

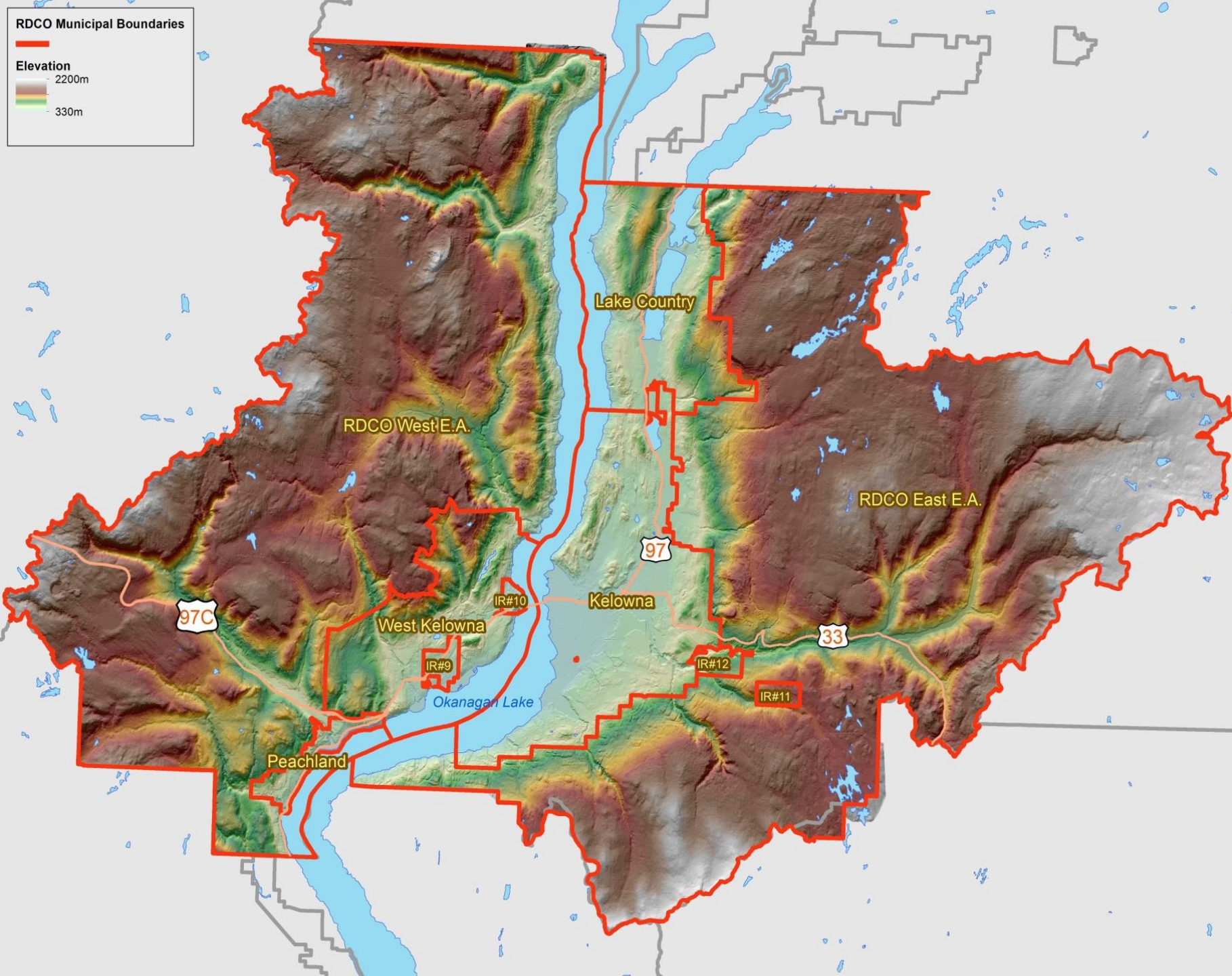
Local Government & First Nations Partnerships

Brian Reardon, CAO, Regional District of Central Okanagan

February 5th, 2020

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First Nations:

WestBank First Nation,
Okanagan Indian Band

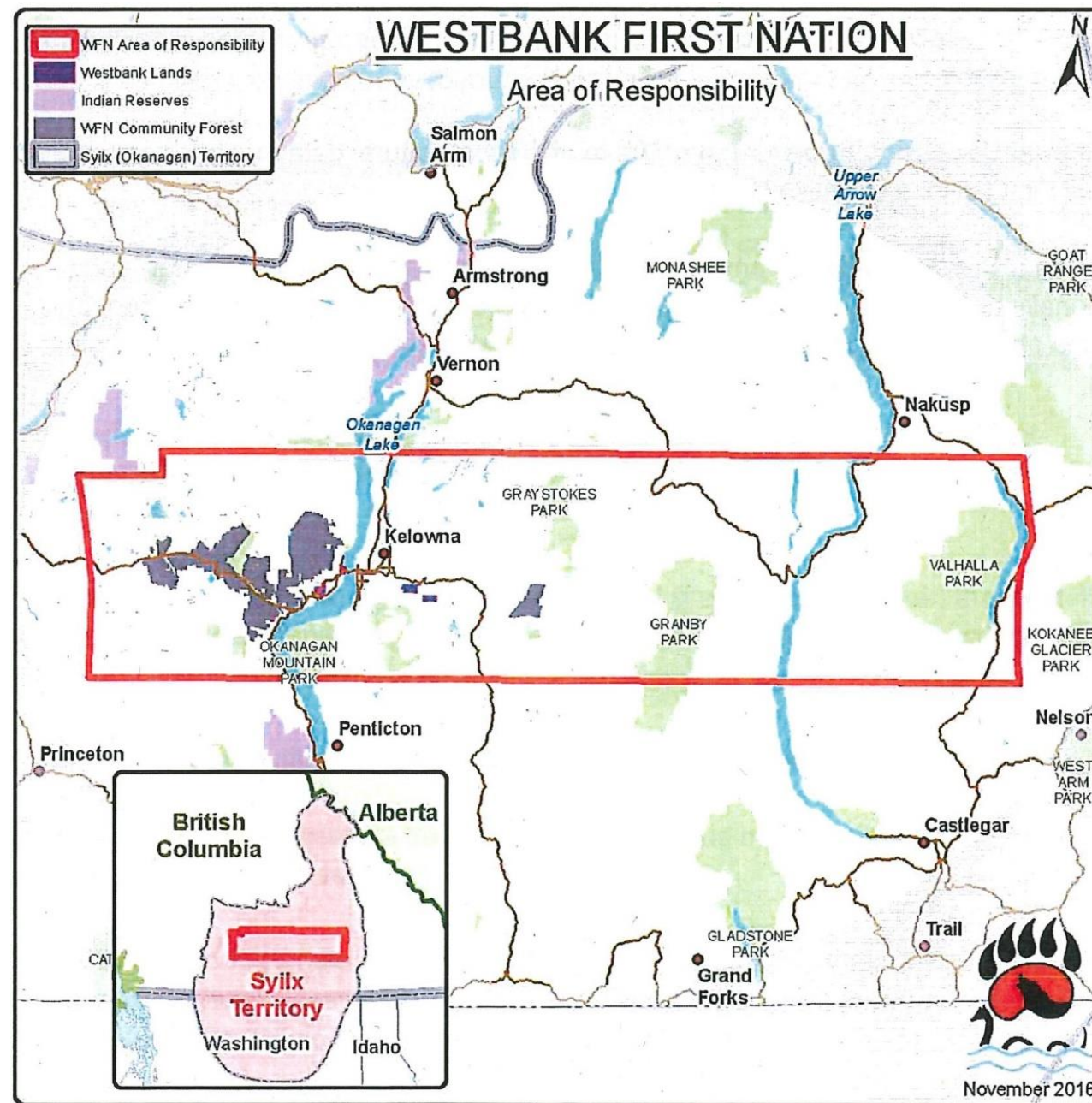
Electoral Areas:

Electoral Area West,
Electoral Area East

Municipalities:

District of Peachland,
City of West Kelowna,
City of Kelowna,
District of Lake Country

Westbank First Nation Area of Responsibility



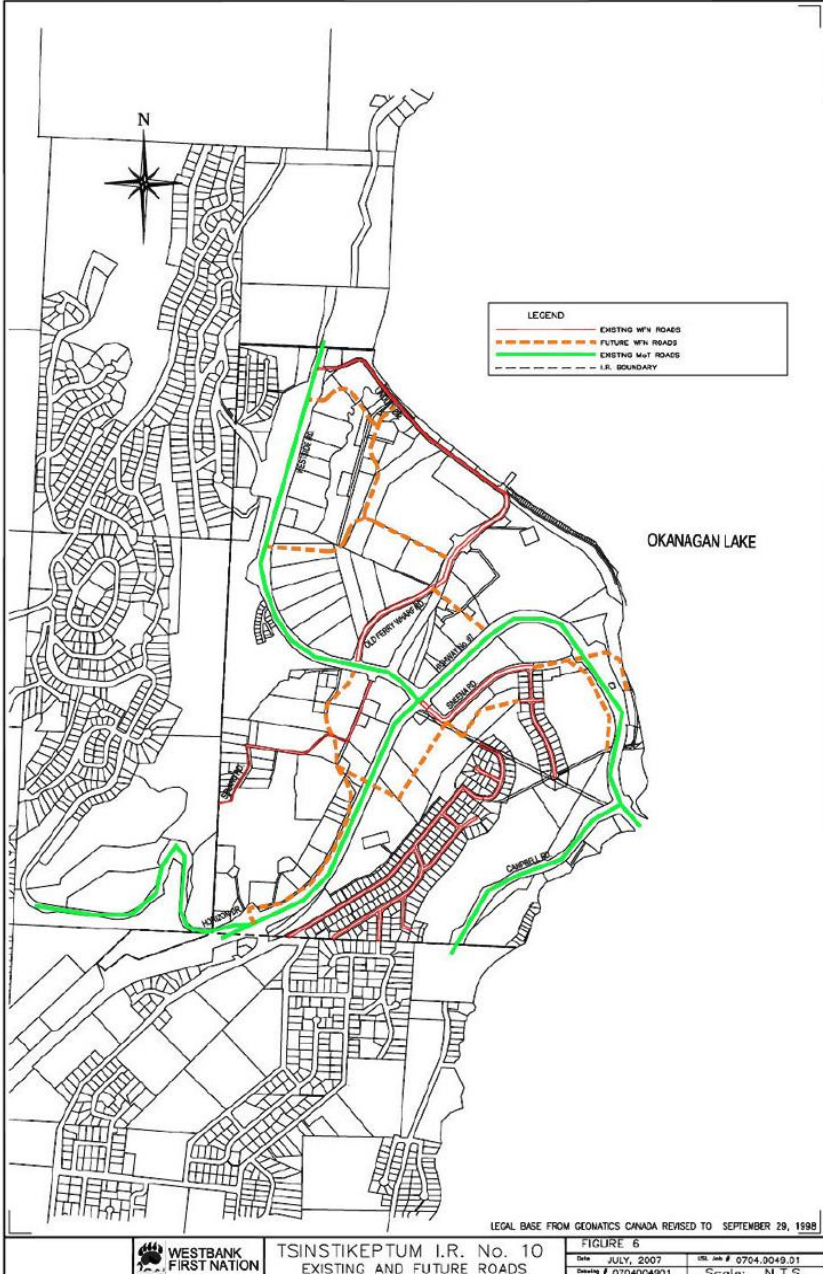
First Nations Governance

Westbank First Nation	Okanagan Indian Band
Non-Treaty Nation with Province of BC	Non-Treaty Nation with Province of BC
Self-Government Agreement with Canada ratified by membership on May 24 th , 2003	Building understanding, finding common ground & collaborating
Self-Government implemented by WFN on April 1 st , 2005	Earning trust & mutual respect
First Local Services Agreement with RDCO signed on January 15 th , 2007	
Fostering partnerships & collaborating	

Summary of Partnerships – Services (WFN)

Mt. Boucherie Arena	Victims/Witness Assistance
Johnston-Bentley Aquatic Center	Emergency 911
Westside Seniors Activity Center	Regional Parks
Westside Transit Services	Regional Air Quality
Handi-Dart Transit	Regional Economic Development
Regional Rescue Services	Sanitary Effluent / Waste-Water Disposal
Crime Stoppers	Westside Solid Waste Landfill
Crime Prevention	Okanagan Basin Water Board

WFN Results



Recent Community to Community Forum

■ Purpose:

- Raise awareness about First Nations cultural heritage sites under threat in our regional parks,
- Look at best practices in Alberta and BC on how to protect First Nations archaeological and cultural sites,
- Look at ways the RDCO and WFN could collaborate to protect these sites.

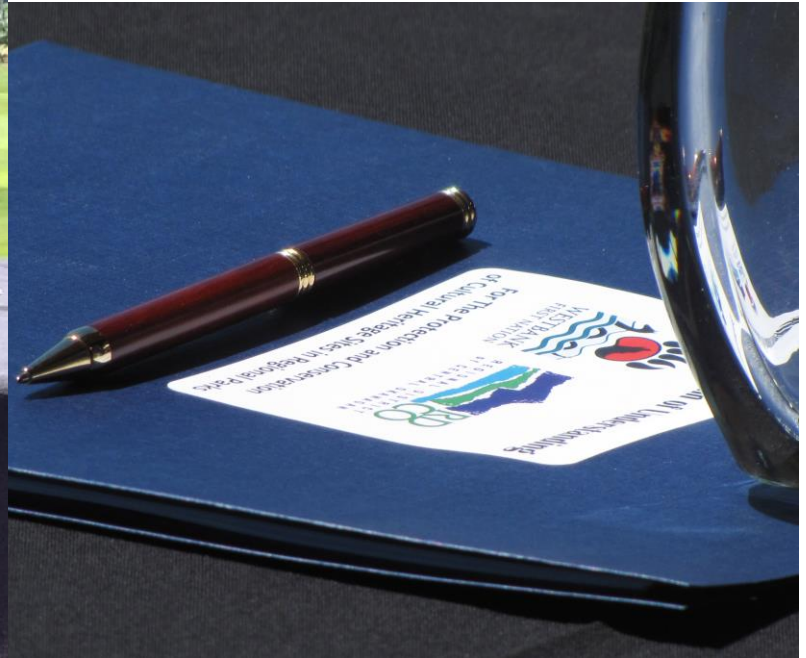


Protection and Conservation of Archaeological & Cultural Heritage





About a year later ...



Partnership Highlights

- Memorandum of Understanding for the Protection and Conservation of Cultural Heritage Sites in Regional Parks
 - Key Objectives:
 - Identify and document all known archaeological sites within regional parks,
 - To protect the integrity of archaeological and cultural sites within our parks,
 - To educate the public about WFN traditional use of these sites, WFN language and their culture through;
 - Co-managing cultural heritage sites within our regional parks,
 - Collaborating in the design of future regional parks plans,
 - Incorporate sylix language on interpretive signs and information kiosks,
 - Hiring park interpreters from Westbank First Nation or the Okanagan Nation Alliance

A great result ...

but what's the real
story behind the
story?



What's the Role of the EA Director in This?

- Support your corporate communications protocols,
- Get to know the First Nations communities in your Electoral Area,
 - Learn their history, their culture, their issues;
 - Invest in the time to build a strong working relationship based on mutual respect and trust;
 - At the appropriate time advocate for a C2C Forum to help formalize your working relationships;
 - Through casual conversation see if there are ways to advocate, innovate, and collaborate on issues that matter;
 - Work with your Board Chair, CAO and others on how best to take steps towards reconciliation.

Recent Point of Interest

- Bill 41 received royal assent in BC on November 28th, 2019:
 - United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
 - critical step forward on the path to reconciliation,
 - Over time, it is expected there will be further legislative changes to align existing BC laws with UNDRIP principles.



Thank you.

