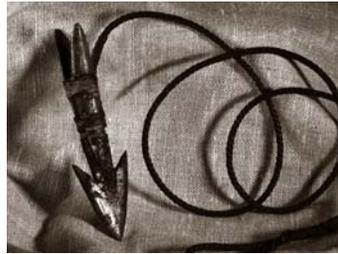


Water Agreement with the
Sunshine Coast Regional District
Pleases Sechelt Chief Stan Dixon **1**



Hul'qumi'num and Local
Governments Work to Protect **3**
First Nations Heritage Sites



Snuneymuxw Signs MOU with **4**
City of Nanaimo



Winalagalis Creates Database **4**
of Heritage Sites



Co-published by the First Nations Summit and the Union of BC Municipalities,
C2C Connect features stories on First Nations and local governments working together.

C2C connect

no.1 | FALL | 05

» New Agreement Safeguards Drinking Water on Sunshine Coast

Chapman Creek on the Sunshine Coast

SECHLT > A landmark agreement to safeguard drinking water and protect Chapman Creek and Gray Creek will be signed October 1 by the Sechelt Indian Band (SIB) and the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD).



Under the Joint Watershed Management Agreement, the SIB and SCRD will jointly manage the watersheds.

The watersheds are situated within both the SIB's territory and the SCRD's potable water service authority. While the provincial government still has ultimate

authority over allowing or disallowing development projects in the watersheds, both the SIB and SCRD have taken a remarkable first step in mutual watershed management.

"This is a show of unity," said SIB Chief Stan Dixon at a recent SCRD infrastructure services meeting.

"This is a monumental step taken by the two communities to make a major commitment to protect the quality of water supply in this region," said SCRD Chair Ed Steeves.

"We are confident that the provincial government, resource industries and other stakeholders in the

region will respect the community's wishes and support the initiatives embodied in this agreement," Steeves said.

No similar accord of this breadth and scope exists between local governments and First Nations throughout the province.

cont'd on next page



THIS, says Sechelt Chief Stan Dixon, IS A SHOW OF UNITY

Sechelt Water Agreement, cont'd from Page 1

The SCRD and the SIB have been working on the agreement for at least five years. The agreement stipulates that a committee of three SCRD directors and three band councillors will make recommendations to the SCRD board and band council on how to manage the watershed and on the creation of laws and bylaws.

bylaws surrounding the watershed; and future changes that may be necessary to this agreement.

As spelled out in the Terms of Reference, SIB and SCRD agree to the following:

> the right and authority to approve or disapprove

any activity within the watershed; and

> the power to prosecute offenders of the laws of SIB and the bylaws of the SCRD enacted to give effect to the foregoing, which laws and bylaws shall be enacted in consultation between the two.

The document is available on the UBCM website at www.civicnet.bc.ca under Featured Policy Topics/First Nations Relations

connect : civicnet.bc.ca

Valid for five years, the agreement can be amended or extended by mutual consent. Under the agreement, SCRD and SIB agree to the following:

> to share responsibility and decision-making applicable to the watersheds;
> to share the costs, expenses and liabilities arising from shared responsibility and decision-making applicable to the watersheds; and
> to establish a Joint Watershed Management Advisory Committee that would make recommendations on the management of the watershed; laws and

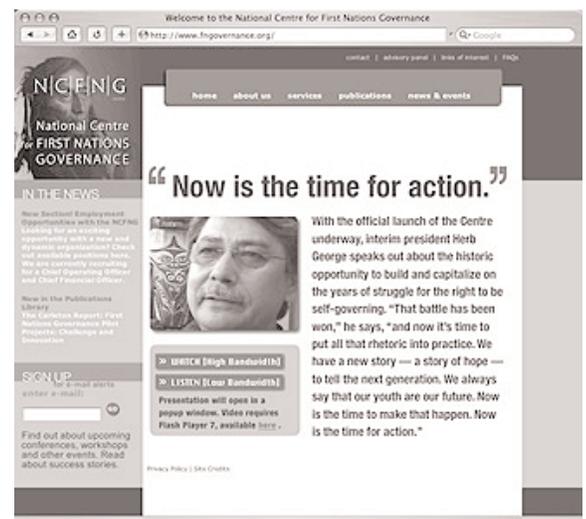
New First Nations Governance Centre Launched

VANCOUVER > A new initiative from within Canada's First Nations community has made its debut across the country and on the Internet.

The National Centre for First Nations Governance will function as a clearinghouse for collecting, classifying and distributing information and assistance to First Nations who want to improve their institutions, the policies that entrench good governance and the lives of their people.

The Centre will also cultivate alliances with research institutions, professional organizations and non-aboriginal business partners. Furthermore, it will analyze new trends in governance and establish priorities as benchmarks for First Nations.

"We're going online to provide the support, research and information services First Nations require to improve their communities, eliminate poverty and rebuild their economies," says Centre President Satsan (Herb George).



connect : fngovernance.org

Local Governments and In-SHUCK-ch Forge Stronger Ties

DEROCHE > The governments of Canada and British Columbia announced \$100,000 in funding earlier this year to support a treaty-related project that will build stronger relations between local governments and the In-SHUCK-ch Council.

The funds will help the In-SHUCK-ch to develop a governance model for its communities, post-treaty. The model will be based on the practical governance needs of the In-SHUCK-ch communities. The project will also provide mentoring opportunities for members of the In-SHUCK-ch communities to work directly with local area governments.

“Our leaders’ first and last accountability will be to their people, and no longer to a minister of the federal Crown. We’d better be ready,” said Eppa (Gerard Peters), Chief Negotiator for the In-SHUCK-ch Council.

“We look forward to forging links with all levels of government for the common purpose of creating a new mechanism to allow us to govern ourselves effectively,” Eppa said.

In a related development, Fraser Valley Regional District Chief Administrative Officer Gerry Kingston says the two groups signed an important MOU this past

“We look forward to forging links with all levels of government”

- Eppa (Gerard Peters), Chief Negotiator, In-SHUCK-ch Council

June,” ... to establish a cooperative government-to-government relationship for the purpose of sharing information, improving communications, addressing specific concerns, setting a solid foundation for future planning, and raising awareness and understanding with regard to the In-SHUCK-ch Nation title, as well as the rights and responsibilities of the FVRD under the *Local Government Act* and *Community Charter*.”

Next steps for the FVRD and In-SHUCK-ch Council

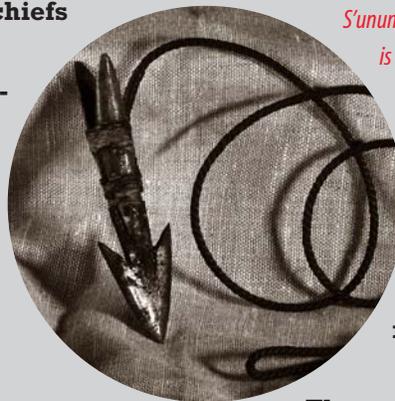
with respect to developing their working relationship include job-shadowing initiatives, as well as further knowledge building around their respective governing structures. The In-SHUCK-ch Council represents three First Nations: the Douglas First Nation, the Skatin First Nations and the Samahquam Nation. In-SHUCK-ch communities are located along the Lillooet River from the top of Harrison Lake to south of Mt. Currie.

**connect : inshuckch.com
: fvrd.bc.ca/FVRD**

>> Hul’qumi’num, Cowichan Valley Regional District and Islands Trust Work to Protect First Nation Heritage Sites

LADYSMITH > Earlier this month the chiefs of the member First Nations of the Hul’qumi’num Treaty Group and elected representatives of the Cowichan Valley Regional District and the Islands Trust worked towards signing an agreement to manage and protect aboriginal heritage sites on southeast Vancouver Island and throughout the southern Gulf Islands.

During a two-day workshop, organized by the B.C. Treaty Negotiations Office and facilitated by former Campbell River mayor Jim Lornie, the political leaders agreed on more efficient and effective ways to undertake planning, permitting and



S’unum is traditionally made of t’hum’unu’ (bone) and the rope attached is made of sthulq’ul’shutun (cedar bark). This particular harpoon, made of metal and horn, is from the Puneluxutth (Penelakut) Tribe, was collected in 1912. Photo by Gary Fiegehen, object courtesy of Royal BC Museum 2418, sea lion spear.

communications around the management and protection of these sites.

The core issue is the First Nation’s need to protect heritage sites within their traditional territory which includes the Gulf Islands, one of Canada’s hottest real estate markets today.

**connect : hulquminum.bc.ca
: cvrd.bc.ca
: islandstrust.bc.ca**

Winalagalis Creates Database of Heritage Sites

ALERT BAY > The Winalagalis Treaty Group has now completed its cultural and governance studies, including a \$200,000 treaty-related measure (TRM) to identify and develop a database of heritage sites and culturally significant artifacts for each of the five WTG bands.

Meanwhile, work on another \$130,000 TRM is now underway. It will allow each of the bands to develop a governance framework that might incorporate both traditional and modern government structures and functions.

WTG represents the Da'naxda'xw/Awaetlala, Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw, Quatsino and Tlatlasikwala bands from Northern Vancouver Island and Knight Inlet.

WTG hopes to work with the Regional District of Mount Waddington and local businesses on a regional study to



Bull Harbour, protected harbour on Hope Island

evaluate economic opportunities that could arise as a result of settling treaties.

The genesis for this project stems from a C2C forum held this past spring. By identifying regional economic opportunities well in advance of a Final Agreement, businesses and local governments will be well positioned to fully participate in the post-treaty economy.

connect : winalagalis.org
: alertbay.ca
: rdmw.bc.ca

C2C connect



C2C Connect is a co-publication of the First Nations Summit and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities. Your comments and story ideas are critical to our success. Please send them to:

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Snuneymuxw Signs MOU with City of Nanaimo

Snuneymuxw Chief John Wesley and Nanaimo Mayor Gary Korpan recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding acknowledging the mutual respect for the mandates, policies and various jurisdictions of the two governments and recognizing that both face a number of common issues in the areas of planning, servicing and economic development.

The MOU also spells out a commitment to work together to meet mutual objectives.



"Both parties bring much to the table and this joint commitment will allow both communities to move forward together where, in the past, it might not have been possible," states Chief Wesley.

The Snuneymuxw live on four small reserves on the shores of Nanaimo Harbour and Nanaimo River. Today, the population numbers about 1,300 with 65 per cent of the members living off reserve — in cities such as Nanaimo, Victoria, Vancouver and Seattle.

connect : snuneymuxw.ca
: city.nanaimo.bc.ca

» WORKING TOGETHER

A Primer on Local Government–First Nation Relations in B.C.

The nature and scope of the relationship between B.C. First Nations and local governments have been changing dramatically in recent years. A catalyst for this change has been the evolving process of governance development occurring within First Nations across B.C. Through various processes and initiatives, First Nations are negotiating land and governance agreements with the federal and provincial governments. This primer reviews the principal catalysts of change, and the implications of this change, for the evolution of intergovernmental relations between local governments and First Nations.

CATALYSTS FOR CHANGE

The Self-Government Enabling Act

Under the *Indian Self-Government Enabling Act*, First Nations are exercising a greater degree of control over their economic base by assuming taxation authority over leaseholders on Indian Reserve lands – a responsibility traditionally held by local governments. Currently, 71 Indian Bands in B.C. have enacted taxation bylaws in accordance with this act. The enactment of a First Nations taxation regime often establishes a working relationship between local governments and First Nations as they enter into negotiations to maintain service delivery to the affected Reserve parcels.

The First Nations Land Management Act

Under the *First Nations Land Management Act*, 41 First Nations across Canada, including 19 in B.C., have opted out of the land administration sections of the *Indian Act* in favour of establishing their own land management regimes.

This land management initiative helps First Nations direct development on their land, which often increases activities and supports economic development. It also presents an opportunity for First Nations and local governments to work side-by-side as neighbouring planning authorities. There is often mutual interest in the development of neighbouring land and this can provide the impetus to improve and, in some cases, formalize the communication and coordination mechanisms in place between the two parties.

The B.C. Treaty Negotiation Process

The negotiation of treaties through the formal B.C. treaty-making process is already transforming the relationship between First Nations and local governments. Not only do treaties contemplate a broader set of First Nations governing authorities than any of the other policy mechanisms mentioned above, but they also require implementation of new institutional arrangements and may lead to significant change in land ownership and governance structures.

Currently, 55 First Nations are participating in 44 negotiation tables through the B.C. Treaty Negotiation Process. Maa-nulth First Nations, Lheidli T'enneh Band, Sliammon First Nation, Tsawwassen First Nation and the Yekooche First Nation have signed agreements in principle (AIPs) — the “blueprint” for a final treaty.

Treaties will change the economic make-up of communities and regions across the province, resulting

in a need for greater coordination and cooperation between First Nations and local governments, particularly with respect to service provision, planning, taxation and environmental sustainability.

First Nations and local governments are recognizing that with treaty settlements will come a new era, and they are already beginning to take a fresh look at their relationship in preparation for the anticipated treaty implementation environment. One example is the pilot project in intergovernmental planning being undertaken by the Sliammon First Nation, the District of Powell River and the Powell River Regional District. The goal of the project is to facilitate the implementation of the Sliammon Treaty by looking at the coordination of First Nation, municipal and regional planning efforts.

IMPROVED RELATIONS

Not only are First Nations and local governments across the province recognizing the need to work together, but more importantly, they are also recognizing the benefits that improved communication and coordination can bring. These include planning for economic development, tackling resource and environmental problems that span boundaries, and coordinating land use planning and development so that the interests of the neighbouring community are taken into account.

While there is little to guide local governments and First Nations with respect to what their working relationship should look like, they are learning that it is important to start discussions before an issue or conflict arises. There is also growing evidence that new cooperative relationships are being formed every day.

More Dialogue

Local governments and First Nations are talking more. The Community-to-Community Forum program, jointly organized by the First Nations Summit and the Union of B.C. Municipalities and funded by the provincial and federal governments, provides an opportunity for elected officials from local governments and First Nations to discuss areas of mutual interest and concern. Since its inception, three province-wide C2C forums and over 100 local C2C forums have been held in communities across the province. Increasingly, these forums are opening up the lines of communication and moving the parties into discussions around potential partnerships. Another key forum theme is the need for mutual learning about respective governance structures - this will continue to be an important building block in developing intergovernmental relations.

More Formal Government-to-Government Agreements

As part of the effort to strengthen intergovernmental relationships, an increasing number of neighbouring First Nations and local governments are signing formal government-to-government agreements, such as Protocols and Memorandums of Understanding, which seek to formalize the nature of their relationship.

More Partnerships

Innovative and unique partnerships between local governments and First Nations are also beginning to emerge in forestry, tourism, economic development, community services, parks and recreation and other sectors.

As the governing structures "on the ground," local governments and First Nations are increasingly finding that collaboration often makes a lot of sense. Partnering offers the opportunity to pool limited resources, increase efficiencies and generate benefits at a region-wide scale for aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities alike. For many First Nations and local government leaders, the political will and the desire to end a "two solitudes" co-existence is driving the conscious pursuit of a more comprehensive intergovernmental relationship. As First Nations continue to develop and strengthen their governments, this relationship will become more complex and necessary. As such, there is a need for early development of effective intergovernmental working relationships.