



CITY OF WILLIAMS LAKE
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

REPORT

TO: Union of British Columbia Municipalities

DATE: 15 April 2005

SUBJECT: **Community to Community Forum 2004 Report**

This report is provided under the provision of conditions of funding established by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities for the implementation of Community to Community Forums in municipalities throughout British Columbia.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The City held a Community to Community Forum sponsored by UBCM over two sessions: the first session was held on March 3, 2005 and the second was held on April 7, 2005. The Xats'ull First Nation (Soda Creek Indian Band) Council and Officers partnered with the City of Williams Council and hosted the first session at their Council's Office. The second meeting was held at City Hall. At the end of the two sessions a draft Protocol Agreement of Cooperation and Communication between the two governments was produced. The next step will be to have both Councils formally approve the document (Attachment B) and sign it in an official ceremony to be held at the Xats'ull Heritage Village. An Economic Development opportunity was also included as part of the Forum with the participation of both City and First Nation Councils to a special night on April 7, 2005 with Rocky Mountaineers officials and the Minister of Transportation, Kevin Falcon, who stopped in Williams Lake as part of their 'show-off' program of the new passenger tourist line from Whistler to Prince George.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

In 2004, the City of Williams Lake applied and obtained a grant from UBCM to hold a Community to Community Forum in our community. The purpose was to initiate formal discussion with the Xats'ull First Nation (Soda Creek Indian Band) on the drafting of a protocol agreement for cooperation and communication between the City and the First Nations Council.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

• FORUM OBJECTIVES

Since its planning, the subject forum had at least two major objectives: build more formal and informal relationship with the Soda Creek Indian Band; and reach an agreement for cooperation and communication between the City and that First Nation Government. While the Mayor and Senior Staff have been working closely with the Soda Creek Indian Band for the last couple of years, no formal meeting was organized between the two Councils. We tried to involve the Soda Creek Indian Band and staff tried to organize a common meeting many times since September 2003. Soda Creek was unable to meet on the proposed dates because of other commitments. Finally a meeting was set up for and held on March 3, 2005. Because of the desire from both parties to accomplish the objectives of the Forum, another meeting was held on April 7, 2005. The result of these efforts was a draft of a Protocol Communication Agreement between the two parties.

• PARTICIPANTS

The Soda Creek Indian Band was represented by the following individuals:

- Dorothy Phillips, Chief of the Council
- Cheryl Chapman, Band Councillor
- David Pop, Band Councillor
- Elaine Sellars, Band Councillor
- Gordon Keener, Band Self Government Coordinator

The City of Williams Lake was represented by the following individuals:

- Rick Gibson, Mayor
- Debbie DeMare, Councillor
- Paul French, Councillor
- Scott Nelson, Councillor
- Surinderpal Rathor, Councillor
- Patrick Reid, Councillor
- Alberto De Feo, City Chief Administrative Officer
- Alan Madrigga, Economic Development Officer

• ISSUES DISCUSSED

The first part of the meeting was centred on the discussion of common interests. In particular, Economic Development was an area of major focus with various degrees of importance. The Soda Creek Indian Band acknowledged the need for the City to be more inclusive and appreciated the efforts of Mayor and Staff to establish a line of communication. The Band expressed no objection to the City's current projects such as the Westside Storm Sewer, the Tourism Discovery Centre and the new Intersection on Highway 97. By the same token, any assistance by the City to the Band for their projects will be critical in the long term spirit of cooperation between the City and the Band Councils.

The second part of the meeting was more focused on the need to establish an agreement or protocol for communication and services between the City and the Soda Creek Band. Another meeting for the purpose of drafting the document was held on April 7, 2005 with the result that a draft agreement was prepared and it is now ready for both Council's formal approval.

- **FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

City Staff Cost

Administrator (CAO)	\$1,125.00
Administrative Assistant	\$ 500.00
Economic Development Officer	\$1,000.00
Economic Development Assistant	\$ 300.00
2 Dinners Cost (13 people)	\$ 400.00
Rent of Overlander Hotel for joint ED opportunity	\$ 300.00

In Kind

Mayor and Council	
Soda Creek Band Council	
SCIB Staff	\$ 510.00

Total \$4,135.00

Total Funding Received by UBCM \$1,800.00

Respectfully submitted,

Alberto S. De Feo, Ph. D. Law
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Attachments:

Attachment A - Meeting Agenda

Attachment B - Draft Protocol Agreement

**COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY FORUM
PROGRAM OUTLINE**

Participants: Soda Creek Band Council
Williams Lake City Council
Band Self Government Officer
City's Chief Administrative Officer
City's Economic Development Officer

Location: Soda Creek Indian Band Council Office

Date & Time: March 3, 2005 - 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Welcome and Introductions

Dinner

Items of Common Interest

Current Economic Development Projects

Youth and Education

Safer Communities

Protocol Agreement on Communication and Cooperation

Adjournment

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Between the

City of Williams Lake

And the

Xats'ull First Nation (Soda Creek Indian Band)

Whereas the City of Williams Lake and the Xats'ull First Nation (Soda Creek Indian Band) have a common interest in cooperative intergovernmental relationships; and

Whereas the City of Williams Lake and the Xats'ull First Nation (Soda Creek Indian Band) also believe that cooperative working relationship between local governments and First Nations are built;

Therefore this Memorandum of Understanding represents a commitment by the City of Williams Lake and the Xats'ull First Nation (Soda Creek Indian Band) to promote cooperative relationship building.

Both Parties agree on the following:

Principles:

The City of Williams Lake and the Xats'ull First Nation (Soda Creek Indian Band) will recognize the following principles in dealing with one another:

- Mutual respect for each Party's mandates and policies and that this Memorandum of Understanding does not fetter the individual mandates and policies of the parties;
- Mutual respect for respective areas of jurisdiction as defined in current and future Local Governments and First Nation Government areas of authority;
- That the Xats'ull First Nation (Soda Creek Indian Band) has occupied the area North of the Williams Lake River Valley for thousands of years;
- Cooperation in the exchange, development and distribution of information that is relevant to the establishment and consolidation of the relationship between the parties;
- Collaborative actions in the development and implementation of projects of mutual interest; and
- Acknowledgment that good relations between neighbors are required for all citizens to benefit.

General Objectives:

The Xats'ull First Nation (Soda Creek Indian Band) and the City of Williams Lake has the following mutual objectives:

- Promote understanding of functions, responsibilities and interests of both parties, both of a local and regional nature in a province-wide context, including participation in each other's events whenever possible;
- Provide opportunities for relationship building between the parties, such as through annual Community to Community Forums, which allow dialogue between community leaders on areas of common interest. This includes but not limited to economic development, education, natural resource management, efficient and affordable service delivery, and cooperative land use planning whenever possible; and
- Encourage and promote effective methods of dispute resolution between the parties.

Signed this Day of , by:

Chief
Xats'ull First Nation (Soda Creek Indian Band)
Lake

Mayor
City of Williams