laws uphold, and do not diminish, the rights of Indigenous Peoples as outlined under Section 35 of the Constitution Act.**
    - **This amendment also requires that the UN Declaration be used to assist in resolving disputes over the meaning of provincial acts and regulations; and**
  - **added Indigenous identity as a protected ground under the B.C. Human Rights Code, which will help us all to combat anti-Indigenous racism and protect Indigenous Peoples from discrimination.**
- **Numerous bills were tabled in spring 2022 spring session, including:**
  - **the amendments to the Wildlife Act, an important step towards co-management of wildlife, and**
  - **anti-racism data legislation, which will help government identify inequities in programs and services, address barriers and pave the way to a more equitable province.**

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*If asked about the action plan/Section 4:*

- **The Declaration Act Action Plan, released March 30, 2022, is a five-year, cross-government action plan that will guide our work to implement the UN Declaration in B.C.**
- **The plan addresses systemic issues that infringe on the human rights of Indigenous peoples and perpetuate inequities in areas such as social, economic and health outcomes, over representation in the justice and child welfare systems, lower rates of education, higher rates of homelessness and other systemic issues.**
- **The Declaration Act Action Plan was developed through two years of intensive engagement to ensure it aligned with the priorities of Indigenous Peoples in B.C.**
- **Each ministry in government will work in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples to deliver on their specific actions.**
  - **In April 2022, the Ministry of Attorney General released new guidelines for the Crown that take a distinctions-based approach to litigation that advances meaningful reconciliation. The directives are an action item (2.3) in the Declaration Act Action Plan.**
- **The Province will report annually on progress made on the Action Plan to ensure transparency and accountability over the next five years and beyond.**

*If Asked about Section 5, Annual Reports*

- **The Province reports on progress made to implement the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act through the annual reports. This is a requirement of section 5 of the Declaration Act.**
- **The annual reports are developed in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples in B.C. and publicly released by June 30. The reports ensure the provincial government's work is transparent and accountable.**
- **We released the third annual report on June 30, 2022. It covers activities from April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022.**
- **Advice/Recommendations**

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### Advice/Recommendations

- 
- **Metrics for the action plan will be a key part of future annual reports.**

*If asked about Section 7 shared decision-making agreements:*

- **We are advancing agreements that share statutory decision-making with First Nations.**
- **Section 7 of the Declaration Act provides a mechanism for the negotiation of joint and consent-based decision-making agreements with Indigenous governing bodies.**
- **The Province and Tahltan Central Government recently signed the first consent based decision-making agreement under Section 7 related to environmental assessment approvals for the restart of the Eskay Creek Mine.**
- **This agreement is the first agreement for decision-making ever to be negotiated under the Declaration Act. It is a tangible example of the Province's commitment to changing our relationship with Indigenous Peoples. Together, we are leading the way toward a new model for advancing free, prior and informed consent.**
- **We also recently announced a commitment to negotiate a shared decision making agreement with the Shishahl Nation.**
- **Once negotiated, this agreement will reflect a shift in B.C.'s legal decision-making framework to respect First Nations jurisdiction, recognize the inherent rights of shíshálh and provide a stronger, more durable path to decision-making in shíshálh territory.**
- **Whether shared or consent based, agreements under Section 7 of the Declaration Act help address the legacy of colonialism by allowing the Province to work shoulder-to-shoulder with First Nations on decisions that affect them.**

*If asked about the Declaration Act Secretariat*

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- **By passing the Declaration Act, we have ensured that embedding the UN Declaration into our laws, policies and practices is a cross-government undertaking.**
- **We know this work must be done in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples.**
- **In developing this new agency, we heard from First Nations leadership and legal experts on how best the new Secretariat can effectively coordinate and support our work to align our laws, policies and practices with the UN Declaration.**
- **Budget 2022 provides \$12.05 million over the next three years to establish the Declaration Act Secretariat, a dedicated body to support government's reconciliation efforts**
- **Ministries are engaging with Indigenous Peoples on policy and legislation earlier and more deeply, and it makes sense this work is supported centrally.**
- **We have appointed *Si Sityaawks* (Jessica Wood) as Associate Deputy Minister of the Declaration Act Secretariat.**

### BACKGROUND

- The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act) passed unanimously in the B.C. legislature on Nov. 26, 2019. B.C. is the first jurisdiction in Canada to have passed legislation to implement the UN Declaration.
- All 2020 ministerial mandate letters commit ministers to advance reconciliation, guided by the Declaration Act. Ministers' mandate letters in 2017 tasked all ministers with implementing the UN Declaration and Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.
- The Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation's 2020 mandate letter also includes direction to develop and action plan in collaboration with Indigenous partners as required under the Declaration Act. Further, to bring a plan to Cabinet for a secretariat by the end of 2021 to that will assist ministries in the alignment of B.C. laws with the UN Declaration.

### Declaration Act

- The legislation:
  - **Provides a legislative framework** for recognizing the constitutional and human rights of Indigenous Peoples.
  - **Mandates government to bring provincial laws into alignment with the Declaration** in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples.
  - **Requires the Province's action plan** to achieve the objectives of the UN Declaration, which must be developed and implemented in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples.

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- **Requires regular reporting to the legislature** to monitor progress on the alignment of laws and the action plan, including tabling an annual report by June 30th, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples.
- **Allows for flexibility** for the Province to enter into agreements with a broad range of Indigenous governing bodies – this could include Indigenous governments outside of Indian Act Bands and incorporated organizations such as multiple nations working together as a collective, or hereditary governments and treaty nations.
- **Provides a framework** for joint and consent-based decision-making with Indigenous governing bodies – providing structure and processes for how joint decision-making could happen, while ensuring administrative fairness and transparency.
- The B.C. government worked with the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) – BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN), First Nations Summit (FNS) and Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) – to develop the legislation. Such collaboration on legislation was unprecedented in Canada at the time. A commitment to the legislation was outlined in the 2018 Concrete Actions document.
- Provincial officials met with dozens of Indigenous, business, labour and municipal leaders across B.C. over several months before and after introduction. This included key business and industry stakeholders, such as the BC Business Council and industry associations. There were more than 170 non-disclosure agreements, including with 50 First Nations, 10 First Nations organizations and Métis Nation BC, to walk people through the legislation. *\*\*The intent of this engagement was to secure endorsement of the legislation; it was not part of how the Province consulted and cooperated with Indigenous Peoples on the development of the legislation.\*\**

### Section 3: Alignment of Laws

- Since the passing of the Declaration Act in 2019, the B.C. government continue to learn and align work with the legislation, and ministries are now consulting and cooperating with Indigenous Peoples on key policy and legislation earlier and more deeply.
- Cabinet Confidences; Advice/Recommendations

- All ministers understand that each ministry has a role in this work to align laws, and as they are working on legislation, they are very mindful of the Declaration Act.
- A Declaration Act Secretariat has also been created to coordinate and assist the cross-government effort to work in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples to align laws with the UN Declaration as per section 3 of the Declaration Act.

### Section 4: Action plan

- Between July 2020 and February 2021, the B.C. government consulted and cooperated with Indigenous partners to build the draft action plan, which included working closely with First Nations, First Nations political leadership, First Nations organizations, historical and modern

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Treaty Nations, Métis Nation BC and Indigenous service organizations.

- Over this time period, the B.C. government received over 30 written submissions and held more than 80 separate meetings.
- The First Nations Leadership Council also carried out complementary engagement with 11 First Nations organizations and shared the results of this engagement with the B.C. government.
- The results of this engagement helped to form the foundation of the draft action plan.
- The draft action plan was released for feedback on June 11, 2021, offering numerous ways to for Indigenous Peoples to provide feedback, including providing online comments to the draft action plan, filling out online or hardcopy feedback forms, as well as submitting written submissions. Ministries from across government also held direct meetings with Indigenous partners to get feedback on their specific items in the draft action plan.
- The deadline for feedback was extended from July 31 to Sept. 15 due to the substantial impacts of summer wildfires and residential school recoveries.
  - Since June 11, B.C. government received more than 80 written submissions, held over 65 meetings and received more than 400 online comments about the draft action plan. Ministry staff also collected feedback from First Nations leadership at the fall assemblies of the BC Assembly of First Nations, Union of BC Indian Chiefs and First Nations Summit.
- The Declaration Action Plan was released March 30, 2022.

### Section 6 & 7: Shared decision-making and Indigenous governing bodies

- First Nations have asked about government's progress to establish a process for recognizing Indigenous governing bodies. Identifying an Indigenous governing body is part of self-determination, and is therefore up to Nations or collectives to establish. The government does not have a role in this work. Government's role is to meet the Indigenous governing body as a government-to-government partner with which to make agreements.
- Section 7 of the Declaration Act is an enabling tool. It gives the ability to seek a mandate from Cabinet to pursue for shared decision-making and consent agreements– in other words, agreements to exercise statutory authority either jointly, or with consent.
- Each decision-making agreement is different from another, and as such, are negotiated and subsequently approved on a case-by-case basis.
- For example, in June 2022, government signed an agreement with the Tahltan Central Government on the first consent-based decision-making agreement ever to be negotiated under the Declaration Act.
- The negotiations support ongoing work to collaboratively achieve long-term comprehensive reconciliation and land-use predictability in Tahltan territory.

Comm Contact	Program Contact(s)	ED	Other	ADM
Peggy Kulmala	Stephanie Mannix	Ashley Dryburgh/ Richard Grieve	Jessica Wood, DAS	Emily Arthur

## Confidential Issues Note - ADVICE TO MINISTER

<b>Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation</b> <b>Date:</b> Sept 30, 2022 <b>Minister Responsible:</b> Hon. Murray Rankin	<b>Declaration Act: Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)</b>
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### **KEY MESSAGES:**

- **Free, prior and informed consent is about engaging with Indigenous peoples on proposed activities in their territory right from the beginning.**
- **The Declaration Act gives us more tools to get to an orderly, structured, transparent process for working with Indigenous peoples toward decisions that benefit everyone.**
- **This can help us move away from conflict, drawn-out court cases and uncertainty, and move forward with collaboration and respect.**
- **Engaging with First Nations early on creates opportunities for Indigenous peoples, industry, businesses, communities and families everywhere.**
- **Respectful partnerships foster predictability, good jobs, and opportunities, while protecting the environment and respecting the rights of Indigenous peoples.**

*If asked about veto:*

- **The word veto is not mentioned in the UN Declaration, nor is veto contemplated in the Declaration Act.**
- **We are expected to consult and cooperate in good faith, as called for in the UN Declaration, when considering decisions that affect Indigenous peoples.**
- **Doing so ensures that there is transparency and clarity in the processes, so that everyone knows from the get-go what is expected. When you have due process, that is not a veto.**
- **There is a better chance of agreement by working together - involving Indigenous peoples right from the start.**

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*If asked if a project can go forward without consent of the affected Nation:*

- **The Province is expected to consult and cooperate in good faith, as called for in the UN Declaration, when considering decisions that may affect Indigenous peoples.**
- **There may be occasions when a disputed project goes forward, and there may be occasions when a project does not.**
- **Every project is unique, with many factors that go into the decision-making process.**
- **Engaging with Indigenous peoples on proposed activities in their territories from the beginning of the development process ensures that everyone knows from the get-go what is expected.**

*If asked whether elected or hereditary leadership takes precedence:*

- **Supporting the right for Indigenous peoples to make decisions that are best for their communities is central to the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.**
- **That right was eroded by the colonial policies of the federal Indian Act.**
- **It is not for the Province to decide who makes those decisions. That is work for Nations and their members to take on themselves.**
- **Under the Declaration Act, the Province can enter into agreements with Indigenous peoples through the governing bodies that they have identified to represent them.**
- **We look to the Indigenous governing body to provide the information that confirms they represent the section 35 rights holders – for example community ratification, assembly resolutions, or band council resolutions.**

*If asked how consent is achieved in cases of overlap:*

- **The issues around shared territory and overlap have been longstanding.**
- **The work of government and Indigenous nations in this area needs to continue and will.**

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- **The Declaration Act won't fix the issue of overlap, but it gives the provincial government and Indigenous Nations a platform to continue to engage in those conversations.**

### BACKGROUND

- The question of whether free, prior and informed consent equates to a veto has dominated public discourse on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) in Canada, and has persisted since the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act) passed in Nov. 2019. *\*See also separate issues note on Declaration Act\**
- Several provisions in the UN Declaration refer to governments obtaining the right to free, prior and informed consent of affected Indigenous peoples, including the following.
  - Article 19 - requirement to consult to obtain free, prior and informed consent before adopting legislative or administrative measures that may affect Indigenous peoples;
  - Article 32 (2) - requirement to consult in order to obtain free, prior and informed consent prior to approval of any project affecting the lands, territories and other resources of Indigenous peoples.
- In a number of Supreme Court of Canada cases, the courts have been clear that government's duty to consult and accommodate, arising from section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, does not equate to an Aboriginal "veto."
- Consent can also be required under modern treaties where the consent of the treaty nation is required before the government can authorize certain matters on treaty land. Government must also seek the consent of an Indigenous nation in relation to decisions over land to which there is a court declaration of Aboriginal title.
- A recent Federal Court of Appeal Decision in favour of the Trans-Mountain pipeline expansion set out indicators for deep consultation, stating Indigenous peoples are provided "the opportunity to make submissions for consideration; formal participation in the decision-making process; provision of written reasons to show that Indigenous concerns were considered and to reveal the impact they had on the decision; and dispute resolution procedures like mediation or administrative regimes with impartial decision-makers."
- The court also noted
  - "imposing too strict a standard of 'perfection', 'reasonableness' or 'meaningfulness' in assessing whether the duty to consult has been adequately met would de facto create a veto right."
  - "The applicants' submissions are essentially that the project cannot be approved until all of their concerns are resolved to their satisfaction. If we accepted those submissions, as a practical matter there would be no end to consultation, the project would never be approved, and the applicants would have a de facto veto right over it."

## Confidential Issues Note - **ADVICE TO MINISTER**

- Leave to appeal this decision was dismissed by the Supreme Court of Canada.

Comm Contact	Program Contact(s)	Other Ministries	ADM(s)
Peggy Kulmala	Richard Grieve	N/A	Jessica Wood

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

<p><b>CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE</b></p> <p><b>Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation</b> <b>Date:</b> Aug. 14, 2022 <b>Minister Responsible:</b> Hon. Murray Rankin</p>	<p><b>LNG Canada/ Coastal GasLink First Nation Engagement and Agreement</b></p>
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### KEY MESSAGES:

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

# ADVICE TO MINISTER

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

## BACKGROUND: Provincial Agreements

Pipeline Benefit Agreements (PBAs) provide financial benefits, and in some cases lands, to First Nations at set milestones, and while a pipeline is In-Service, and provide greater certainty for the project to the Province and proponents.

- The Province has executed PBAs for Coastal GasLink with: Doig River, Halfway River, McLeod Lake, Saulteau, West Moberly, Lheidli T'enneh, Yakooche, Nee Tahi Buhn, Witset, Skin Tyee, Wet'suwet'en First Nation, Burns Lake, Nadleh Whut'en, Saikuz, Stellat'en, and Kitselas;

Intergovernmental Communications

CGL met a construction milestone in September 2020 that triggered the transfer of payments under the Province's PBAs with First Nations. The "Material Commencement of Construction" milestone includes placement and welding of a 10-km section of the project, which triggered payments of \$16.6 million by the Province to First Nations in December 2020.

The Province has signed LNG Facility Agreements and/or Coastal Fund Agreements in relation to LNG Canada or North Coast LNG facilities generally with all eligible North Coast First Nations and First Nation Organizations (Lax Kw'alaams, Kitselas, Kitsumkalum, Metlakatla, Gitga'at, and Gitxaala First Nations as well as Coastal First Nations - Great Bear Initiative Society) except Haisla with whom negotiations are underway. Haisla supports both projects and has executed agreements with the proponents and is pursuing its own LNG Project – Cedar LNG.

## Provincial Engagement

The Province is currently engaging with First Nations on key interests with a focus on socio-economic effects and how to pursue project contracting opportunities. Engagement sessions led by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs were held in fall 2021.

The Province, in partnership with the First Nations LNG Alliance, has previously conducted general engagement on LNG with First Nation leading to the publication of a Joint Engagement Report in 2018.

## Project Information

On March 9, 2022, TC Energy announced that 16 First Nations with existing impact benefits agreements have expressed interest in option to purchase a shared 10% equity interest in the project.

Two entities represent the First Nations communities:

- CGL First Nations Limited Partnership (11 elected councils): Burns Lake, Cheslatta Carrier, Fort Nelson, Kitselas, Lheidli T'enneh, Nadleh Whut'en, Saik'uz, Stellat'en, Skin Tyee, Wet'suwet'en FN, Yekooche (Facilitated by the First Nations Major Projects Coalition)
- First Nations CGL Pipeline Limited Partnership (5 elected councils): Haisla, Halfway River, McLeod Lake, Saulteau, West Moberly
- Currently unsigned: Doig River, Nak'azdli Whut'en, Nee Tahi Buhn, Blueberry River.

The formal establishment of these agreements comes from interest expressed by Indigenous groups across the project corridor to become owners in Coastal GasLink alongside Alberta Investment

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

Management Corporation, KKR, and TC Energy. LNG Canada announced its Final Investment Decision on Oct. 2, 2018.

The \$40-billion joint venture will create an LNG export facility in Kitimat that will initially consist of two LNG processing units, referred to as “trains,” each with the capacity to produce 6.5 million tonnes of LNG annually, with an option to expand the project in the future to four trains. The expansion option was contemplated in the Environmental Assessment Certificates and remains under active consideration.

LNG Canada is a joint venture company comprised of: Shell Canada Energy (40%), an affiliate of Royal Dutch Shell plc; Petronas, through North Montney LNG Limited Partnership (25%); Affiliates of PetroChina (15%); Korea Gas Corporation (Kogas) (5%); and Mitsubishi Corporation (15%).

LNG Canada contracted TransCanada to lead work on CGL natural-gas pipeline to Kitimat. Both projects have Environmental Assessment Certificates (EACs) and permits in place.

The CGL project is currently about 60.3% complete, considering all engineering, procurement and construction activities. Total construction progress has reached 50.3%.

Coastal GasLink (CGL) has signed project agreements with 20 Indian Act Bands along the project's route. LNG Canada has signed agreements with various First Nations near Kitimat and the shipping routes to and from LNG Canada, including the Haisla Nation, on whose traditional territory LNG Canada sits.

To date, over \$1.25 billion has been awarded to local B.C. businesses by CGL. Of this total, over \$1 billion has been awarded to Indigenous owned businesses or joint venture partnerships.

### **Coastal GasLink Injunction and Direct Action**

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

Communications contact: Leanne Ritchie

Program contacts: Alanya Smith

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

### CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry of Indigenous Relations and  
Reconciliation

Date: September 14, 2022

Minister Responsible: Hon. Murray Rankin

## Nisga'a Nation Nasoga Gulf

### ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

### KEY FACTS:

On August 27, 2021, the Allied Tribes of Lax Kw'alaams and Metlakatla (the Nine Tribes) commenced a civil claim in B.C. Supreme Court against Canada and the Province, claiming Aboriginal title over 22,469 hectares of land situated at the mouth of the Nass River, and which includes Nasoga Gulf. They also seek a declaration that the proposed disposition of Nasoga Gulf unjustifiably infringes their Aboriginal title; the disposition may not proceed without their consent; and an injunction enjoining any actions to proceed with the disposition.

On August 30, 2021, Metlakatla and Lax Kw'alaams asked the Province to enter into a dispute resolution process to attempt to resolve the outstanding disagreement over the Province's strength of claim assessment and adequacy of accommodation to the Coast Tsimshian. On September 24, 2021, the Province proposed a one-day session to attempt dispute resolution with Metlakatla and Lax Kw'alaams.

On October 26, 2021, the Province committed to provide 14 days' notice to Metlakatla and Lax Kw'alaams "prior to signing the first of any agreement with the Nisga'a Nation to dispose of the Nasoga Gulf Lands".

On November 24, 2021, Metlakatla and Lax Kw'alaams filed a notice of application seeking an interim and/or interlocutory order enjoining the Province and Canada from proceeding with the addition of the

Nasoga lands to the Nisga'a Lands. The Nisga'a Nation were added as a party (defendant) to the civil claim on November 30, 2021. The interim injunction hearing was set for December 10, 2021.

On December 6, 2021, the parties agreed to adjourn the interim injunction hearing that was scheduled for December 10, 2021, based on an agreement that the Province will refrain from entering into a binding agreement with the Nisga'a Nation in relation to the Nasoga Lands until after the interlocutory injunction application is decided, which was set for three days prior to March 31, 2022.

Intergovernmental Communications

The interlocutory injunction application hearing took place from March 8-10, 2022. On May 25, 2022, the BC Supreme Court released a decision ordering that the Province and Canada are enjoined from proceeding with the proposed Disposition and Consent for a period of 18 months (Nov. 25, 2023).

The Allied Tribes have leave to apply for an extension of the injunction, if good faith negotiations between the Province, Canada, the Nisga'a Nation, and the Allied Tribes have not completed in that time. Justice Baker, upon the Allied Tribes request, has seized herself of any future applications to extend this injunction. In the decision, at para. 149, Justice Baker stated that the Nisga'a Treaty "does not create rights which are superior to those of its neighbouring aboriginal nations in lands which are not part of the Nisga'a Lands."

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

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### **Further Background:**

In 2016, the Nisga'a Nation issued a notice stating the Nation and the Province were negotiating a sale for 22,000 hectares of Crown land in the Nasoga Gulf, north of Prince Rupert, to add to their Nisga'a Lands (11% increase). A water lot lease (686 hectares of foreshore and submerged lands) is also proposed in coordination with the land sale. The Nasoga Gulf parcel is in the Nass Wildlife Area of the Nisga'a Treaty and contiguous to Nisga'a Lands on the south bank of the Nass River. The treaty requires that any addition to the Nisga'a Lands be connected to existing Nisga'a Lands.

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

In response, Metlakatla First Nation and Lax Kw'alaams Band have each asserted that Nasoga Gulf is part of their territories and any development or sale requires their consent. The Nations have previously said they would seek a legal injunction if the Province and the Nisga'a Nation continue with plans to transfer the lands.

In June 2019, Metlakatla and Lax Kw'alaams raised their concerns over the potential land sale to the Nisga'a Nation publicly with a full-page ad in a Prince Rupert newspaper and an op-ed in The Province. The Nations also set up a checkpoint on Highway 16 to raise awareness and share information with the public about the proposed sale.

The Province has consulted with Metlakatla and Lax Kw'alaams on the proposed transaction, and officials have met with representatives from the Nations on several occasions over the past few years (2016 and 2018-2020). B.C. also has consulted with neighbouring Kitselas and Kitsumkalum both of whom have advised they have no concerns about the proposed transaction.

As part of the ongoing discussions with Metlakatla and Lax Kw'alaams, the Province has been exploring ways to address Metlakatla and Lax Kw'alaams interests and concerns through reconciliation and treaty negotiations.

### **Land purchase:**

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

**Media Interest:** Over the past several years, there has been high interest from the media, with coverage from provincial outlets on this case.

- The Tyee, Dec. 15, 2020: <https://thetyee.ca/News/2020/12/16/BC-Quietly-Holds-Nisgaa-Land-Deal/>
- The Northern View, May 30, 2022: <https://www.thenorthernview.com/news/laxkwalaams-and-metlakatla-win-an-injunction-regarding-nasoga-lands-territory-dispute/>
- CFNR Network, June 13, 2022: <https://www.cfnr.ca/2022/06/13/courtroom-battle-over-nasoga-lands-rights-finally-settled/>

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

### CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

**Ministry of Indigenous Relations and  
Reconciliation**

**Date:** October 5, 2022

**Minister Responsible:** Hon. Murray Rankin

## Lightning Rock site protection

### ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

## **KEY FACTS:**

Semá:th have been seeking cultural protection since 2014 for the sacred Lightning Rock site at the base of Sumas Mountain in the City of Abbotsford. They have sought heritage protection for the site and have also asked the Province to purchase it.

Lightning Rock site is a significant cultural landscape and place of spiritual and historical significance to Semá:th and Stó:lō/Coast Salish peoples. It is comprised of six parcels (36 hectares) of private land owned by Cold Water Ranch. The site contains a transformer stone (Lightning Rock) and according to Semá:th most of the lands are the ancestral burial site of smallpox victims dating back to the 1700s. The sacred area encompasses approximately 31 hectares (or 85% of the site) and 1.5 hectares of the 31 hectares are protected as a registered archeological site.

Advice/Recommendations; Interests of an Indigenous People; Intergovernmental Communications

In a recent Heritage Conservation Act pilot project conducted by the Ministry of Forests, the Lightning Rock site was not included.

Semá:th have additional concerns about a roadway that cuts through the site, allowing heavy trucks to access gravel quarries. To protect that access, the City of Abbotsford expropriated land for the roadway in March 2020.

## **ADVICE TO MINISTER**

Semá:th have petitioned the court—naming the city and the Province—to overturn the expropriation. The parties formally agreed in February 2021 to seek mediation on the matters raised in the petition.

In early 2021, Cold Water Ranch's mortgage lender, Realty Investments Corp., commenced foreclosure proceedings regarding the Lightning Rock property. Cold Water Ranch has filed a response to the claim but at present, we are not aware of any further steps taken to advance the litigation. The last communications with the landowner were in late 2019 – early 2020.

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

### **Roadway expropriation court action**

The Province, Semá:th and City of Abbotsford entered into a standstill agreement in February 2021 to allow the parties to focus on the mediation and render it unnecessary to determine the issues raised in the petition. Accordingly, no court dates have been set and the Province and City have not filed responses to the petition.

The Province was served with a petition by Semá:th on Nov. 5, 2020, in relation to the expropriation decision by the City of Abbotsford of land owned by Cold Water Ranch for a permanent right-of-way. The City is also named as a petition respondent.

In the petition, Semá:th say that the right-of-way will allow heavy vehicles to pass through the sacred Lightning Rock site to access gravel quarries. Semá:th assert Aboriginal rights and title to the site, which is located approximately two kilometres from their main reserve.

Semá:th say the Province and the City failed in their respective duties to consult and accommodate Semá:th and that the expropriation decision is inconsistent with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. They claim the expropriation by Abbotsford is void and should be set aside.

The B.C. Court of Appeal has previously held that municipalities do not have a duty to consult Indigenous Peoples. However, a more recent Supreme Court of Canada decision confirmed that the Crown must take further measures to meet its duty to consult with Indigenous groups where a regulatory process being relied upon does not achieve adequate consultation or accommodation, and that any decision affecting Indigenous interests made based on inadequate consultation should be quashed on judicial review.

This case would be the first to grapple with the intersection of these two issues.

**Media Interest:** There have been no recent stories covered in the media on this topic.

In May 2020, CBC wrote an article about Semá:th considering filing a claim over the Lightning Rock site that sits in the path of the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion.

In August 2019, Abbotsford News wrote a piece about the City of Abbotsford motioning to expropriate land for the right-of-way, which detailed Semá:th's concerns.

Communications contact: Leanne Ritchie      Program area contact: Yvette Lizée, Phillip Morris

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

### CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

**Ministry of Indigenous Relations and  
Reconciliation**

**Date:** Sept. 30, 2022

**Minister Responsible:** Hon. Murray Rankin

## Private Land and Aboriginal title claims

### ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

Advice/Recommendations

### KEY FACTS:

Through litigation, certain Indigenous groups are seeking declarations of Aboriginal title over private land (also known as fee-simple land), or have not specifically excluded private land from claims.

The meaning and scope of a declaration of Aboriginal title and rights over private land remains unsettled in law.

Most title claims do not seek specific relief, such as ejection, damages or compensation against private property owners, and are not seeking ownership or possession of private land through litigation.

However, some have indicated that they reserve the right to seek relief in the event a declaration of Aboriginal title is granted.

The Province is currently in negotiations with several First Nations regarding the implementation of title through incremental negotiations. The intent of these negotiations is to reach a resolution of title claims in step-by-step, orderly way, outside the oppositional court process. These groups include Council of the Haida Nation, Gitanyow, Lake Babine Nation; Heiltsuk; Tahltan; Wet'suwet'en; and others.

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

**Media Interest:** Limited media coverage, though regional media may carry an article from time to time updating the status of litigation, especially in more urban areas such as the Cowichan Tribes claim.

Communications Contact: Leanne Ritchie

Program Area Contact(s): Paul Yearwood, Tom McCarthy

**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**  
**Budget 2022 - MIRR**  
**Updated: April 30, 2022**

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**KEY MESSAGES**

- **We are deeply committed to advancing reconciliation in B.C. – guided by the UN Declaration and the Declaration Act, and with meaningful consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples.**
- **Reconciliation is a journey – systemic issues like anti-Indigenous racism and helping Indigenous Peoples heal from the devastating impacts of colonialism will take sustained effort over many years.**
- **Budget 2022 provides dedicated, annualized funding through the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation that supports the advancement of reconciliation and implementation of the UN Declaration in B.C.**
- **Budget 2022 provides \$12.05 million over the next three years to establish the Declaration Act Secretariat, a dedicated body to support government's reconciliation efforts by ensuring laws, policies and practices are consistent with the Act.**
- **Like all provincial budgets, the numbers on their own do not convey the scope of the work underway or the quality of the relationship with First Nations, Métis or Indigenous Peoples as a whole.**
- **Supported by Budget 2022, we are building an even stronger, more inclusive, and more just British Columbia that will create a better future for Indigenous Peoples.**

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## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

**Q1. What is the Ministry's budget for 2022/2023?**

- Budget 2022 provides Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation \$177.919 million, which is 0.03% more than Budget 2021.
- This dedicated and dependable funding allows us to continue the long-term work to advance reconciliation and implement the UN Declaration in B.C.

**Q2. Where has Budget 2022 changed over Budget 2021?**

- Budget 2022 includes a significant step towards meeting our government's commitment to reconciliation by creating a Declaration Act Secretariat, dedicated to coordinating government's reconciliation efforts and ensuring new legislation and policies are consistent with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.
- Budget 2022 provides \$12.05 million over the next three years, \$3.2 million for 2022/2023, to establish the Declaration Act Secretariat.
- All of this supports our work with Indigenous Peoples to advance reconciliation and implement the UN Declaration.

**Q3. What about Budget 2022 funding for other ministries' reconciliation activities?**

- Budget 2022 provides funding across government for various initiatives that support reconciliation and the implementation of the UN Declaration. For example:
  - Working in partnership with the First Nations Health Authority to continue creating up to 15 First Nations Primary Care Centres throughout the province.
  - Supporting Aboriginal Head Start, which provides culturally based inclusive child care, early learning and family bonding opportunities for Indigenous children.
  - Funding for Indigenous-led emergency management in First Nations communities.
  - Increased access to justice for Indigenous people through a virtual Indigenous Justice Centre.
  - Connecting First Nations communities to high-speed internet and cell service.
  - Expanding the Indigenous Forest Bioeconomy Program to include a new Accelerator Program, which will help Indigenous partners commercialize and scale-up innovative forest-based products.

**Q4. What is the role of the Declaration Act Secretariat?**

- Ministries are engaging with Indigenous Peoples on policy and legislation earlier and more deeply, and it makes sense this work is supported centrally.
- To ensure success, the Declaration Act Secretariat is a dedicated body to support government's reconciliation efforts by ensuring laws, policies and practices are consistent with the Act.
- In developing the plan for the secretariat, we have heard from First Nations leadership and legal experts on how best the new Secretariat can effectively coordinate and

Government Communications and Public Engagement  
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

support this cross-government obligation to align our laws, policies and practices with the UN Declaration.

- Si Sityaawks (Jessica Wood) is Associate Deputy Minister of the Declaration Act Secretariat.

**Q5. Is there funding allocated for the actions included in the Declaration Act's action plan?**

- The finalized action plan includes tangible, achievable actions in the areas of self-determination and self-government, rights and title, ending anti-Indigenous racism, and social, cultural and economic well-being.
- The implementation of specific actions, including associated funding, is the responsibility of the lead ministry/ministries of those actions.

**Q6. Why does Budget 2022 have a decrease of \$1.434 million to fund treaty and other agreements?**

- We are advancing our treaties and other government to government agreements to respond to the needs of individual nations, many of which entail multi-year financial commitments.
- Budget 2022 allows us to meet our multi-year commitments to existing treaties and other government-to-government agreements, and includes a financial commitment of \$115.629 million.

*If pressed by what the \$1.434 million decrease in funding between Budget 2022 and Budget 2021*

- Every year, the profile of payments changes.
- Budget 2022 allows us to fully meet our multi-year commitments to existing treaties and other government-to-government agreements.
- There is no budget cut.

**Q7. Angela Polifroni, director of operations for Toquaht Nation, is quoted as saying she was pleased to see "Indigenous issues and acknowledgment of Indigenous jurisdictions" throughout the budget document, but noted that "fully-resourced implementation" of treaties is not possible based on the funds committed. What is your response?**

- Budget 2022 allows us to meet our multi-year commitments to existing treaties and other government-to-government agreements, and includes a financial commitment of \$115.629 million.
- There is a significant increase to \$130 million planned for 2022/23 in the ministry budget for treaties and other agreements as noted in the service plan released on budget day.
- The funding increase scheduled for 2022/2023 is based on the work the ministry is doing with nations in regards to the timing of the implementation of specific programs.
- BC and Modern Treaty Nations have been working both individually and collectively through the Alliance of British Columbia Modern Treaty Nations to develop a framework and supporting fiscal policies to ensure resourcing is in place for the full implementation of modern treaties.

Government Communications and Public Engagement  
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

- Budget 2022 provides Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation \$177.919 million, which is 0.03% more than Budget 2021.
- Like all provincial budgets, the numbers on their own do not convey the scope of the work underway or the quality of the relationship with First Nations, Metis or Indigenous Peoples as a whole.
- For example, we have shared \$356 million in gaming revenues since the gaming revenue sharing program began in 2019 (including the \$74M one time grant) directly with First Nations.
- These funds have been used towards construction of single-family homes, repairs and upkeep of community buildings and Elders' housing, strengthening community responses to COVID-19, and supports for post secondary education for community members including childcare for those students.
- This dedicated and dependable funding allows us to continue the long-term work to advance reconciliation and implement the UN Declaration in B.C.

**Q8. Why is funding decreasing through the First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund?**

- The First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund (FNCEBF) is supported by annual provincial rentals from eligible independent power projects.
- The project proponents pay the province to use water (water licenses) and rent land (land tenures) to use for their projects. It's the fees from these licenses and tenures that support the fund.
- When the projected revenue into the fund decreases, so does the amount available to support projects.
- Projections for 2022/23 indicate \$1.692 million decrease in revenues to the fund.
- We are continuing our commitment to support remote First Nations communities reduce their reliance on diesel-powered generators.

**Q9. How are you supporting Indigenous language revitalization and culture?**

- B.C. has incredible language diversity and is home to 34 First Nations languages, which make up more than half of all Indigenous languages in Canada.
- We are committed to supporting Indigenous languages and culture, which help address systemic social challenges and connect people to community, land and culture.
- For example, through a \$50-million multi-year investment in 2018, the First Peoples' Cultural Council is supporting Indigenous communities to reclaim their language and culture.
  - With this investment, First Nations completed over 470 language revitalization projects funded by the First Peoples' Cultural Council last year alone.

**Q10. Will the ministry restore the level of funding to the First Citizens Fund seen five years ago?**

- The First Citizens Fund revenue is interest-driven and recent low interest rates have affected revenue that supports programs. We will provide approximately \$1.6 million to support programs in 2022/2023, which is comparable to 2021/2022.

**Q11. How does gaming revenue sharing with First Nations work?**

- Like every government, First Nations need secure long-term sources of revenue to fund their priorities – critical things for every government, such as infrastructure, services that build healthy communities and the staff to get it done.
- In September 2020, the Province and BC First Nations Gaming Commission jointly finalised a 25-year arrangement to share provincial gaming revenue.
- The arrangement provides 7% of net provincial gaming revenue to First Nations to be used to support self-government and self-determination, strong, healthy communities and services that make life better for families in First Nations communities across B.C.
- Each First Nation that participates in revenue sharing can use their gaming revenues to support priorities for its community.
- The revenue may be used in six areas that support governance, capacity building and strengthened program and service delivery:
  - health and wellness;
  - infrastructure, safety, transportation and housing;
  - economic and business development;
  - education, language, culture and training;
  - community development and environmental protection; and
  - capacity building, fiscal management and governance.
- Since the program began, the Province has transferred \$356 million in shared gaming revenues to First Nations. It has been used for programs and services in Indigenous communities according to their individual priorities.
- First Nations are creating programs and undertaking projects such as construction for new housing and community buildings, childcare and supports for new parents, initiatives to preserve and strengthen Indigenous languages, mental health services, supports for business ventures, and much more.

**Q12. What is the Province going to do about the decline in gaming revenue and subsequent affect on First Nations?**

- Like every government, First Nations need secure long-term revenues to fund their priorities – critical things for every government, such as infrastructure, services that build healthy communities and the staff to get it done.
- First Nations were hard hit by the pandemic – and successive fires and floods – and have used funding from the gaming revenue sharing agreement to meet their immediate needs, impacting other community priority projects and initiatives.
- In 2020/21 due to the decline in gaming activity from public health measures to respond to the pandemic, First Nations gaming revenues were approximately \$74 million lower than anticipated.
- In April 2022, the Province provided a one-time \$74 million dollar grant to mitigate the loss of these revenues that have been a crucial support for First Nations governments.

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- This one-time grant ensures that First Nations who were among the hardest hit by the pandemic won't be left behind during the recovery.
- It will continue support First Nations' priorities for social services, education, infrastructure, cultural revitalization and self-government capacity.
- This grant makes up for lost revenues that fund new community projects and programs and significant economic development that can benefit First Nations communities and beyond, bringing more prosperity to every part of the province.
- This renewed approach to revenue sharing is part of our commitment to create a new fiscal relationship with First Nations that supports self-government and self-determination.

**Q13. Can you explain how the recently announce gaming revenue grant fits into these numbers?**

- Through this grant, we are recognizing the COVID 19 impacts on First Nations share of gaming revenues - \$74 million.
- We have been proud to call gaming revenue a secure, long-term revenue stream for all First Nations governments across the province. And it still is, except when you have a once in a lifetime event like COVID-19.
- As a government, we made the decision to maintain Community Gaming Grants at pre-COVID levels to ensure continued funding to non-profit groups.
- Government also provided supports to municipalities including COVID-19 Safe Restart Grants and the deferral of school property tax remittance to help with cash-flow pressures.
- Supporting First Nations is completely consistent with these measures and it's the right thing to do.

**Q14. Can you provide a breakdown of gaming revenue of funding?**

- In 2019/20 and 2020/21 we transferred \$196.84M in total.
- In 2021/22 we transferred \$58,059,120.
- Last week we transferred the 22/23 amount, \$26,928,930. This is significantly less than they anticipated to receive. The decline in gaming revenues totalled \$73,941,070. We addressed this with the one-time grant.
- In total that's almost \$356M.
- We expect there may be additional adjustments to 2021/22 revenues. There has been a very strong recovery in the gaming sector and with the bounce, we expect that number might be adjusted upward.

**Q15. What about funding for MNBC?**

- Métis Nation BC and the Province share a commitment to strengthening our relationship and advancing reconciliation, and we are committed to continue building an on-going, positive relationship.
- The Province and Métis Nation British Columbia signed a Letter of Intent late last year. This is an opportunity to phase out the Métis Nation Relationship Accord II and

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develop a partnership that respects self-determination through a “whole of government” approach.

- As part of our work, we are undertaking a ‘whole of government’ review, which will include developing shared priorities and reviewing current funding and future needs.
- During the development of the Declaration Act Action Plan, we released a consultation draft for input from Indigenous Peoples, Nations, and organizations. We were encouraged to receive feedback from both Métis people and Métis Nation BC.
- Action 4.2 of the Declaration Action Plan includes a commitment to “Advance a collaborative, whole-of-government approach in the partnership between the Métis Nation of British Columbia and the Province of B.C., respecting Métis self-determination and working to establish more flexibility and sustainability in funding.”
- We take a distinctions-based approach in our relationships with Indigenous peoples – and our relationship with Métis in B.C. Any funding, programs, and services will be different from our relationships with First Nations. Similarly, our relationship with the Métis in B.C. will be different than what other governments have with Métis within their jurisdiction.

*If asked:*

- This ministry’s funding to the Métis Nation British Columbia in 2020/2021 was \$665,000. We also committed \$745,000 in 2021/2022 funding up to February 2022.
- If our budget is approved, we will continue to support MNBC’s governance capacity with \$400,000 and we anticipate that many of the other Ministries will be continuing their program support for MNBC.

DECLARATION ACT ACTION PLAN MIRR SPECIFIC ACTIONS

**Q16. What is the status of Action 1.1 - In partnership with the Government of Canada, establish a new institution designed and driven by First Nations to provide supports to First Nations in their work of nation- and governance-rebuilding and boundary resolution in accordance with First Nations laws, customs and traditions?**

- We are working together with First Nations to find the best way forward, while recognizing that leadership for this work rightfully belongs to First Nations and not to the Province.
- In 2019, the First Nations Leadership Council solicited the development of initial ideas and perspectives on the development of an Indigenous Commission.
- This was followed in spring 2020 with an all-Nations forum on shared territory overlaps where initial ideas about an Indigenous Commission were shared.
- Unfortunately, this forum was cut short by the beginning of the pandemic, but a virtual version was held in the fall of 2021 and the Province remains supportive of Nations continuing this work.

**Q17. What is the status of Action 1.2 - Shift from short-term transactional arrangements to the co-development of long-term agreements that recognize and support reconciliation, self-determination, decision-making and economic independence?**

- Every Nation must decide the path to reconciliation that is right for them – that is critical to self-determination.
- We are committed to government-to-government relationships where we proactively negotiate the implementation of rights and title, as partners.
- Together, First Nations, Canada, and B.C. are creating innovative agreements that are flexible and better suited to addressing the needs of individual nations.
- In the last few years, we have signed unique and diverse agreements with First Nations that exemplify this action including Lake Babine, Gitanyow, Heiltsuk, Snuneymuxw and others.
- Progress is also being made in treaty negotiations.
- In 2019, the provincial and federal governments and the First Nations Summit finalized a new policy to guide treaty negotiations in the province.
- The new policy aims to base treaties on a recognition of the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples, and states explicitly that treaties do not require Indigenous Peoples to extinguish their rights.

**Q18. What is the status of Action 1.3 - Utilize sections 6 and 7 of the Declaration Act to complete government-to-government agreements that recognize Indigenous self-government and self-determination?**

- Sections 6 and 7 of the Declaration Act enable government to enter into unique agreements with a wide range of Indigenous Governing Bodies beyond Indian Act Bands or Treaty Nation governments.
- In most cases, these agreements will set out a process and a role for Indigenous Governing Bodies in making statutory decisions different from what is currently set out in legislation.
- These types of agreements are intended to improve predictability and transparency of certain decisions and will provide a clearer process for how decisions are made.
- In June 2021, the government started negotiations with the Tahltan Central Government on the first consent-based decision-making agreement ever to be negotiated under the *Declaration Act*.
- We are engaged in discussions with other First Nations who have expressed interest in exploring potential agreements.

**Q19. What is the status of actions 1.4 - Co-develop with Indigenous Peoples a new distinctions-based fiscal relationship and framework that supports the operation of Indigenous governments, whether through modern treaties, self-government agreements or advancing the right to self-government through other mechanisms - and action 1.5 - Co-develop and implement new distinctions-based policy frameworks for resource revenue-sharing and other fiscal mechanisms with Indigenous Peoples (incl. Finance)?**

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- Government committed to a new fiscal relationship with Indigenous peoples through the Draft 10 Principles and 2018 Concrete Actions Document.
- The first major initiative was the 25-year gaming revenue sharing arrangement that provides approximately \$100 million annually to all First Nations.
- In late April, we also announced a commitment to co-develop a new forestry revenue sharing model from the ground up with First Nations.
- Working with First Nations, we expect to finalize an engagement plan and begin the forestry engagement in September 2022.
- We are moving away from the short-term transactional approach of the past toward a new fiscal framework that recognizes, respects and supports Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination.
- We recognize that there is much work to do with respect to co-developing a new fiscal relationship and framework that supports the operation of Indigenous governments.
- The Action Plan to implement the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act includes a commitment to this work over the next five years.
- This will also include collaboration with the federal government.
- There are many evolving pieces that we all will need to consider, including the development of varying and evolving models of Indigenous self-government structures.
- It is important we understand how these pieces relate to each other as well as how they relate to the work we have ahead to align provincial laws with the United Nations' Declaration Principles.

**Q20 What is the status of Action 2.1 - Create a dedicated secretariat to coordinate government's reconciliation efforts and to ensure new legislation and policies are consistent with the Declaration Act?**

- The Declaration Act Secretariat is being established to support government's reconciliation efforts to align legislation with the UN Declaration, and to do so in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples.
- In developing the plan, we heard from First Nations leaders and legal experts on how the new Secretariat can effectively coordinate and support our work to align laws, policies and practices with the UN Declaration.
- We have appointed Si Sityaawks - Jessica Wood - as Associate Deputy Minister of the Declaration Act Secretariat.

**Q21. What is the budget for the Secretariat other than salaries?**

- Budget 2022 provides \$12.05 million to establish the Declaration Act Secretariat.
- Ministries are engaging with Indigenous Peoples on policy and legislation earlier and more deeply, and it makes sense this work is supported centrally.
- Reconciliation is a cross-government responsibility, and every Ministry in government will be tapping into the expertise and advice of the Secretariat.

**Q22. What is an agreement under Section 7 of the Declaration Act? Action 2.4 states government will negotiate new joint decision-making and consent agreements under section 7 of the Declaration Act that include clear accountabilities, transparency and**

**administrative fairness between the Province and Indigenous governing bodies. Seek all necessary legislative amendments to enable the implementation of any section 7 agreements?**

- Shared decision-making is a general term that encompasses several different decision-making processes, including collaboration, consensus, joint and consent-based decision-making.
- Section 7 of the Declaration Act provides a mechanism for the Province to negotiate for joint and consent decision-making agreements with Indigenous governing bodies.
- With joint decision-making, there is ultimately one decision, jointly made, reached through an agreed-upon process by a joint body.
- A consent decision-making process involves the Indigenous governing body making a decision before the provincial statutory decision. Consent agreements will have clearly articulated criteria to inform decision making by the parties with the goal of avoiding different outcomes.

**Q23. Do you have any Section 7 agreements underway?**

- Yes, we are in preliminary discussions with a number of First Nations and are in the final stages of entering into an agreement under section 7 of the Declaration Act - the first one ever to be made under Section 7 of the Declaration Act.
- This agreement will set out how the Province and proponent, Skeena Resources Ltd., can work effectively with Tahltan decision-makers to advance the Eskay Mine Project, while recognizing the rights, values, traditions, knowledge and cultural practices of the Tahltan Nation.
- This agreement provides for greater clarity and transparency in decision-making, while supporting Tahltan's self-government and economic independence and contributing to economic development and investment confidence.
- This agreement with Tahltan Nation is a tangible example of how implementing the Declaration Act can support transparency and predictability and demonstrate that reconciliation and economic development go hand in hand.

**Q24. When did negotiation start and what did they entail?**

- In June 2021, the Tahltan Central Government (TCG) and the Province started negotiations on the first consent-based decision-making agreement ever to be negotiated under the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.
- The negotiations focussed on reaching an agreement under Section 7 related to environmental assessment approvals needed to restart Eskay Creek Mine in Tahltan Territory.
- Negotiations include:
  - provisions for how the parties will work together while strictly adhering to the principles of administrative fairness, transparency, process predictability, accountability and shared liability;
  - detailed regulatory process steps including roles and responsibilities for proponents, the Province and Tahltan;
  - Tahltan and provincial interests, decision-making, information requirements, policies;

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- specific references to address perceived or real conflict of interest for Tahltan given their investment in one of the projects;
- dispute resolution and shared liability provisions; and
- principles for achieving efficiency in the regulatory process.

**Q25. How does Action 2.5 - Co-develop and employ mechanisms for ensuring the minimum standards of the UN Declaration are applied in the implementation of treaties, agreements under sections 6 and 7 of the Declaration Act and other constructive arrangements with First Nations - differ from 2.4 above?**

- The Province works with a wide range of Indigenous organizations and Nations to help develop and implement agreements that align with the UN Declaration.
- The principle of co-development applies broadly in this work and can take the form of an overarching policy, such as the 2019 tripartite Recognition and Reconciliation of Rights Policy for Treaty Negotiations in British Columbia or creating mandates for individual issues in a negotiation.
- Methods to address Action 2.5 include formal processes such as:
- Regular engagement with the First Nations Leadership Council or the Alliance of British Columbia Modern Treaty Nations;
- The tripartite Lands Working Group that is continuing work on Schedule A lands topics under the Recognition and Reconciliation of Rights Policy for Treaty Negotiations; and
- As well as provisions embedded in individual agreements with First Nations.

**Q26. What is the status of Action 2.6 Co-develop strategic-level policies, programs and initiatives to advance collaborative stewardship of the environment, land and resources, that address cumulative effects and respects Indigenous Knowledge. This will be achieved through collaborative stewardship forums, guardian programs, land use planning initiatives, and other innovative and evolving partnerships that support integrated land and resource management. (Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, BC Oil and Gas Commission)?**

- Shared decision-making means working in partnership with First Nations and coming to a consensus about how we care for British Columbia's resources.
- It's important for the B.C. government to respect Indigenous knowledge and consider the cumulative effects that decades of development have had on the land.
- The B.C. government endorses regional collaborative stewardship as part of our commitment towards co-management and shared stewardship with Indigenous governments.
- We support the expansion of collaborative stewardship and Indigenous Stewardship Forums to allow First Nations and the B.C. government to integrate this work into shared decision-making and co-management frameworks, including the use of cumulative effects assessments.

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- The regional forum model will evolve through the establishment of new forums and partnerships where there is an identified need and willingness by First Nations and the B.C. government.

**Q27. What is the status of Action 4.20 - Advance a collaborative, whole-of-government approach in the partnership between the Métis Nation of British Columbia and the Province of B.C., respecting Métis self-determination and working to establish more flexibility and sustainability in funding?**

- Métis people are integral to the rich cultural fabric of British Columbia – and to all of Canada.
- Métis Nation BC (MNBC) is a political organization that advocates on behalf of the more than 90,000 people in B.C. who self-identify as Métis.
- The Province is committing to advancing a collaborative, whole-of-government approach in partnership with MNBC, one that respect Métis self-determination and working to establish more flexibility and sustainability in funding
- In November 2021, the Province and MNBC signed a letter of intent that outlines the shift to be ensure Métis peoples' culture, language and history are reflected in the development of policies, practises, programs and legislation in B.C.
- Our next steps to this partnership include co-developing and formalizing a new Working Table that will allow for collaboration, accountability and cross-government engagement.

**Q28. What is the status of actions 4.21 - 4.24 – work to support urban Indigenous peoples, including an annual meeting and cross government review (incl. Social Development)?**

- Initial funding has gone out to start the engagement process in the next six months. We will be working with our key Indigenous partners including the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC), Urban Indigenous leaders and Coalitions, and key provincial ministry partners to move forward on this action.

**Q29. What is the status of actions 4.29 and 4.3 – Establish an Indigenous-led working group to develop a strategy for the revitalization of Indigenous languages in B.C., including potential legislative supports and support Indigenous language revitalization through sustainable funding (incl. Education and Child Care and Advanced Education Skills and Training)?**

- Revitalization efforts are imperative to protect Indigenous languages from extinction. The Province works with Indigenous Peoples across B.C., on many fronts, to protect and preserve Indigenous languages.
- We will be working with our ministry partners and relevant Indigenous partners to move forward on these actions to establish an Indigenous-led working group to develop a strategy for the revitalization of Indigenous languages in B.C., including potential legislative supports.
- We recognize the need for short- and long-term funding solutions to continue this important work and have been in discussions with the First Peoples' Cultural Council and federal Minister of Canadian Heritage, Pablo Rodriguez.

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- The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation has been actively working with the First Peoples' Cultural Council and engaged with Treasury Board on funding solutions. We are also working alongside the federal government to develop a long-term sustainable funding model for the First Peoples' Cultural Council.

**Q30. What is the status of Action 4.49 - Review existing provincial mandates to enhance treaty self-governing Nations' fiscal capacity to deliver services to their citizens?**

- British Columbia has been collaborating with the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations to develop new treaty fiscal policy for Cabinet's consideration through the BC Collaborative Fiscal Policy Process.
- A new policy would support treaty fiscal arrangements that ensure:
  - Modern Treaty Nations are appropriately resourced to fully implement their Treaties;
  - British Columbia's fiscal procedures reflect the jurisdiction and autonomy of Modern Treaty Nation governments and tripartite nature of treaties ; and,
  - Modern Treaty Nations can meaningfully participate in the development of new fiscal policies and programs.
- Any new policy resulting from the Collaborative Fiscal Policy Process will also apply to First Nations in final stages of treaty negotiations.

**Q31. What would this review look like?**

- Treaty and self-governing Nations have responsibilities to deliver programs and services to their members, and we are working to review provincial mandates to ensure they support Nations in meeting these responsibilities.
- The federal government continues to play a fundamental role in funding treaty and self-governing Nations, but within that relationship we are committed to reviewing provincial mandates for fiscal arrangements to enhance treaty and self-governing Nations' fiscal capacity to deliver programs and services to their citizens.
- We are working collaboratively with our Modern Treaty partners to review and define the provincial fiscal relationship, the resources available to nations to fulfil their roles and responsibilities under treaties and other agreements, the gaps in fiscal resources that may remain, and the appropriate mechanisms to meet any identified gaps.
- This work will take time and require a whole-of-government approach to finalize.

## What Do We Do

### Key Dates and Events

Area Responsible: Government Communications and Public Engagement

Key Event	Minister's Role	Date	Location
<b>January 2023</b> Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications			
International World Day of Social Justice	Social media, echo	Feb. 20	n/a
International Mother Languages Day		Feb. 21	
Intergovernmental Communications			

What Do We Do

March 2023			
International Women’s Day		March 8	

Advice/Recommendations

### 30-60-90 Day Issues and Priorities

#### Priority Issues – 30-60-90 Day List

Issue	Status/Key Milestones/Next Steps
<b>Ongoing</b>	
Wet'suwet'en Ongoing Reconciliation Dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negotiation dialogue on hold; Miles Richardson continuing as interlocutor.</li> <li>Minister Rankin &amp; Miller (CIRNA) have sent letters to Hereditary &amp; elected Chiefs proposing a leadership Summit. No response to date.</li> </ul>
<b>30 Days</b>	
New Fiscal Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion paper to go out to First Nations in early November, as planned next step to follow through on the Action Plan commitment.</li> <li>Ministers being briefed, and caucus briefing planned for October 25. Intergovernmental Communications</li> </ul>
Cabinet Confidences; Intergovernmental Communications	
Cabinet Confidences and First Nations Leadership Gathering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cabinet Confidences</li> <li>Gathering: November 29-30. BC Business Council and BC Federation of Labour event planned for evening of November 28.</li> </ul>
<b>60 Days</b>	
Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Intergovernmental Communications	
<b>90 Days</b>	
Cabinet Confidences	
Cabinet Confidences; Intergovernmental Communications	
Intergovernmental Communications	

## 30-60-90 Day Issues and Priorities

### Corporate Issues / Opportunities

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*These notes were provided to the Office of the Premier in response to a request to identify current/emerging issues or opportunities for consideration that represent a matter of predominant significance fiscally, legally or address a significant policy issue which is of interest to or has implications for the Premier and Government as a whole.*

1. Declaration Act Sections 6 and 7
2. Distinctions Based Policy
3. Advice/Recommentation  
e.
4. New Fiscal Relationship
5. Advice/Recom  
mentation
6. Treaty Negotiations

## MAJOR CORPORATE ISSUE NOTE

Ministry: Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR)

Issue: Sections 6 and 7 agreements and shared decision-making

- Two mechanisms in the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act), section 6 and 7, enable agreements with Indigenous governing bodies.
- Section 6 and 7 agreements can deepen cooperation and develop innovative, accountable, practical, and predictable processes of shared, joint, or consent-based decision-making.

Background:

- The Declaration Act passed unanimously in the B.C. legislature on Nov. 26, 2019. B.C. was the first jurisdiction in Canada to pass legislation to implement the UN Declaration.
- All 2022 ministerial mandate letters committed ministers to share responsibility in the process of lasting and meaningful reconciliation, guided by the Declaration Act.
- The Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation's mandate letter also included direction to deliver an action plan in collaboration with Indigenous partners as required under the Declaration Act.
- The Declaration Act Action Plan (2022-2027) released March 30, 2022, includes the following actions related to implementation of Sections 6 and 7:
  - **Action 1.3:** Utilize sections 6 and 7 of the Declaration Act to complete and implement government-to-government agreements that recognize Indigenous self-government and self-determination
  - **Action 2.4:** Negotiate new joint decision-making and consent agreements under section 7 of the Declaration Act that include clear accountabilities, transparency and administrative fairness between the Province and Indigenous governing bodies. Seek all necessary legislative amendments to enable the implementation of any section 7 agreements.
- The Declaration Act defines an Indigenous governing body as "an entity that is authorized to act on behalf of Indigenous peoples that hold rights recognized and affirmed by Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*."
- Section 6 of the Declaration Act provides the authority for government to enter into agreements with Indigenous governing bodies.
- Section 7 of the Declaration Act provides the statutory basis for entering joint or consent based decision-making agreements for statutory powers of decision with Indigenous governing bodies.
- The Province has also developed an approach to enable Declaration Act decision making agreements within a treaty.

### Indigenous governing bodies (IGB)

- First Nations have asked about government's progress to establish a process for recognizing Indigenous governing bodies. Identifying an Indigenous governing body is part of self-determination and is therefore up to Nations or collectives to establish. The government does not have a role in this work. The responsibility for defining or authorizing Indigenous governing bodies lies with the section 35 rights holders.

- The Province will want confirmation from an Indigenous governing body when entering into an agreement that the IGB represents the section 35 rights holders, is mandated by its members, and can carry out the responsibilities and accountabilities set out in the agreement.
- Examples of the type of confirmation could be community ratification, assembly resolutions, band council resolutions, or other mechanisms demonstrating accountability, legitimacy, and transparency to their communities.

#### Section 7: Decision Making Agreements

- Section 7 of the Declaration Act is an enabling tool. It gives a ministry the ability to seek a mandate from Cabinet to pursue for shared decision-making and consent agreements– in other words, agreements to exercise statutory powers of decision either jointly, or with consent.
- Each decision-making agreement is specific to the particular decision and relationship between the IGB and British Columbia.
- Decisions made under these agreements are judicially reviewable, which requires the agreements to contain principles of transparency and administrative fairness, and to outline the agreement partners’ responsibilities, accountabilities and liabilities.
- In June 2022, B.C. and the Tahltan Central Government entered into the first consent-based decision-making agreement under the Declaration Act, which:
  - Sets out how the Tahltan Central Government and the Province will be accountable and transparent throughout the environmental assessment process for the Eskay Creek Revitalization Project and how the two governments will work together to support their respective decisions, and; includes provisions for dispute resolution.
  - Honours Tahltan’s jurisdiction in land-management decisions in Tahltan Territory, in recognition of their title and rights within their territory.
- In August 2022, the shíshálh Nation and the Province were mandated to start negotiations on a joint decision-making agreement regarding decisions on dock tenures in the shíshálh swiya (territory/birthplace/world), which builds upon the current model for making shared decisions on dock tenures created in 2018.

#### Issue/Opportunity:

- Although the Declaration Act establishes the space for negotiating Section 7 agreements, statutory amendments would often be required to the “root” legislation for the agreements to be operationalized.
- Advice/Recommendations
- Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Intergovernmental Communications
- 
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Next Steps:

- Work in relation to proposed amendments to the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA) and *Adoption Act* have led to important learnings about the application of section 7, the potential scope of a sectoral approach, and the role section 6 of the Declaration Act could contribute to this work.
- Cabinet Confidences
- Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Intergovernmental Communications
- Intergovernmental Communications
- A core component of aligning a law with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (as committed in section 3 of the Declaration Act) is the inclusion of language to enable section 7 agreements in any Act that impacts Indigenous rights, title and self-determination.

## MAJOR CORPORATE ISSUE NOTE

**Ministry/Ministries:** Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

**Issue:** Distinctions based policy

### Technical Background

- First Nations, Métis, and Inuit are the Indigenous Peoples of Canada, with Aboriginal rights recognized and affirmed in section 35(1) of the *Constitution Act, 1982* and Indigenous human rights affirmed in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration).
- Each of these Indigenous Peoples has distinct rights that derive from, and are tied to, their unique histories, cultures, laws, legal orders, traditions, practices, political, social, economic structures, and relationships to land.
- There is a significant body of jurisprudence confirming the existence of Aboriginal and treaty rights of First Nations in British Columbia. This includes a wide range of site-specific First Nations rights related to land and resources, including Aboriginal title and governance rights.
- The case law on rights that are not site-specific is underdeveloped relative to the case law on rights related to land and resources. This underdevelopment can give a false impression that only First Nations in B.C. hold section 35 rights in B.C. when in fact there are likely non-site-specific section 35 rights that can be exercised in B.C. by Indigenous Peoples whose territory is outside of the province. This detail is critical to the correct application of a distinctions-based approach (DBA) and to meeting legal obligations under s.35 the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

### General

- In the 2018 *Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples* and within the Declaration Act Action Plan 2022-2027 (Action Plan), the Province committed to take a distinctions-based approach in dealings with Indigenous Peoples.
- Principle 10 of the *Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples* focuses on applying a distinctions-based approach to ensure that the unique rights, interests and circumstances of Indigenous Peoples in B.C. are acknowledged, affirmed, and implemented. It states that "the work of forming renewed relationships based on the recognition of rights, respect, co-operation, and partnership must reflect the unique interests, priorities and circumstances of each people."
- The 2022 Declaration Act Action Plan provides some additional definition around how DBA might be applied:

"The Province is committed to a distinctions-based approach. This requires that the Province's dealings with First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples be conducted in a manner that acknowledges the specific rights, interests, priorities and concerns of each, while respecting and acknowledging these distinct Peoples with unique cultures, histories, rights,

laws and governments. Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, recognizes and affirms the rights of Aboriginal Peoples of Canada, while all Indigenous Peoples have human rights that are expressed in the UN Declaration. However, not all rights are uniform or the same among or between all Indigenous Peoples. In many cases, a distinctions-based approach may require that the Province's relationship and engagement with First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples include different approaches or actions and result in different outcomes."

- As the Province implements the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (2019) and Action Plan, public service employees are increasingly reaching out to Ministry of Attorney General (MAG) and the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) for advice and guidance on applying the DBA on a file specific basis. The need for guidance arises out of the increasingly complex legal and political environment related to application of a DBA.
- A DBA guidance document for public service employees is currently in development. The guidance document summarizes legal elements that inform distinctions based on site-specific rights is in development. Additional policy tools may be identified to support ministries in their efforts to apply DBA in the development and amendment of government policy, legislation, programs and services.

## MAJOR CORPORATE ISSUE NOTE

### Ministry: Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

#### Issue: Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations – Context and Advice/Recommendations;

Advice/Recommend

#### MST Background

- MST is a partnership of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, whose territories include Vancouver, Burnaby, and the North Shore. MST represents the three Nations in land disposal, acquisition, and accommodation agreements with the Province, Canada, local governments, and Crown agencies. The MST partnership can be thought of as a 'Crown Corporation' model representing the three parties.
- MST has had longstanding discussions with BC with respect to the disposal of surplus Crown properties. Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications  
Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications

- MST had previously acquired the adjacent fifty-two acres of federal Jericho Garrison Lands in 2014 through a joint venture partnership with the Canada Lands Company (CLC), a self-financing federal Crown corporation specializing in real estate and development. MST and the CLC each own 50% of those lands, with decision-making requiring approval of both parties.
- In 2018, MST created the MST Development Corporation (MSTDC) to manage properties owned by the MST partnership and in 2021 MSTDC began pursuing a project to develop the full ninety acres of Jericho Lands.
- Advice/Recommendations; Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications

Issue/Opportunity:

Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications

Next Steps:

Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Government Financial Information; Intergovernmental Communications

## MAJOR CORPORATE ISSUE NOTE

**Ministry/Ministries:** Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (IRR) and Finance (FIN)

**Issue:** New Fiscal Relationship

- In fall 2022, the Province began an engagement process with First Nations on the co-development of a new fiscal framework, with an initial focus on forestry revenue sharing.

**Background:**

- The *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act) Action Plan contains three actions related to establishing a new fiscal framework:
  - 1.4: Co-develop with Indigenous Peoples a new distinctions-based based fiscal relationship and framework that supports the operation of Indigenous governments, whether through modern treaties, self-government agreements or advancing the right to self-government through other mechanisms. This work will include collaboration with the Government of Canada.
  - 1.5: Co-develop and implement new distinctions-based policy frameworks for resource revenue-sharing and other fiscal mechanisms with Indigenous Peoples.
  - 4.49: Review existing provincial mandates to enhance treaty and self-governing Nations' fiscal capacity to deliver services to their citizens.
- These actions reflect earlier commitments made by the Province and First Nations:
  - Principle 8 of the Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples recognizes that reconciliation and self-government require a renewed fiscal relationship.
  - Action 3, Goal 2 of the 2018 Concrete Actions document commits to the joint design and implementation of new approaches and models of fiscal relations to support the co-existence and exercise of provincial and Indigenous jurisdictions and to the sharing and distribution of revenues.
  - The 2022 Shared Priorities Framework commits the Province and the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations to collaboratively establish fiscal arrangements to fulfill treaty rights and obligations.
- As an initial step, the Province finalized a long-term gaming revenue sharing arrangement that, since 2019, shares seven percent of gaming revenues, approximately \$100 million annually, with First Nations.
- In April 2022, the Province announced an intention to co-develop a new forestry revenue sharing model with First Nations as a next step towards a new fiscal framework.

**Issue/Opportunity:**

*Considerations*

- A fiscal framework is a system for defining the financial relationship between governments. It addresses the revenue and expenditure functions and jurisdiction of each government and how

intergovernmental transfers are structured.

- In the context of developing a new fiscal framework that supports the operation of First Nations governments, implementation of these generic elements should be considered in ways that are rights-based and principled. For example, elements of a new fiscal framework put forward for government's consideration would be reflective of First Nations values and of Section 35 rights, and articulate alignment with the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- The current fiscal framework between the Province and Indigenous Peoples is based on a western social and economic worldview, focused primarily at the "Band" or community level, ad-hoc rather than wholistic, and transactional (e.g., funding is provided to facilitate resource development, meet legal obligations, resolve issues, etc.). Outside of the modern treaty process, there is little coordination between the provincial and federal governments.
- The work of developing a new fiscal framework has been considered urgent by government and First Nations::

Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

- Co-development of a new fiscal framework represents an opportunity to work in a principled way to produce an outcome that is enduring, comprehensive, and rights based.

#### *Two Tracks*

- To address the urgency, while also ensuring the work is done properly and comprehensively, the Province is prepared to proceed on two simultaneous and interrelated tracks of work in partnership with First Nations:
  - Track 1 is the co-development of a new model or models of fiscal relations, including the vision, objectives/outcomes, fiscal principles, mechanisms, and tools, and how those will be applied comprehensively. This comprehensive stream of work will take time and is envisioned to be developed during the five-year time span of the Action Plan. Components of the framework will require significant collaboration with Canada.
  - Track 2 is the co-development of near-term changes to revenue-sharing streams that can be implemented while track 1 is still being fully developed. Track 2 changes would allow for the application and testing of new principles and mechanisms, while also providing increased revenues to First Nations without having to wait for the full co-development and adoption of a comprehensive new fiscal framework. Forestry revenue sharing is the first sector under examination through the track 2 work. The Ministry of Forests is partnering with IRR and FIN on this work.

#### *Forestry*

- The early focus on forestry in track 2 reflects the significance of the provincial forest economy,

the large number of First Nations impacted, and a shared interest in advancing comprehensive agreements with First Nations on forestry and forest stewardship.

- As an interim step, the Province has provided temporary increase to revenues shared under the existing Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreement (FCRSA) program. While this interim enhancement was not co-developed, it signalled the Province's commitment to provide space for the co-development of a new model.
- Concurrent to co-development of a new forestry revenue sharing model takes place, the Province would continue to reform forest legislation, regulations, and policy to reflect a shared strategic vision with First Nations that upholds the rights and objectives of the UN Declaration (Declaration Act Action Plan Action 2.10).
- Advice/Recommendations; Intergovernmental Communications

- At the same time, changes to revenue sharing would also need to consider those circumstances where comprehensive agreements do not exist and thus not limit access to this aspect of reconciliation.

**Next Steps:**

- Engagement on the new fiscal framework continued in fall 2022 with a discussion paper shared with all First Nation rights and title holders. The discussion paper sets out the Province's initial thinking on the vision and purpose of the work, details on the engagement process, and discussion questions.
- Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences

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Advice/Recommendations ; Cabinet Confidences ; Intergovernmental Communications

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Advice/Recommendations ; Cabinet Confidences ; Government Financial Information ; Intergovernmental  
Communications

## MAJOR CORPORATE ISSUE NOTE

Ministry/Ministries: Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Issue: Treaty Negotiations

Background:

The BC Treaty Commission (BCTC) and the treaty negotiations process were established in 1992 by agreement among Canada, B.C., and the First Nations Summit (the Principals).

Treaties are constitutionally protected agreements that set out the relationship between B.C., Canada and a Treaty Nation on governance accountabilities, land ownership, jurisdiction and a broad range of other topics.

Treaties are the most comprehensive form of reconciliation and the embodiment of living relationships between First Nations, B.C. and Canada. Treaties are a mechanism to comprehensively recognize Aboriginal title and rights, and provide for the co-existence of the Crown and First Nation governments and laws.

There are four modern treaties in effect with eight First Nations in B.C.: Nisga'a treaty, Tsawwassen First Nation treaty, the Maa-nulth treaty (five First Nations) and the Tla'amin Nation treaty. The Nisga'a treaty was negotiated outside the British Columbia Treaty Commission process.

Current State of Negotiations:

There are 39 First Nation groups in the BC Treaty Process. Of these, 18 are advancing in the final negotiations stage of the six stage BCTC process. Many of these nations, as well as those in earlier stages of the process, are taking incremental paths towards treaties through Incremental Treaty Agreements (ITAs). ITAs involve the transfer of some benefits, such as Crown land or private land purchases, prior to the final agreement.

Treaty Transformation and Recent Progress:

After the landmark Supreme Court of Canada *Tsilhqot'in* decision in 2014, treaties were viewed by some as being incongruous with case law and the UN Declaration. Following the 2017 provincial election, the provincial government expressed its intent to transform the treaty process through the following commitments:

- Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) mandate letters
- The Principals' Accord on Transforming Treaty Negotiations (2018)
- Recognition and Reconciliation of Rights Policy for Treaty Negotiations in BC (2019)
- Shared Priorities Framework with the Alliance of Modern Treaty Nations, and
- Commitment 4.49 in the Declaration Act Action Plan (2022)

In 2019, the Recognition and Reconciliation of Rights Policy for treaty negotiations in British Columbia (RRR Policy) was endorsed by the Principals (B.C., Canada, First Nations Summit). A central feature of the RRR Policy bases negotiations on the recognition and continuation of rights without those rights being modified, surrendered or extinguished when treaties, agreements or other constructive arrangements are signed or concluded.

The RRR policy enables the co-development of treaty mandates by governments and First Nations, supports incremental, staged or stepping-stone approaches to negotiating treaties, and expresses a willingness to explore new approaches to the negotiation of title through a treaty, rather than having Aboriginal title declared through the courts.

Under the mandate to transform the treaty process and the RRR policy, MIRR and negotiating partners have made progress in a number of key areas, and have developed an emerging new treaty framework based on the vision of treaty as a living relationship that recognizes and affirms Aboriginal Rights and Title, and that can evolve over time. In this new treaty framework, any remaining vestiges of extinguishment are removed. Future treaties will include a clearer approach to Crown consultation obligations to treaty rights, and a greater role for Treaty Nations in lands and natural resources decision making in their territories. These approaches were co-developed with several First Nations at advanced treaty tables.

A number of advancements in treaty negotiations in recent years are in fiscal and tax negotiations. In August 2019 Canada announced a new fiscal policy in partnership with First Nations, which will result in significant increased fiscal resources for self-government. The recently signed Shared Priorities Framework with the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations also committed B.C. to a similar collaborative fiscal process. With respect to tax, Canada recently announced a significant change in its policy approach, which will allow the tax exemption for eligible individuals to continue indefinitely for federal taxes on former reserve lands. This would replace the existing approach in B.C.'s modern treaties. B.C. would also provide that the tax exemption will continue indefinitely for provincial taxes, within the existing provincial approach to treaty tax arrangements. The Ministry of Finance is currently working with the federal government and First Nations to implement these policy shifts in existing and future treaties.

Since 2017, B.C. has diligently assessed mandates for non-treaty agreements against treaty mandates, to avoid situations where transactional, non-treaty agreements contained greater land, cash and resource benefits than would be received in a treaty. These efforts have renewed the focus on treaty making and created a framework for non-treaty and interim treaty agreements to be building blocks for long term comprehensive agreements including treaties.

**Issue/Opportunity:**

Advice/Recommendations; Cabinet Confidences; Intergovernmental Communications

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Advice/Recommendations ; Cabinet Confidences ; Intergovernmental Communications



December 7, 2022

Honourable Murray Rankin  
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Rankin:

Thank you for agreeing to continue to serve as Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. I trust in your leadership at this critical time to deliver results for the people of British Columbia.

British Columbians continue to recover from and respond to the upheaval caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and climate related natural disasters, while global inflation is driving up costs for more households and the world's economic outlook is concerning. Now more than ever, we need to focus on building a secure, low emission, sustainable economy, and a province where everyone can find a good home – whether you live in a rural area, in a city, or in an Indigenous community. We will continue working toward true and meaningful reconciliation by supporting opportunities for Indigenous Peoples to be full partners in the inclusive and sustainable province we are building together.

Our government is committed to delivering on the mandate British Columbians gave us in 2020. Together we can make life better for people in B.C., improve the services we all rely on, and ensure a sustainable province for future generations.

As we renew our work, my priority as Premier is to deliver results that people can see and feel in four key areas:

- **Attainable and affordable housing:** In the wake of soaring prices and record migration to B.C., we will take on the important work of building new homes that are actually attainable for the middle class, while continuing our work to address the housing crisis for those in distress on our streets.

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**Office of the  
Premier**

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PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9E1

**Location:**  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria

- **Safer communities:** To address concerns about public safety, both for the people struggling with mental health and addiction on our streets, as well as the feeling that downtown centres are not as safe as they were before the pandemic, we will work with our partners at all levels of government, the justice and health care systems, the non-profit sector, and community leaders to find solutions for this complex challenge facing our province, and work overtime to seize the assets of high-level criminals.
- **Improved health care:** Amid unprecedented pressures we will continue to work to strengthen our public health care system, from family doctors to new hospitals, so care is there for each of us when we need it.
- **A sustainable, clean, secure, and fair economy:** We will continue our work investing in British Columbians, fighting racism and promoting equity, and building a clean economy that addresses our obligations to combat climate change by driving down emissions, while creating good, family supporting jobs.

Our historic partnership with First Nations leadership to pass the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples into law domestically in British Columbia was groundbreaking – but it was also just the beginning of the journey and work with Indigenous Peoples in our province.

The Action Plan for the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, along with innovative, true, and meaningful reconciliation initiatives with rights and title holders across the province, will be how we will bring to life our commitments under this remarkable legislation in ways that the entire province can see, touch, and feel in their daily lives.

Reconciliation is a shared responsibility and partnerships between all levels of government have the real potential to improve life in communities across the province for everyone. Nobody wins with the uncertainty, enforced poverty, racism, and trauma that comes from our province's shameful history with Indigenous Peoples. The costs of not acknowledging that history are carried not only by Indigenous Peoples, but by all British Columbians.

By resetting our relationships as true partnerships and by recognizing and supporting the jurisdiction and self-determination of Indigenous Peoples to govern their own lives, we ensure Indigenous governments have the resources to deliver services to their communities. Not only can we move forward, we can build a stronger and more prosperous future not just for Indigenous Peoples, but for all British Columbians.

Since 2020, our government has made considerable progress on important initiatives including:

- Establishing the new Declaration Act Secretariat and delivering the Action Plan required under the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.
- Making progress in moving from transactional arrangements to long-term agreements with Indigenous Peoples that support reconciliation.
- Delivering new provincial funding to support and strengthen work to reclaim and revitalize Indigenous cultures, arts, heritage, and First Nations languages.

As you continue to make progress on items in your previous mandate letter, over the remaining period of this mandate I expect you to prioritize making progress on the following:

- Lead work across ministries to implement the *Declaration Act* Action Plan in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples, including reporting annually on progress.
- Through the new *Declaration Act* Secretariat, continue to ensure new legislation and policies are consistent with the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.
- Continue to improve our government's relationships with Indigenous Peoples by moving from short-term transactional arrangements to long-term agreements that recognize and support reconciliation, shared decision-making, self-determination, and economic independence, including advancing work to co-develop the new distinctions-based fiscal relationship with Indigenous Peoples.
- In collaboration with First Nations and with support from the Minister of Housing, lead work to bring the federal government to the table to match our funding to build much-needed housing for Indigenous Peoples both on and off reserve.
- Propose steps to continue increasing the capacity of all ministries to advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.
- Support ministries to implement agreements under Sections 6 and 7 of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* that enable shared statutory decision-making authority, and advance the recognition of First Nations self-determination and Indigenous laws.
- Support the Public Service Agency to increase recruitment and retention of Indigenous Peoples in the public service.

Our work together must continue to evolve to meet the changing needs of people in this province. Issues not contemplated by this letter will come forward for government action and I ask you to bring such matters forward for consideration by the Planning and Priorities Committee of Cabinet, with the expectation that any proposed initiatives will be subject to the usual Cabinet and Treasury Board oversight and include measurable outcomes for British Columbians. Your ministry's priorities must reflect our government's overall strategic plan as determined by Cabinet.

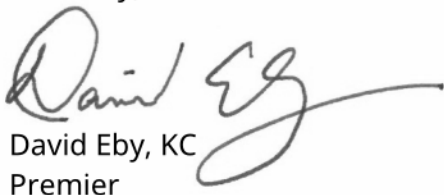
British Columbians expect their elected representatives to work together to advance the public good. That means seeking out, fostering, and championing good ideas regardless of their origin. I expect you to reach out to elected members from all parties as you deliver on your mandate. Further, you will build thoughtful and sustained relationships both with title holders and through public and stakeholder engagement plans that incorporate diverse perspectives early in the policy development process. Federal partnerships and resources will be particularly important and, on behalf of our government, you will engage with the federal government on advancing priorities to improve the lives of British Columbians.

As a Cabinet, we will uphold the highest standards of ethics, collaboration, and good conduct in service of the public, and as a Minister of the Crown, you are expected to review, understand, and act according to the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act*. You will establish a collaborative working relationship with your Deputy Minister, and the public servants under their direction, who provide the professional, non-partisan advice that is fundamental to delivering on our government's priorities. Your Minister's Office must meet the highest standards for integrity and provide a respectful, rewarding environment for all staff.

The rural and urban challenges that we face are urgent and complex. In response, we must be forward-thinking, strategic, and ready to work across disciplines and old divisions in new ways. Labour shortages are a major issue globally, and British Columbia is no exception, including in the public service. Maintaining the BC Public Service as an employer of excellence will be key to retaining and recruiting the diverse professionals we rely on to deliver essential services, advice, and analysis.

At the core of this work is listening and responding to the priorities of people in B.C. Together, we can deliver results in very real ways – ways that people can see, feel, and touch, and that change their lives for the better. Thank you for doing this important work with me.

Sincerely,



David Eby, KC  
Premier

**2019 Legislative Session: 4th Session, 41st Parliament**  
**FIRST READING**

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The following electronic version is for informational purposes only.  
The printed version remains the official version.

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**HONOURABLE SCOTT FRASER**  
**MINISTER OF INDIGENOUS RELATIONS**  
**AND RECONCILIATION**

**BILL 41 – 2019**  
**DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF**  
**INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ACT**

***Contents***

- 1 Interpretation
- 2 Purposes of Act
- 3 Measures to align laws with Declaration
- 4 Action plan
- 5 Annual report
- 6 Agreements
- 7 Decision-making agreements
- 8 *Offence Act*
- 9 Power to make regulations
- 10 Commencement

**Schedule**

**Explanatory Note**

HER MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, enacts as follows:

**Interpretation**

- 1** (1) In this Act:

**"Declaration"** means the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples set out in the Schedule;

**"Indigenous governing body"** means an entity that is authorized to act on behalf of Indigenous peoples that hold rights recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*;

**"Indigenous peoples"** has the same meaning as aboriginal peoples in section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*;

**"statutory power of decision"** has the same meaning as in the *Judicial Review Procedure Act*.

(2) For the purposes of implementing this Act, the government must consider the diversity of the Indigenous peoples in British Columbia, particularly the distinct languages, cultures, customs, practices, rights, legal traditions, institutions, governance structures, relationships to territories and knowledge systems of the Indigenous peoples in British Columbia.

(3) For certainty, nothing in this Act, nor anything done under this Act, abrogates or derogates from the rights recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

(4) Nothing in this Act is to be construed as delaying the application of the Declaration to the laws of British Columbia.

## **Purposes of Act**

**2** The purposes of this Act are as follows:

- (a) to affirm the application of the Declaration to the laws of British Columbia;
- (b) to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration;
- (c) to support the affirmation of, and develop relationships with, Indigenous governing bodies.

## **Measures to align laws with Declaration**

**3** In consultation and cooperation with the Indigenous peoples in British Columbia, the government must take all measures necessary to ensure the laws of British Columbia are consistent with the Declaration.

## **Action plan**

- 4** (1) The government must prepare and implement an action plan to achieve the objectives of the Declaration.
- (2) The action plan must be prepared and implemented in consultation and cooperation with the Indigenous peoples in British Columbia.
- (3) The action plan must contain the date on or before which the government must initiate a review of the action plan.
- (4) After the action plan is prepared, the minister must, as soon as practicable,
- (a) lay the action plan before the Legislative Assembly if the Legislative Assembly is then sitting, or
  - (b) file the action plan with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly if the Legislative Assembly is not sitting.
- (5) The government may prepare a new action plan in accordance with this section.

## **Annual report**

- 5 (1) Each year the minister must prepare a report for the 12-month period ending on March 31.
- (2) The report must be prepared in consultation and cooperation with the Indigenous peoples in British Columbia.
- (3) In the report under subsection (1), the minister must report on the progress that has been made towards implementing the measures referred to in section 3 and achieving the goals in the action plan.
- (4) On or before June 30 in each year, the minister must
- (a) lay the report prepared for the 12-month period ending on March 31 in that year before the Legislative Assembly, if the Legislative Assembly is then sitting, or
  - (b) file the report prepared for the 12-month period ending on March 31 in that year with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, if the Legislative Assembly is not sitting.

## **Agreements**

- 6 (1) For the purposes of this Act, a member of the Executive Council, on behalf of the government, may enter into an agreement with an Indigenous governing body.
- (2) Subsection (1)
- (a) is subject to section 7, and
  - (b) does not limit a power of the member to enter into an agreement under any other enactment.

## **Decision-making agreements**

- 7 (1) For the purposes of reconciliation, the Lieutenant Governor in Council may authorize a member of the Executive Council, on behalf of the government, to negotiate and enter into an agreement with an Indigenous governing body relating to one or both of the following:
- (a) the exercise of a statutory power of decision jointly by
    - (i) the Indigenous governing body, and
    - (ii) the government or another decision-maker;
  - (b) the consent of the Indigenous governing body before the exercise of a statutory power of decision.
- (2) A member authorized under subsection (1) to negotiate an agreement may enter into the agreement without further authorization from the Lieutenant Governor in Council unless the Lieutenant Governor in Council restricts the initial authorization to only the negotiation of the agreement.
- (3) Within 15 days after the Lieutenant Governor in Council authorizes the member to negotiate an agreement under subsection (1), the member must

make public a summary of the local governments and other persons the member intends to consult before or during the negotiation.

(4) An agreement entered into under subsection (1)

(a) must be published in the Gazette, and

(b) is not effective until the agreement is published in the Gazette or a later date specified in the agreement.

(5) For certainty, subsection (4) applies to an agreement that amends an agreement entered into under subsection (1).

### ***Offence Act***

8 Section 5 of the *Offence Act* does not apply to this Act.

### **Power to make regulations**

9 The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations referred to in section 41 of the *Interpretation Act*.

### **Commencement**

10 This Act comes into force on the date of Royal Assent.

## **SCHEDULE**

*(Section 1)*

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

### **Resolution adopted by the General Assembly**

*[without reference to a Main Committee (A/61/L.67 and Add.1)]*

### **61/295. United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

*The General Assembly,*

*Taking note* of the recommendation of the Human Rights Council contained in its resolution 1/2 of 29 June 2006,<sup>1</sup> by which the Council adopted the text of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

*Recalling* its resolution 61/178 of 20 December 2006, by which it decided to defer consideration of and action on the Declaration to allow time for further consultations thereon, and also decided to conclude its consideration before the end of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly,

*Adopts* the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as contained in the annex to the present resolution.

*107th plenary meeting*

*13 September 2007*

## **Annex**

### **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

*The General Assembly,*

*Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and good faith in the fulfilment of the obligations assumed by States in accordance with the Charter,*

*Affirming that indigenous peoples are equal to all other peoples, while recognizing the right of all peoples to be different, to consider themselves different, and to be respected as such,*

*Affirming also that all peoples contribute to the diversity and richness of civilizations and cultures, which constitute the common heritage of humankind,*

*Affirming further that all doctrines, policies and practices based on or advocating superiority of peoples or individuals on the basis of national origin or racial, religious, ethnic or cultural differences are racist, scientifically false, legally invalid, morally condemnable and socially unjust,*

*Reaffirming that indigenous peoples, in the exercise of their rights, should be free from discrimination of any kind,*

*Concerned that indigenous peoples have suffered from historic injustices as a result of, inter alia, their colonization and dispossession of their lands, territories and resources, thus preventing them from exercising, in particular, their right to development in accordance with their own needs and interests,*

*Recognizing the urgent need to respect and promote the inherent rights of indigenous peoples which derive from their political, economic and social structures and from their cultures, spiritual traditions, histories and philosophies, especially their rights to their lands, territories and resources,*

*Recognizing also the urgent need to respect and promote the rights of indigenous peoples affirmed in treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements with States,*

*Welcoming the fact that indigenous peoples are organizing themselves for political, economic, social and cultural enhancement and in order to bring to an end all forms of discrimination and oppression wherever they occur,*

*Convinced that control by indigenous peoples over developments affecting them and their lands, territories and resources will enable them to maintain and strengthen their institutions, cultures and traditions, and to promote their development in accordance with their aspirations and needs,*

*Recognizing that respect for indigenous knowledge, cultures and traditional practices contributes to sustainable and equitable development and proper management of the environment,*

*Emphasizing the contribution of the demilitarization of the lands and territories of indigenous peoples to peace, economic and social progress and development, understanding and friendly relations among nations and peoples of the world,*

*Recognizing in particular* the right of indigenous families and communities to retain shared responsibility for the upbringing, training, education and well-being of their children, consistent with the rights of the child,

*Considering* that the rights affirmed in treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements between States and indigenous peoples are, in some situations, matters of international concern, interest, responsibility and character,

*Considering also* that treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements, and the relationship they represent, are the basis for a strengthened partnership between indigenous peoples and States,

*Acknowledging* that the Charter of the United Nations, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>2</sup> and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>2</sup> as well as the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,<sup>3</sup> affirm the fundamental importance of the right to self-determination of all peoples, by virtue of which they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development,

*Bearing in mind* that nothing in this Declaration may be used to deny any peoples their right to self-determination, exercised in conformity with international law,

*Convinced* that the recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples in this Declaration will enhance harmonious and cooperative relations between the State and indigenous peoples, based on principles of justice, democracy, respect for human rights, non-discrimination and good faith,

*Encouraging* States to comply with and effectively implement all their obligations as they apply to indigenous peoples under international instruments, in particular those related to human rights, in consultation and cooperation with the peoples concerned,

*Emphasizing* that the United Nations has an important and continuing role to play in promoting and protecting the rights of indigenous peoples,

*Believing* that this Declaration is a further important step forward for the recognition, promotion and protection of the rights and freedoms of indigenous peoples and in the development of relevant activities of the United Nations system in this field,

*Recognizing and reaffirming* that indigenous individuals are entitled without discrimination to all human rights recognized in international law, and that indigenous peoples possess collective rights which are indispensable for their existence, well-being and integral development as peoples,

*Recognizing* that the situation of indigenous peoples varies from region to region and from country to country and that the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical and cultural backgrounds should be taken into consideration,

*Solemnly proclaims* the following United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a standard of achievement to be pursued in a spirit of partnership and mutual respect:

#### *Article 1*

Indigenous peoples have the right to the full enjoyment, as a collective or as individuals, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms as recognized in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>4</sup> and international human rights law.

#### *Article 2*

Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, in the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their indigenous origin or identity.

#### *Article 3*

Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

#### *Article 4*

Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.

#### *Article 5*

Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.

#### *Article 6*

Every indigenous individual has the right to a nationality.

#### *Article 7*

1. Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.
2. Indigenous peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group.

#### *Article 8*

1. Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture.
2. States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for:
  - (a) Any action which has the aim or effect of depriving them of their integrity as distinct peoples, or of their cultural values or ethnic identities;

- (b) Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources;
- (c) Any form of forced population transfer which has the aim or effect of violating or undermining any of their rights;
- (d) Any form of forced assimilation or integration;
- (e) Any form of propaganda designed to promote or incite racial or ethnic discrimination directed against them.

#### *Article 9*

Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right to belong to an indigenous community or nation, in accordance with the traditions and customs of the community or nation concerned. No discrimination of any kind may arise from the exercise of such a right.

#### *Article 10*

Indigenous peoples shall not be forcibly removed from their lands or territories. No relocation shall take place without the free, prior and informed consent of the indigenous peoples concerned and after agreement on just and fair compensation and, where possible, with the option of return.

#### *Article 11*

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to practise and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artefacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies and visual and performing arts and literature.
2. States shall provide redress through effective mechanisms, which may include restitution, developed in conjunction with indigenous peoples, with respect to their cultural, intellectual, religious and spiritual property taken without their free, prior and informed consent or in violation of their laws, traditions and customs.

#### *Article 12*

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to manifest, practise, develop and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, customs and ceremonies; the right to maintain, protect, and have access in privacy to their religious and cultural sites; the right to the use and control of their ceremonial objects; and the right to the repatriation of their human remains.
2. States shall seek to enable the access and/or repatriation of ceremonial objects and human remains in their possession through fair, transparent and effective mechanisms developed in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned.

#### *Article 13*

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons.
2. States shall take effective measures to ensure that this right is protected and also to ensure that indigenous peoples can understand and be understood in political, legal and administrative proceedings, where necessary through the provision of interpretation or by other appropriate means.

#### *Article 14*

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning.
2. Indigenous individuals, particularly children, have the right to all levels and forms of education of the State without discrimination.
3. States shall, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, take effective measures, in order for indigenous individuals, particularly children, including those living outside their communities, to have access, when possible, to an education in their own culture and provided in their own language.

#### *Article 15*

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information.
2. States shall take effective measures, in consultation and cooperation with the indigenous peoples concerned, to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination and to promote tolerance, understanding and good relations among indigenous peoples and all other segments of society.

#### *Article 16*

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to establish their own media in their own languages and to have access to all forms of non-indigenous media without discrimination.
2. States shall take effective measures to ensure that State-owned media duly reflect indigenous cultural diversity. States, without prejudice to ensuring full freedom of expression, should encourage privately owned media to adequately reflect indigenous cultural diversity.

#### *Article 17*

1. Indigenous individuals and peoples have the right to enjoy fully all rights established under applicable international and domestic labour law.
2. States shall in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples take specific measures to protect indigenous children from economic exploitation and from

performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development, taking into account their special vulnerability and the importance of education for their empowerment.

3. Indigenous individuals have the right not to be subjected to any discriminatory conditions of labour and, inter alia, employment or salary.

#### *Article 18*

Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.

#### *Article 19*

States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.

#### *Article 20*

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and develop their political, economic and social systems or institutions, to be secure in the enjoyment of their own means of subsistence and development, and to engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities.
2. Indigenous peoples deprived of their means of subsistence and development are entitled to just and fair redress.

#### *Article 21*

1. Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.
2. States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.

#### *Article 22*

1. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities in the implementation of this Declaration.
2. States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all

forms of violence and discrimination.

#### *Article 23*

Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.

#### *Article 24*

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices, including the conservation of their vital medicinal plants, animals and minerals. Indigenous individuals also have the right to access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services.
2. Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States shall take the necessary steps with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of this right.

#### *Article 25*

Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.

#### *Article 26*

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.
2. Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.
3. States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.

#### *Article 27*

States shall establish and implement, in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned, a fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent process, giving due recognition to indigenous peoples' laws, traditions, customs and land tenure systems, to recognize and adjudicate the rights of indigenous peoples pertaining to their lands, territories and resources, including those which were traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used. Indigenous peoples shall have the right to participate in this process.

#### *Article 28*

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to redress, by means that can include restitution or, when this is not possible, just, fair and equitable compensation, for the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used, and which have been confiscated, taken, occupied, used or damaged without their free, prior and informed consent.
2. Unless otherwise freely agreed upon by the peoples concerned, compensation shall take the form of lands, territories and resources equal in quality, size and legal status or of monetary compensation or other appropriate redress.

#### *Article 29*

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.
2. States shall take effective measures to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent.
3. States shall also take effective measures to ensure, as needed, that programmes for monitoring, maintaining and restoring the health of indigenous peoples, as developed and implemented by the peoples affected by such materials, are duly implemented.

#### *Article 30*

1. Military activities shall not take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples, unless justified by a relevant public interest or otherwise freely agreed with or requested by the indigenous peoples concerned.
2. States shall undertake effective consultations with the indigenous peoples concerned, through appropriate procedures and in particular through their representative institutions, prior to using their lands or territories for military activities.

#### *Article 31*

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions.
2. In conjunction with indigenous peoples, States shall take effective measures to recognize and protect the exercise of these rights.

#### *Article 32*

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.
2. States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.
3. States shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities, and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact.

#### *Article 33*

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine their own identity or membership in accordance with their customs and traditions. This does not impair the right of indigenous individuals to obtain citizenship of the States in which they live.
2. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine the structures and to select the membership of their institutions in accordance with their own procedures.

#### *Article 34*

Indigenous peoples have the right to promote, develop and maintain their institutional structures and their distinctive customs, spirituality, traditions, procedures, practices and, in the cases where they exist, juridical systems or customs, in accordance with international human rights standards.

#### *Article 35*

Indigenous peoples have the right to determine the responsibilities of individuals to their communities.

#### *Article 36*

1. Indigenous peoples, in particular those divided by international borders, have the right to maintain and develop contacts, relations and cooperation, including activities for spiritual, cultural, political, economic and social purposes, with their own members as well as other peoples across borders.
2. States, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, shall take effective measures to facilitate the exercise and ensure the implementation of this right.

#### *Article 37*

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the recognition, observance and enforcement of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements concluded with States or their successors and to have States honour and respect such treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements.
2. Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as diminishing or eliminating the rights of indigenous peoples contained in treaties, agreements and other constructive

arrangements.

*Article 38*

States, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, shall take the appropriate measures, including legislative measures, to achieve the ends of this Declaration.

*Article 39*

Indigenous peoples have the right to have access to financial and technical assistance from States and through international cooperation, for the enjoyment of the rights contained in this Declaration.

*Article 40*

Indigenous peoples have the right to access to and prompt decision through just and fair procedures for the resolution of conflicts and disputes with States or other parties, as well as to effective remedies for all infringements of their individual and collective rights. Such a decision shall give due consideration to the customs, traditions, rules and legal systems of the indigenous peoples concerned and international human rights.

*Article 41*

The organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations shall contribute to the full realization of the provisions of this Declaration through the mobilization, inter alia, of financial cooperation and technical assistance. Ways and means of ensuring participation of indigenous peoples on issues affecting them shall be established.

*Article 42*

The United Nations, its bodies, including the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and specialized agencies, including at the country level, and States shall promote respect for and full application of the provisions of this Declaration and follow up the effectiveness of this Declaration.

*Article 43*

The rights recognized herein constitute the minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the indigenous peoples of the world.

*Article 44*

All the rights and freedoms recognized herein are equally guaranteed to male and female indigenous individuals.

*Article 45*

Nothing in this Declaration may be construed as diminishing or extinguishing the rights indigenous peoples have now or may acquire in the future.

*Article 46*

1. Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, people, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act contrary to the Charter of the United Nations or construed as authorizing or encouraging any action which would dismember or impair, totally or in part, the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign and independent States.
2. In the exercise of the rights enunciated in the present Declaration, human rights and fundamental freedoms of all shall be respected. The exercise of the rights set forth in this Declaration shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law and in accordance with international human rights obligations. Any such limitations shall be non-discriminatory and strictly necessary solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and for meeting the just and most compelling requirements of a democratic society.
3. The provisions set forth in this Declaration shall be interpreted in accordance with the principles of justice, democracy, respect for human rights, equality, non-discrimination, good governance and good faith.

<sup>1</sup> See Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/61/53), part one, chap. II, sect. A.

<sup>2</sup> See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

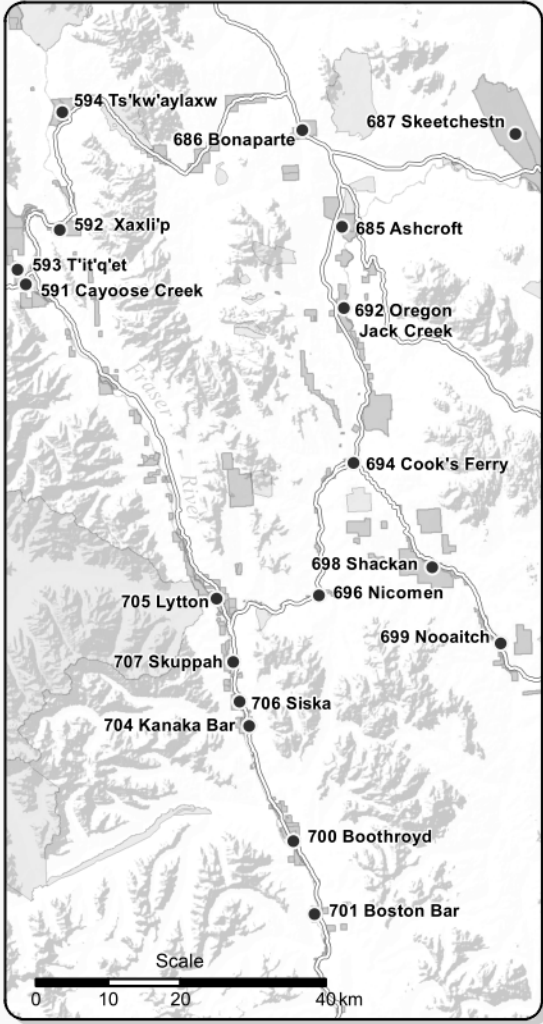
<sup>3</sup> A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

<sup>4</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

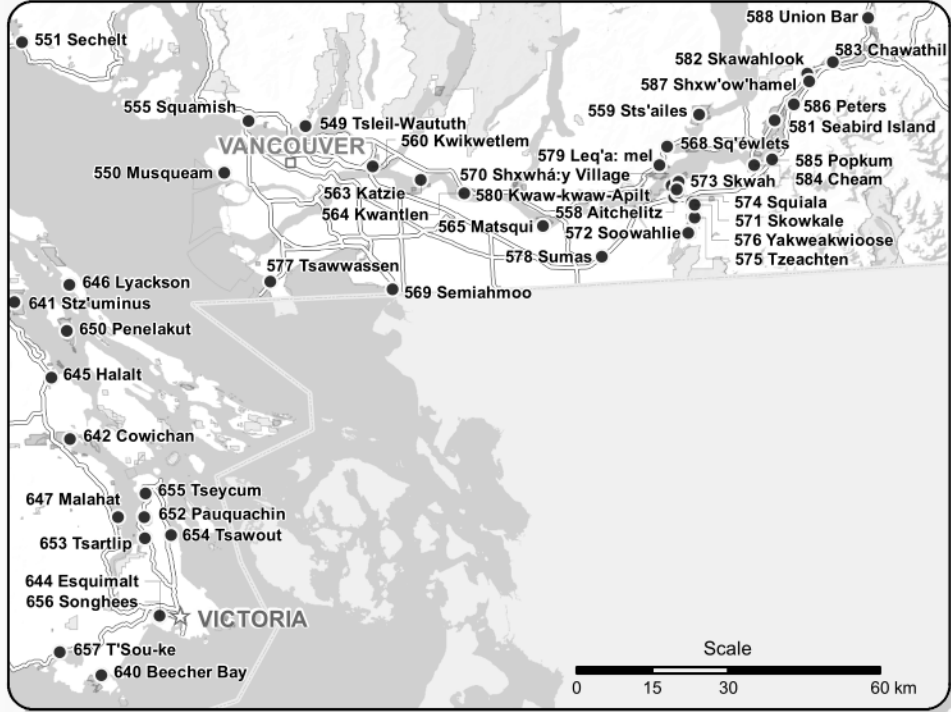
### **Explanatory Note**

This Bill requires the government to take all measures necessary to ensure the laws of British Columbia are consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to prepare and implement an action plan to achieve the objectives of the Declaration. The minister must report annually on the progress that has been made towards implementing the necessary measures and achieving the goals in the action plan. The Bill also provides for agreements to be entered into with Indigenous governing bodies, including agreements relating to the exercise of a statutory power of decision.

Inset 1

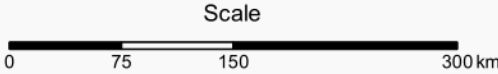


Inset 2



**ISC** INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA

# First Nations in British Columbia



- Location of First Nation's Main Community
- Indian Reserve
- City or Town
- Park and Protected Area



## **A Guide to the Pronunciation of Indigenous Communities and Organizations in BC**

The Pronunciation Guide offered below is from the *September 2018 Guide to Aboriginal Organizations and Services in British Columbia*. Please note there may be some variation from this version due to periodic updates that have occurred since then. For changes, please email: [IRRinfo@gov.bc.ca](mailto:IRRinfo@gov.bc.ca).

This Guide contains aids to the pronunciation of communities and organizations listed in the Excel Database "[\*Guide to Indigenous Organizations and Services in British Columbia\*](#)" (Previously known as *The Guide to Aboriginal Organizations and Services in British Columbia*). The original Pronunciation Guide was created with input from First Nations and other Aboriginal organizations, as well as from the First Peoples' Cultural Council.

British Columbia has a vast wealth of First Nations languages and cultures. There are 7 distinct language families, completely unrelated to each other. Within these families there are 34 different First Nations languages and at least 93 different dialects (varieties) of those languages. Besides these 34 living languages, at least three languages which were spoken in British Columbia are now sleeping.<sup>1</sup> All of these languages contain a rich inventory of sounds, many of which are not found in English.

When preparing this Guide, we asked representatives to help us understand how to pronounce the traditional name of their community or organization. The pronunciation equivalents we have developed here are meant as an introductory guide. The final authority on a pronunciation rests with the community. We encourage you to gain a first-hand understanding of how a name is pronounced by speaking directly with, and being guided by, representatives from each community.

Please note that many sounds in First Nations' languages do not occur in English and so cannot be expressed using the English writing system. Additionally, there are often multiple variations of a pronunciation based on dialectal and other differences. The pronunciations represented below come as close as possible to the correct pronunciation, while being restrained to the English alphabet. A few of the letter combinations below are used to represent specific sounds not found in English. These are:

"wh" represents a breathy 'wh' sound that is pronounced with friction in the throat.

"thl" represents a breathy 'l' sound with friction in the mouth, similar to the l in 'athlete'

"ts" at the beginning of a word sounds like the 'ts' in 'cats'

First Nation communities and organizations continue to adopt Indigenous names distinct from anglicized versions or non-indigenous names. You will also find we have included several names that are cross-referenced with traditional or alternative names in brackets that may not appear in the Excel database, but may continue to be used in communities.

For more information about First Nations' languages in British Columbia, please visit the First Peoples' Cultural Council's website ([www.fpcc.ca](http://www.fpcc.ca)), or the First Peoples' Language Map of B.C. (<http://www.maps.fphlcc.ca/>).

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<sup>1</sup> This information is taken from FPCC's paper "Recognizing the Diversity of BC's First Nations Languages"

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Your comments and suggestions for improvement are welcome. Please email:

[ABRInfo@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ABRInfo@gov.bc.ca)  
Socio-Economic Partnerships Branch  
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Name of Organization	Alternate or Previous Name	Pronunciation
?aqam	St. Mary's Band	
?Esdilagh First Nation	Alexandria Indian Band	ess-dey-la
Ahousaht First Nation		a-howz-at
Ahousaht Holistic Centre		a-howz-at
Aitchelitz Band		a-che-leetz
Akisqnuk First Nation	Columbia Lake First Nation	a-kissk-nook
Akisqnuk Health Resource Centre		a-kissk-nook
Alberni Clayoquot Métis Association		may-tee
Ashcroft and District Métis Association		may-tee
A-Tlegay Fisheries Society		at-le-gay
Ayas Men Men Child & Family Services		ay-es mun mun
BC Métis Association		May-tee
Bonaparte Indian Band		bone-eh-part
Boothroyd Band		booth-roid
Boundary Community Métis Association		Boundary Community Métis Association
Boundary Community Métis Association		may-tee
Cariboo Chilcotin Métis Association		may-tee
Carrier Chilcotin Tribal Council		carry-er chill-ko-tin
Carrier Sekani Family Services		carry-er sek-an-ee
Carrier Sekani Tribal Council		carry-er sek-an-ee
Cayoose Creek Band		kai-yuse creek
Champagne and Aishihik First Nations		sham-pane and eh-zhee-ack
Chawathil First Nation	formerly Hope Indian Band	cha-wah-thul
Cheam First Nation		chee-am
Chemainus First Nation	see Stz'uminus First Nation	Cha-main-us
Cheslatta Carrier Nation		chess-la-ta
Chilliwack Métis Association		may-tee
Ch'nook Indigenous Business Education		Chi-nook
Chrysalis Society		Kris-Sull-Iss
Columbia Valley Métis Association		may-tee

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Conayt Friendship Society		kon-ate or kun-ate
Conayt Housing		kon-ate or kun-ate
Coqualeetza Cultural Education Centre		co-ka-leetz-a
Council of the Haida Nation		hy-dah
Cowichan Tribes		cow-i-chin
Cowichan Valley Métis Nation		cow-i-chin / may-tee
Cwenengitel Aboriginal Society		kwa-nin-cha-tul
Dana Naye Ventures		da-na-nay
Da'naxda'xw First Nation	Tanakteuk Indian Band	da-naw-dawh
Daylu Dena Council	formerly Lower Post First Nation	day-lou den-a
Dene Tsaa Tse K'Nai First Nation	see Prophet River First Nation	de-ne tsah tsay k-nai
Denisiqi Services Society		den-ne-se-kai
Ditidaht First Nation	formerly Nitinaht First Nation	dee-tee-dot
Dzawada'enuxw First Nation	formerly Tsawataineuk First Nation	dza-wah-day-noowh
Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre Society		zel-kant
Ehattesaht First Nation		ee-hat-a-sut
Elk Valley Métis Association		may-tee
En'owkin Centre	Okanagan Indian Educational Resources Society	en-ow-kin
Esk'etemc		ess-ke-tem
Esquimalt Nation		es-kwai-malt
Fort Nelson Métis Society		may-tee
Fort St. John Métis Society		may-tee
Fraser Valley Métis Association		may-tee
Gitanmaax Band Council		git-n-max
Gitanyow Band Council		git-n-yow
Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs' Office		git-n-yow
Gitga'at First Nation	Hartley Bay Band Council	git-gat
Gitksan Watershed Authorities		gicks-san
Gitksan Wet'suwet'en Education Society		gicks-san wet-so-a-den
Gitmaxmak'ay Nisga'a Prince Rupert/Port Edward Society		git-ma-mgai nis-gah
Gitsegukla Band Council		gits-a guk-la
Gitwangak Band Council		git-wan-gawk
Gitxaala Nation	formerly Kitkatla First Nation	git-gath-la
Gitxsan Child and Family Services Society		gicks-san

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Gitxsan Government Commission		gicks-san
Gitxsan Health Society		gicks-san
Gitxsan Hereditary Chiefs' Office		gicks-san
Gitxsan Treaty Society		gicks-san
Gitxsan Unlocking Aboriginal Justice		gicks-san
Gitxsan Watershed Authorities		gicks-san
Golden Ears Métis Society		may-tee
Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nation	Tsulquate Band	gwa-sal-a nawk-wa-dawh
Gwawaenuk Tribe		gwah-way-ee-nook
Gya' Wa' Tlaab Healing Centre Society		geeya-wah-tlawb
Hagwilget Village Council		hag-wil-git
Haida Child and Family Services Society		hy-day gwai
Haida Gwaii Community Futures		hy-day gwai
Haida Gwaii Restorative Justice, c/o Haida Tribal Society		hy-day gwai
Haisla Nation Council	Haisla Nation, Kitamaat Village Council	High-sla
Halalt First Nation		hull-alt
Ha-Shilth-Sa Newspaper		ha-shilth-sa
Heiltsuk Cultural Education Centre		helts-uk
Heiltsuk Kaxla Society		helts-uk kaks-la
Heiltsuk Nation	formerly Bella Bella Indian Band	helts-uk
Heiltsuk Tribal Council		helts-uk
Hesquiaht First Nation		hesh-qwee-at
Hiiye'yu Lelum (House of Friendship) Society		he-yay-ya lay-lum
Homalco First Nation		hoe-mall-co
Hulitan Family and Community Services Society		hull-eet-n
Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group		hull-kuh-mee-num
Hupacasath First Nation		ho-putch-eh-set
Huu-ay-aht Development Corporation		ho-ay-at
Huu-ay-aht First Nations		ho-ay-at
In-SHUCK-ch Nation		in-shuck-sh
Interior Métis Child and Family Services		may-tee

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Iskut Band Council		isk-cut or Alternate of is-koot
Island Métis Family and Community Services Society		may-tee
K'ómoks First Nation		co-mox
Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k:tləs7et'h' First Nation	Kyuquot Native Tribe	kai-you-cut / sheh-kluh-szet alternatively kai-you-cut /chek-tluh-set
Kackaamin Family Development Centre Association		ka-kaah-min
Kanaka Bar Indian Band		can-a-ka bar
Kaska Dena Council		kas-ka
Katzie First Nation		kat-zee
Kekinow Native Housing Society		kee-kin-oh
Kekuli Centre		keh-koo-lee
Kelowna Métis Association		may-tee
Kikino Métis Children & Family Services		kee-kin-oh
Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society		key-low-nah
Kispiox Band Council		kiss-pea-ox
Kitasoo Band Council	Klemtu Band	ki-ta-soo
Kitkatla First Nation	see Gitxaala Nation	kit-cat-la
Kitselas First Nation		kit-sel-us
Kitselas Treaty and Resource Office		kit-sel-us
Kitsumkalum First Nation		kits-um-kale-um
Kitsumkalum Health Centre		kits-um-kale-um
Kitsumkalum Treaty Office		kits-um-kale-um
Klahoose First Nation		kla-hoose
Kluskus Indian Band	see Lhoosk'uz Dené Nation	looze-k' U z
Knucwentwecw Society		kanuk-when-twah
Kootenay South Métis Society		may-tee
Ksan Historical Village and Museum		Ka-san (also gicks-san?)
Ktunaxa Kinbasket Aboriginal Training Council (KKATC)		te-nawh-ha Kinbasket
Ktunaxa Kinbasket Treaty Council		te-nawh-ha Kinbasket
Ktunaxa Nation Council (KNC)		te-nah-ha alternatively k-too-nah-ha
Ktunaxa/Kinbasket Child & Family Services		te-nah-ha / kinbasket

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KUU-US Crisis Line Society		koo-us
Kwadacha Nation	Fort Ware Indian Band	kwa-da-chuh
Kwakiutl Band Council		kwa-gul
Kwakiutl District Council		kwa-gul
Kwakiutl District Council Health (KDC Health)		kwa-gul
Kwantlen First Nation	Fort Langley Band	kwant-len
Kwaw-kwaw-apilt First Nation		kwa-kwa-plit
Kwiakah First Nation		kway-ka
Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation		quick-wa-sut-uh-nook / ha-kwuh-meesh
Kwikwetlem First Nation		kwee-kwet-lum
Kw'umut Lelum Child & Family Services		kwa-mut lay-lum
Laich-Kwil-Tach Treaty Society		lee-kwa-ta
Laichwiltach Family Life Society		lee-kwa-ta
Lake Cowichan First Nation		cow-i-chin
Lalum'utul' Smun'eem Child and Family Services		lay-lum-atul smah-nawm
LÁU,WELNEW Tribal School		lhay-wull-nough
Lax Kw'alaams Band		lacks-qwah-lambs
Laxgalts'ap Village Government		lax-galt-sap
Leq'á:mel First Nation		la-cam-el
Lheidli-T'enneh Band		clayt-clay den-ay
Lheidli-T'enneh Natural Resource Office		clayt-clay den-ay
Lhoosk'uz Dené Nation		looze-k' U z den-ay
Lhtako Dene Nation	Red Bluff Band Office	lah-ta-ko den-ay
Liard First Nation		lee-ard
Lil'wat Nation		lil-watt
Little Shuswap Indian Band		shoo-shwahp
Lower Similkameen Indian Band		si-mil-kuh-meen
Lyackson First Nation		lye-ack-son
Maa-Nulth First Nations		maw-nawlth
Maiyoo Keyoh Society		My-you Kay-yo
M'akola Housing Society		ma-ko-la
Mamalilikulla First Nation	Mamalilikulla-Qwe'Qwa'Sot'Em Band	ma-ma-leelah-kwalah kwe-kwah-sum
Matsqui First Nation		mats-sqwee

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Métis Commission for Children and Families of BC		may-tee
Métis Community Services Society of BC		may-tee
Métis Employment and Training Program		may-tee
Métis Family Services		may-tee
Métis Matters Radio Show		may-tee
Métis Nation BC		may-tee
Métis Nation Columbia River Society		may-tee
Métis Nation of Greater Victoria		may-tee
Métis Women of British Columbia		may-tee
Metlakatla Governing Council		met-la-cat-la
Metlakatla Treaty Office		met-la-cat-la
Mid-Island Métis Nation Association		may-tee
MIKI'SIW Métis Association		may-tee
Moccasin Flat's Métis Society		may-tee
Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation		mo-which-it/much-a-lit
Musgamagw Tsawataineuk Tribal Council		moos-ga-muk zow-wa-dane-nook
Musqueam Indian Band		mus-kwee-um
Nadleh Whut'en Band		nad-lee woo-ten
Nak'azdli Alternate Justice Centre		na-caused-lee
Nak'azdli Band	Necosli Band	na-caused-lee
'Namgis Community Services		nhum-geez
'Namgis First Nation		nhum-geez
'Namgis Health Centre		nhum-geez
Nanoose Te'mexw Treaty Association		na-noose tey-muck
Nat'oot'ten Nation	see Lake Babine Nation	nad-oo-ten
Naut'sa mawt Resources Group, Inc.		nawt-saw-mawt
Naut'sa mawt Tribal Council		nawt-saw-mawt
Nawican Friendship Centre		now-i-kin
Nazko First Nation		nazz-co
Nazko Treaty Office		nazz-co
Nee-Tahi-Buhn Indian Band		knee-tie-boon
Nelson and Area Métis Society		may-tee
Nenqayni Wellness Centre Society		nen-ky-knee
Neskonlith Indian Band		ness-con-lith
New Aiyansh Village Government		new eye-annch

## A Guide to the Pronunciation of Indigenous Communities and Organizations in BC

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Nezul Be Hunuyeh Child & Family Services Society		nezul bay hun-yeah
Nicola Valley & District Métis Society		may-tee
Nicomen Indian Band		ni-kuh-men
NIL/TU,O Child & Family Services Society		neeth-two-wa
Nisga'a Lisims Government		nis-gah liss-ums
Nis'ga'a Ts'amiks Vancouver Society		nis-gah tsa-miks
Nisga'a Valley Health Authority		nis-gah
Nisga'a Village of Gingolx		nis-gah / gin-gol-lix
Nisga'a Child & Family Services		nis-gah
Nisga'a Village of Gitwinksihlkw		nis-gah / git-win-silk
Nitinaht First Nation	see Ditidaht First Nation	dee-tee-dot
Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council		ent-la-cap-um
NIha'7kapmx Child & Family Services		ent-la-cap-um
Nooaitch Indian Band		new-ich
North Cariboo Métis Association		may-tee
North East Métis Association		may-tee
North Fraser Métis Association		may-tee
North Island Métis Nation		may-tee
North West BC Métis Association		may-tee
Northern Shuswap Tribal Council	Northern Secwepemc te Quelmucw	shoo-shwahp
Northwest BC Métis Association		may-tee
N'Quatqua First Nations		neh-qwa-qwa
Nuchatlaht First Nation		new-chat-lat
Nupqu Development Corporation		noop-ku
Nuu-chah-nulth		new-chaw-nulth
Nuu-chah-nulth Child and Family Services		new-chaw-nulth
Nuu-chah-nulth Economic Development Corporation		new-cha-nulth
Nuu-chah-nulth NIHB		new-chaw-nulth
Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council		new-chaw-nulth
Nuxalk Nation	Bella Coola First Nation	new-hawk
Office of the Wet'suwet'en		wet-so-a-den
Okanagan Métis & Aboriginal Housing Society		may-tee
OoknaKane Friendship Centre		ooka-na-cane
Osoyoos Indian Band		oh-soy-use

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Oweekeno Nation	See Wuikinuxv Nation	whee-kin-au
Pacheedaht First Nation		pah-chee-dat
Pauquachin First Nation		paw-kwi-chin
Pauquachin Health Centre		paw-kwi-chin
Penelakut Tribe		pen-el-a-cut
Popkum First Nation	c/o Sto:lo Nation	pop-kwum
Powell River Métis Society		may-tee
Prince George Métis Community Association		may-tee
Prince Rupert & District Metis Community		may-tee
Prophet River First Nation	Dene Tsaa Tse K'Nai First Nation	de-ne tsah tsay k-nai
Qayqayt First Nation	New Westminster Indian Band	key-kite
Qualicum First Nation		kwai-i-come
Quatsino First Nation		quat-see-know
Quesnel Tillicum Society Native Friendship Centre		qwi-nel till-i-kum
Quw'utsun Syuw'entst Lelum' Culture and Education Centre		ko-whuts-sun swents lay-lum
Qwallayuw Head Start		qkwell-eye-you
Rocky Mountain Métis Association		may-tee
Saik'uz First Nation		sigh-cuz
Sal'i'shan Institute		sal-i-shan
Salmon Arm Métis Association		may-tee
Saulteau First Nation		so-tow
Scia'new First Nation	Beecher Bay First Nation	chee-a-new
Scia'new Treaty Office		chee-a-new
Scw'exmx Child and Family Services Society		shwa-come
Scw'exmx Community Health Services Society		shwa-come
Sechelt Indian Band Child & Family Services		see-shelt
Secwepemc Child and Family Services Agency		sec-wep-emc
Secwepemc Cultural Education Society		sec-wep-emc
Semiahmoo First Nation		semi-ah-moo
Sexqeltqin Health Centre		se-kell-keen
Shackan Indian Band		shack-n

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shíshálh Nation	Sechelt Indian Band	see-shelt
Shuswap Family Resource and Referral Centre		shoo-shwahp
Shuswap Indian Band		shoo-shwahp
Shuswap Nation Tribal Council		shoo-shwahp
Shxw'whámél First Nation		shwah-ham-ul
Shxwha:y Village	Skway First Nation	shwhy
Simpcw First Nation	North Thompson Indian Band	sim-ka
Siska Indian Band		sis-ka
Skatin Nations		skah-teen
Skawahlook First Nation		skow-look
Skidegate Band Council		skid-eh-get
Skin Tyee Nation		skin-tye-ee
Skowkale First Nation		skow-cale
Skuppah Indian Band		scup-pa
Skwah First Nation		skwah
Skway First Nation	see Shxwha:y Village	sh-why
Slelemw Child Development Centre		sull-ay-mu
Sliammon Development Corporation		sly-am-mon
Snaw-Naw-As First Nation	see Nanoose First Nation	snaw-naw-as
Snaza'ist Discovery Centre		snaw-zay-ist
Snc'c'amala?tn Okanagan Indian Band Early Childhood Education Centre		sun-chich-she-mall-it-ton
Snuneymuxw First Nation		snue-ney-mowck
Snuneymuxw First Nation Health Centre		snue-ney-mowck
Songhees Nation		song-geez
Songhees Treaty Office		song-geez
Soowahlie Indian Band		sue-wall-e
South Okanagan Similkameen Métis Association		si-mil-kuh-meen
Southern Stl'atl'imx Health Society		stat-lee-um
Splatsin	Spallumcheen Indian Band	spla-cheen
Spuzzum First Nation		spuz-zum
Sqewlets First Nation	Scowlitz First Nation	scow-litz
Squamish Nation		squa-mish
Squamish Ocean Canoe Family		squa-mish
Squiala First Nation		skwai-all-a
Stellat'en First Nation		stull-a-tin

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Stitsma Employment Centre		schtitz-ma
Sto:lo Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training		staw-low
Sto:lo Nation Community Development Department and Qwi:Qwelstom		staw-low
Sto:lo Nation Health Services		staw-low
Sto:lo Nation Society		staw-low
Sto:lo Tribal Council		staw-low
Stó:lo Xwexwilmexw Treaty Association		Staw-low
Sts'ailes	formerly Chehalis Indian Band	sta-ay-liss
Stswecem'c -Xgat'tem First Nation	Canoe Creek Band	St-wet-lem hight-lem
Stu"ate LeLum Secondary School		stu-eight lay-lum
Stz'uminus First Nation	Chemainus First Nation	sha-main-us
Sulsila Lelum Wellness Centre Society		sawl-see-la-lee-lum
Sumas First Nation		sue-mas
Tahltan Band		tall-tan
Tahltan Health and Social Services Authority		tall-tan
Takla Lake First Nation		tack-lah
Taku River Tlingit First Nation		ta-koo-river tling-get
Tale'awtxw Aboriginal Capital Corporation		tah-la-hout
Tansi Friendship Centre Society		tawn-say
Te'mexw Treaty Association		tey-muck
T'exelc Treaty	Williams Lake Indian Band	teh-huwl
Tillicum Lelum Aboriginal Friendship Centre		till-i-kum lay-lum
T'it'q'et Administration		tilth-kit
Tla'amin Health	Tla'amin Community Health Services	sly-am-mon
Tla'amin Nation		sly-am-mon
Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation		klay-o-kwee-at
Tlatlasikwala First Nation	Nuwitti Band	tla-tla-see-kwa-la
Tl'azt'en Nation		tlaz-den
Tl'etinqox-T'in Government Office		kleh-deen-ko-teen
Tlowitsis Nation		tlow-eet-sees
Toosey Indian Band		two-zee
Toquaht Nation		tow-kwat
Tri-River Métis Association		may-tee

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Tsartlip First Nation		sart-lip
Tsartlip Health Centre		sart-lip
Tsawout First Nation		say-out
Tsawout Health		say-out
Tsawwassen First Nation		tse-wah-sen
Tsay Keh Dene Band		say-kay-denay
TseK'hene First Nation	see McLeod Lake Indian Band	tse-kan-ay
Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribe Management		chil-kway-uhk
Tseshah First Nation		say-shot
Tseshah Health Clinic		say-shot
Tseshah Youth Centre		say-shot
Ts'ewulhtun Health Centre of the Cowichan Tribes		say-wool-tun / cow-i-chin
Tseycum First Nation		say-come
Ts'ideldel First Nation	Alexis Creek Indian Band	tsigh-dell-dell
Tsilhqot'in National Government		sill-ko-teen
Tsimshian First Nations Treaty Society		sim-she-an
Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nation	Pavilion Indian Band	tisk-why-lah
Tsleil-Waututh Nation	Burrard Band	sail-wha-tooth
T'Sou-ke Nation		tse-awk
Tsow-Tun Le Lum Society Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Centre		sow-tun-lay-lum
Tsq'escen'	Canim Lake Band	chess-ken
Two Rivers Métis Society		may-tee
Tzeachten First Nation		chee-ack-ten
Uchucklesaht Tribe		u-chuk-les-at
Ulkatcho First Nations		ul-kat-cho
U'mista Cultural Centre		oo-miss-ta
Usma Nuw-Chah-Nulth Family and Child Services		us-mah new-cha-nulth
United Canadian Métis Nation	Vancouver Métis Citizens Society	may-tee
Vancouver Métis Community Association		may-tee
Vernon & District Métis Association		may-tee
Waceya Métis Society		may-tee
Wachiay Friendship Centre Society		wha-chey
Wazdidadilh Aboriginal Infant & Family Development Program		woss-did-a-duh

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We Wai Kai First Nation		wee-wa-kai
Wei Wai Kum First Nation		wee-wha-come
Wet'suwet'en First Nation		wet-so-a-den
Whe-La-La-U Area Council		we-lala-you
Whispering Pines / Clinton Band - the Pel't'iq't People		pel-tighk
Wilp Si'Satxw Community Healing Centre		wilp-s-sat
Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute		wilp will-kosk-wuh
WSÁNE? School Board		wh-say-nuch
Wuikinuxv Nation	Oweekeno Nation	whee-kin-au
Wuikinuxv-Kitasoo-Nuxalk Tribal Council		whee-kin-au; kit-a-soo; new- hawk
Xat'súll First Nation	Soda Creek	hat-sull
Xaxli'p Band	Fountain Band	hawk-leap
Xaxli'p Health Centre		hawk-leap
Xeni Gwet'in First Nations Government	Nemaiah Band	hon-ay gwi-teen
Xolhemet Society		o-le-met
Xyolhemeylh Child and Family Services		yo-th-me
Yakwekwioose Band		ya-kweek-we-oos
Yekooche First Nation		yeh-koo-chee
Yinka Déné Language Institute		ying-kaw denay
Yunesit'in Government		you-neh-seh-teen
Yuu?u?i??at? Government	formerly Ucluelet First Nation	u-clew-let

## COMMON ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

10DP Draft Principles that Guide the Province of B.C.'s Relationship with Indigenous Peoples

<b>A</b>	
AAC	Allowable Annual Cut
ABA	Area Based Approach
ABCMTN	Alliance of British Columbia Modern Treaty Nations
ABSA	Atmospheric Benefit Sharing Agreements
ABSN	Aboriginal Business Services Network Society
AFN	Assembly of First Nations (national)
AIP	Agreement in Principle
ALR	Agricultural Land Reserve
AME	Association for Mineral Exploration
ANTCO	All Nations Trust Company
AOI	Area of Interest
ARCS	Administrative Records Classification System
ASPR	Annual Service Plan Report
ATR	Additions to Reserves
<b>B</b>	
BCAAFC	BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres
BCAFN	British Columbia Assembly of First Nations
BCBC	Business Council of British Columbia
BCFNEC	BC First Nations Energy Council
BCR	Band council resolution
BCTC	British Columbia Treaty Commission (or BC Transmission Corp)
BCUC	BC Utilities Commission
BEST	Aboriginal Business and Entrepreneurial Skills Training
<b>C</b>	
CABRO	Crown Agencies and Board Resourcing Office
CAD	Consultative Areas Database
CAP	Congress of Aboriginal People (national)
CAPP	Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers
CGIS	Cross Government Implementation Strategy
CIRNAC	Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
COF	Council of the Federation (all First Ministers)
COFI	Council of Forest Industries
CRA	Comprehensive Reconciliation Agreement
CSU	Cost Sharing Understanding
CSF	Collaborative Stewardship Framework
CSNR	Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Ministries
<b>D</b>	
DND	Department of National Defense
<b>E</b>	
EA	Environmental Assessment
EBA	Economic Benefits Agreement

## COMMON ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS, cont'd

ECDA	Economic and Community Development Agreement
ED	Effective Date (of a Final Agreement)
ESI	Environmental Stewardship Initiative
<b>F</b>	
FA	Final Agreement (Treaty)
FCF	First Citizens Fund
FCRSA	Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreement
FFA	Fiscal Financing Agreement
FNCEBF	First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund
FNEMC	First Nations Energy and Mining Council
FNEC	First Nations Energy Council
FNESC	First Nations Education Steering Committee
FNESS	First Nations' Emergency Services Society
FNFC	First Nations Forestry Council
FNGC	First Nations Gaming Commission
FNLC	First Nations Leadership Council
FNLG	B.C. Cabinet and First Nations Leaders' Gathering
FNPSS	First Nations Public Service Secretariat
FNS	First Nations Summit
FOI/FOIPPA	Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
FPCC	First Peoples' Cultural Council (formerly First Peoples' Heritage Language and Culture Council)
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
FTE	Full-Time Equivalent (staffing)
<b>G</b>	
G2G	Government-to-Government
GBA+	Gender Based Analysis +
<b>H</b>	
HCA	Heritage Conservation Act
HGMC	Haida Gwaii Management Committee
<b>I</b>	
IABA	Indigenous Atmospheric Benefits Agreement
IBA	Impact Benefit Agreement
ICAB	Industry Council for Aboriginal Business
IFE	Indigenous Funding Envelope
ISTDF	Indigenous Skills Training Development Fund
IPP	Independent Power Producer
DISC	Department for Indigenous Services Canada
ITA	Incremental Treaty Agreement
ITBC	Indigenous Tourism BC
<b>J</b>	
<b>K</b>	
<b>L</b>	
LMA	Labour Market Agreement
LOU	Letter of Understanding
LPM	Land Protection Measure
LUP	Land Use Plan

## COMMON ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS, cont'd

<b>M</b>	
MACIW	Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women
MABC	Mining Association of British Columbia
MNBC	Métis Nation BC
MNC	Métis National Council (national)
MNRA	Métis Nation Relationship Accord
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>N</b>	
NEDAB	Native Economic Development Advisory Board
NFA	Nisga'a Final Agreement
NRRA	New Relationship and Reconciliation Agreement
NRT	New Relationship Trust
NWAC	Native Women's Association of Canada (national)
<b>O</b>	
OGC	Oil and Gas Commission
OIPC	Office of the Information Privacy Commissioner
OIC	Order in Council
ORAAP	Off Reserve Indigenous Action Plan
ORCS	Operational Records Classification System
OSR	Own Source Revenue (Treaty Nations only)
OSRA	Own Source Revenue Agreement (Treaty Nations only)
<b>P</b>	
PIP	Profiles of Indigenous Peoples
PBA	Natural Gas Pipeline Benefits Agreement
<b>Q</b>	
<b>R</b>	
RA	Reconciliation Agreement
RFL	Request for Legislation
RPTCA	Real Property Tax Coordination Agreement (Treaty Nations only)
RDG	Regional Director General (Government of Canada)
<b>S</b>	
SDM	Statutory Decision-Maker
SEA	Strategic Engagement Agreement
ShDM	Shared Decision-Making
SOC	Strength of Claim
SOI	Statement of Intent
<b>T</b>	
TLA	Tripartite Land Agreement
TLE	Treaty Land Entitlement
TRC	Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada
TRM	Treaty Related Measure
TPC	Third Party Costs
TSL	Treaty Settlement Land
<b>U</b>	
UBCIC	Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs
UBCM	Union of BC Municipalities

## COMMON ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS, cont'd

UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UNN	United Native Nations (national)

### **V, W, X, Y, Z**

#### **MINISTRIES**

AEST	Advanced Education, Skills and Training
AGRI	Agriculture
AG	Attorney General
CFD	Children & Family Development
CITZ	Citizens' Services
EDUC	Education
EMPR	Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources
ENV	Environment and Climate Change Strategy
FIN	Finance and Deputy Premier
FNLR	Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
HLTH	Health
JTT	Jobs, Trade & Technology
PSSG	Public Safety and Solicitor General
SDPR	Social Development and Poverty Reduction
TRAN	Transportation and Infrastructure
IRR	Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
LBR	Labour
MH	Mental Health & Addictions
MAH	Municipal Affairs and Housing
TAC	Tourism, Arts and Culture
PSA	Public Service Agency

#### **NATIONS, COUNCILS AND NEGOTIATIONS TABLES (that commonly use acronyms)**

T8	Treaty 8
ADK	Acho Dene Koe
CSTC	Carrier Sekani Tribal Council
CSTC	Carrier Sekani Tribal Council
GNN	Gwa'Sala-'Nakwaxda'xw
HTG	Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group
HFN	Huu-ay-aht First Nations
KKTC	Ktunaxa Kinbasket Treaty Council
KDC	Kaska Dena Council
KIB	Kamloops Indian Band
LTN	Lheidli T'enneh
LCC	Laich-Kwil-Tach Council of Chiefs
LNIB	Lower Nicola Indian Band
LBN	Lake Babine Nation
MNA	Maa-nulth First Nations
NLG	Nisga'a Lisims Government
NTC	Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council
NStQ	Northern Secwepemc te Qelmucw
ONA	Okanagan Nation Alliance
OW	Office of the Wet'suwet'en

## COMMON ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS, cont'd

SNTC	Shuswap Nation Tribal Council
SXTA	Stó:lô Xwexwilmexw Treaty Association
TFN	Tsawwassen First Nation
TTA	Te'mexw Treaty Association
TKD	Tsay Key Dene
TNG	Tsilhqot'in National Government
TRTFN	Taku River Tlingit First Nation
WKTS	Wej Wai Kum/Kwiakah

### COMMITTEES

P&A	Priorities and Accountability Committee
LRC	Legislative Review Committee
CCR	Cabinet Committee on Reconciliation
TB	Treasury Board
ELUC	Environmental and Land Use Committee
CCWG	Child Care Working Group
SSP	Sustainable Shared Prosperity Committee
SI	Social Initiatives Committee
MHAWG	Mental Health and Addictions Working Group
HWG	Housing Working Group
DMC	Deputy Ministers' Council
DMCSI	Deputy Ministers' Council Social Initiatives
DMCNR	Deputy Ministers' Council Natural Resources
DMCSSP	Deputy Ministers' Council Sustainable Shared Prosperity

### IRR COMMITTEES

FAB	Focused Agreement Board
Core	Core Executive Committee
EEC	Expanded Executive Committee
EAC	Employee Advisory Committee

### IRR DIVISIONS AND GROUPS

NROD	Negotiations and Regional Operations Division
RTSD	Reconciliation Transformation Strategies Division
DMO	Deputy Minister's Office
SPID	Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives Division
SLT	Senior Leadership Team
SMT	Senior Management Team (NROD)

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