Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation and Communication Between the Regional District of Fraser – Fort George and the Lheidli T’enneh First Nation

WHEREAS:
1. The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George and the Lheidli T’enneh First Nation have a common interest in the successful and timely conclusion of treaties, which will benefit all BC communities; and
2. The Parties also have shared interests in cooperative Intergovernmental relationships, including those between First Nation and local governments, before and after treaties are signed; and
3. Cooperative working relationships between governments build effective communication and trust. Collaborative action in areas such as economic development and natural resource management contribute directly to the health and well being of all communities.

THEREFORE:
This Memorandum of Understanding represents a commitment by the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George and the Lheidli T’enneh First Nation to work together to promote cooperative relationship building.

PRINCIPLES:
The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George and Lheidli T’enneh First Nation will recognize the following principles in dealing with one another:

- Mutual respect for each Party’s mandates, policies and areas of jurisdiction and that the Protocol on Cooperation and Communication does not fetter the individual mandates of the parties;
- Cooperation in the exchange, development and distribution of information that is relevant to on-going projects of mutual benefit; and
- Collaborative action in the development and implementation of projects of mutual interest; and
- Acknowledgement that good relations between neighbours are required for all citizens to benefit.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES:
The Lheidli T’enneh and the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George have the following mutual objectives:

- Promote understanding of the interests of First Nations and local governments in a province-wide context, including participation in each other’s events wherever appropriate; and
- Provide opportunities for relationship building between First Nations and local governments, such as through annual Community to Community Forums, which allow dialogue between community leaders on areas of common interest. This includes economic development, natural resource management, efficient and affordable service delivery and cooperative land use planning; and
- Encourage and promote effective methods of dispute resolution between First Nations and local governments.

IMPLEMENTATION:
The Lheidli T’enneh First Nation and the Regional District of Fraser – Fort George agree to continue to support the existing Joint Action Committee to further the objectives stated in this agreement. This group will meet to review joint initiatives and projects as well as the general progress on goals and objectives.

SIGNED on behalf of the LHEIDLI T’ENNEH FIRST NATION on this 16th Day of July 2002 by:

____________________________________________
Chief Barry Seymour, Lheidli T’enneh First Nation

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Councillor Vanessa West, Lheidli T’enneh First Nation, Witness

SIGNED on behalf of the REGIONAL DISTRICT OF FRASER-FORT GEORGE on this 16th Day of July 2002 by:

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Mayor Colin Kinsley, Chairperson, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George

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Anne Hogan, Administrator, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, Witness