



## Protocol on Intergovernmental Relations

Between: *Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District*

And: *Huu-ay-aht First Nations, Toquaht First Nation, Uchucklesaht Tribe, and Ucluelet First Nation*

### Whereas:

- A. The Huu-ay-aht First Nations, the Toquaht First Nation, the Uchucklesaht Tribe, and the Ucluelet First Nation (all members of the First Nations of Maa-nulth Treaty Society, and for the purposes of this protocol agreement referred to as the "Maa-nulth First Nations") and the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District each have their own distinct governing institutions, and
- B. The Parties recognize the benefits of communication, cooperation and other levels of interaction in order to provide services to constituents within their respective jurisdictions, and
- C. The Parties believe that collaborative actions in areas of common jurisdiction and in areas of common interest such as economic development, land use-planning, resource development and other areas of service delivery, contribute directly to the health and well being of communities.
- D. The Maa-nulth First Nations are acting collectively (i.e. as a single party) for the purposes of this protocol;
- E. The Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k:tles7et'h' First Nations, the other member The First Nations of Maa-nulth Treaty Society, and the Comox-Strathcona Regional District are discussing a similar protocol on intergovernmental relations.

### Therefore:

This Protocol on Intergovernmental Relations represents a commitment by the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District and the Maa-nulth First Nations to work together to promote positive and long term intergovernmental relationships.

### Principles:

- 1) The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District and the Maa-nulth First Nations will recognize the following principles in dealing with one another:
  - a) Mutual recognition and respect for each Party's mandate, policies and areas of jurisdiction
  - b) That this Protocol does not fetter any of the authorities of the Parties;
  - c) The value of timely communication and information sharing on issues of common interest;
  - d) Collaborative action in the development and implementation of projects of mutual interest;
  - e) Acknowledgement that good relations between neighbours are of continuing benefit to the Parties;
  - f) Any financial arrangements between the Parties will be fair and equitable.

### General Objectives:

- 2) The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District and the Maa-nulth First Nations have the following mutual objectives:
  - a) Delivering services providing for the health and well being of their communities including emergency planning and preparedness;
  - b) Developing effective community, land use and resource use plans;
  - c) Promoting understanding of the interests of First Nations and local governments, both locally and in a broader (e.g. provincial, federal) context;
  - d) Developing a better understanding among the Parties of legal and public policy developments as they relate to the substance of this protocol;

- e) Providing opportunities for intergovernmental relationship building;
- f) Developing and promoting effective methods of conflict prevention and dispute resolution between the Parties.

### Implementation:

- 3) The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District and the Maa-nulth First Nations will:
  - a) Establish and maintain a meeting schedule that provides for:
    - i) discussions between Directors of the Regional District and the Chiefs and Councils of the Maa-nulth First Nations governments for the purpose of reviewing activities, identifying joint political lobbying activities, dispute resolution and for visioning and planning related to this Protocol
    - ii) senior management and/or operational level meetings required to plan for the meetings described above and to exchange information, identify emerging issues and provide updates on areas of mutual interest such as: land-use and area planning, infrastructure and municipal type service requirements or service agreements.
  - b) Continue to utilize and support any Community to Community Forum process, or any similar opportunities, that may be available in order to enhance awareness of each others' history, plans and ongoing needs;
  - c) Participate in each others' public events whenever appropriate;
  - d) Identify and establish a joint working group(s) to assist in the advancement of General Objectives or the Implementation of this Protocol on Intergovernmental Relations;
  - e) Identify a process to periodically review mechanisms, opportunities and effectiveness of Maa-nulth First Nations participation and authority at the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District level;
  - f) Jointly review this Protocol on an annual basis.

### Term of the Protocol on Intergovernmental Relations:

- 4) The Parties may agree to amend this Protocol at any time.
- 5) This Protocol will remain in effect until terminated by either party ...
- 6) No Party shall terminate this Protocol without first meeting with the other Party and discussing their reasons for proposing termination.
- 7) Following such a meeting, either Party may terminate this Protocol by providing sixty days written notice to the other Party.

### Other:

- 8) The purpose of this Protocol is to establish a framework that encourages and facilitates positive dialogue on matters of mutual interest; it does not create any legal obligations on the Parties.
- 9) This Protocol does not restrict the ability of the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District and one or more of the Maa-nulth First Nations from meeting at any time on any matters of mutual interest

Signed this 12th day of February, 2005 at Port Alberni, British Columbia

On Behalf of the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District by:

On Behalf of the Maa-nulth First Nations by:

Hira Chopra, Chair

Chief Councillor Robert Dennis  
Huu-ay-aht First Nations

Chief Bert Mack  
Toquaht First Nation

Robert A. Harper, Administrator

Chief Councillor Charlie Cootes  
Uchucklesaht Tribe

Chief Councillor Charles McCarthy  
Ucluelet First Nation

