

***2005 Community to Community Forum  
Final Report  
Village of Burns Lake and  
Lake Babine Nation***

***Forum Objectives and Background***

Upon completing the Community-to-Community Forum on November 14, 2005, the Village of Burns Lake and the Lake Babine Nation governments agreed there was a need to come together to discuss the Municipal Service Agreement and utilize this achievement as a tool for further developing positive working relationships.

On behalf of the two organizations, the Village of Burns Lake submitted a proposal that included the following goals and objectives (as established jointly between the two parties):

1. Training and employment opportunities for the First Nation members.
2. To develop a proposal for a cross cultural workshop for the Village Council, RCMP, School District #91 and any other government ministries that are in partnership or providing service delivery.
3. To improve communications and business relationships by meeting on a regular basis.
4. Building a solid foundation for the creation of an ongoing interest in fostering partnerships for the future, and developing common initiatives in economic development, tourism, land use and natural resource management, infrastructure and service delivery.
5. Development of joint strategic plans including action and follow-up, complete with shared responsibilities. Thus, jointly establishing leadership, responsibilities, mutual respect and trust in enriching our community's values and heritages for the future.

***Participants***

Delegates from the following communities participated in the Community-to-Community Forum held on November 14, 2005:

- Lake Babine Nation
- Village of Burns Lake

These participants are listed in minutes attached as Appendix A.

### *Communications Plan for the Community to Community Forums*

Lake Babine Nation and the Village of Burns Lake agreed to hire a third party, independent consultant to coordinate the forums, develop necessary correspondence, and complete the final report. PS Consulting was contracted in July 2005.

The consulting firm's primary role was to establish meeting dates for the organizations and ensure that a methodology for meeting and communications was established. As such, Judy Charlie, Administrative Assistant for Lake Babine Nation, and Lonny Miller, Chief Administrative Officer for the Village of Burns Lake, became the key contacts for PS Consulting. It was through these resource people that the councils were notified of the meeting time, date, and location.

It was agreed that there would be one Community-to-Community Forum in light of the fact that the funding application was approved for one quarter and not an annual allocation.

### *Community to Community Forum Minutes*

Attached as Appendix A

#### *November 14, 2005 - overview*

Having consulted with both the Village of Burns Lake and the Lake Babine Nation on the agenda items, both parties agreed to the agenda. The first meeting date of October 28, 2005 was postponed due to unforeseen circumstances. As such a funding extension was requested, once approved, the meeting date of November 14, 2005 was established.

The meeting was held in a central location, at the Heritage Centre in Burns Lake, where a roast beef dinner was enjoyed by all prior to starting the meeting at 7:00 pm.

As chair of the meeting, Chief Palmantier opened the meeting with Mayor Magee acting as co-chair for the evening.

The agenda was full and provoked a great deal of discussion with what has gone well, what has not and what can be done differently with regards to implementation of the Municipal Service Agreement.

In addition to this, a Technical Committee meeting was set for January 6, 2006 at the Village Office. A date for the Joint Council meeting was postponed until after the Municipal Elections.

In closing the meeting, it was agreed there would be a joint submission to UBCM to have quarterly Community-to-Community Forums between Lake Babine Nation and the

Village of Burns Lake and one additional Community-to-Community Forums that will be inclusive of the RCMP, School District #91, and other service providers.

### *Measurable Outcomes*

1. Eleven representatives from the respective governments actively engaged and participated in meaningful discussions regarding the Municipal Services Agreement.
2. Positive networking and information sharing between the Municipal government and the Lake Babine Nation government.
3. Consensus that the relationship between Lake Babine Nation and the Village of Burns Lake is improved via the Community-to-Community Forum process.
4. Consensus that there is a need to continue the Community-to-Community Forum process to ensure relationships continue to strengthen; however, there is a need to expand the forums to include elder and youth representation.
5. Consensus that there needs to be two separate forums taking place. One that is inclusive of Service Providers, RCMP, School District, etc. and one between the two local governments (Lake Babine Nation and Village of Burns Lake) to focus on the service agreement.
6. Consensus that cross-cultural awareness needs to be focused on to educate and enhance understanding between the Native and Non-Native peoples.

### *Recommendations*

All participants recognize there is a need for ongoing interaction between the Village of Burns Lake and Lake Babine Nation using the Municipal Service Agreement as a tool to guide the discussions.

It is also recognized that there is a need to expand these forums or have additional forums that include Burns Lake Indian Band, the RCMP, School District #91, and other levels of government.

Similarly, it is recognized that to interact effectively, participants need to organize ongoing gatherings of this nature. Among the many challenges are time, human resources, and finances to coordinate and host such gatherings.

Ideally, it would be in the best interest of all to establish quarterly gatherings to share information, work together, and develop specific protocols for meetings, planning, initiatives, and more that will enhance future opportunities in the Lakes District – both for this generation and the next.

There is consensus among the participants that the forums are a critical step in building relationships between the local governments as such, it is recommended that there be a joint application forwarded to UBCM for 2006 that is expanded upon to include a second set of forums for all levels of government, service providers, RCMP, School District #91, and other relevant parties.

## *Financial Summary*

Description	Budget	Actual
Facility Rental	\$250.00	\$0.00
Facilitator	1,000.00	1,280.00
Meals	575.00	360.00
Event Preparation	175.00	0.00
Administrative Costs	1,000.00	1,000.00
Materials, Supplies, equipment	110.00	100.00
Miscellaneous	55.00	0.00
Final Report Preparation	500.00	500.00
Total Expenditures	\$3,665.00	\$3,240.00
Total Funding Requested from UBCM (50%)	\$1,832.50	\$1,620.00
Total Funding requested from the Village of Burns Lake (25%)	\$916.25	\$810.00
Total Funding requested from the Lake Babine Nation	\$916.25	\$810.00

We want to note that the Village of Burns Lake and the Lake Babine Nation have contributed their portions of funding towards this initiative. As such, the Village of Burns Lake is requesting release of the remaining \$703.75, as per the agreement with UBCM.

## *Conclusion*

The positive interaction that resulted from the Community-to-Community Forums has allowed the Village of Burns Lake and Lake Babine Nation to advance the goals and objectives outlined in the 2005 proposal.

We are pleased to see there is consensus among the participants that the relationship between Lake Babine Nation and the Village of Burns Lake has improved and both parties agree the community-to-community forums are a valuable process.

Both governments would like to move another proposal forward for 2006 which will include one for the local governments and a second tier that will include other First Nation governments, local governments, School District #91, the RCMP and other relevant parties.

There is a clear desire to move forward together, to continue networking, and to develop opportunities for all members of the communities.

The Village of Burns Lake believes this project has been successful, as the communities have shared information and concerns around the Municipal Service Agreement. Have successfully begun working through the concerns and believe utilizing this format has aided in developing a new level of understanding between the parties. The 2005 forum has supported an important aspect of nurturing the relationships that were formed during 2004.