

KITSELAS FIRST NATION – CITY OF TERRACE

COLLABORATING THROUGH INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICING

PATHWAY OVERVIEW

Kitselas First Nation is located a 15-minute drive east of the City of Terrace, along the Skeena River in the North Coast region of BC. Economic development progress between the two communities has been progressing since 2006 when they signed an Accord of Recognition and Respect and a Framework for Cooperation. Kitsumkalum First Nation, which is located just west of Terrace, was also party to this agreement. Terrace and Kitselas broadened their partnership with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the securing of 2,200 acres of Provincial Airport Option Lands in 2007. Subsequent agreements were signed in 2008 and 2011, and in 2014, the Kitselas Development Corporation purchased 172 acres of the Skeena Industrial Development Park. Alongside regional employment benefits, the City of Terrace and Kitselas now benefit from shared industrial development and tax revenues as a result of this partnership work.



PATHWAY ACTIVITIES

The collaborative pathway activities undertaken by Kitselas First Nation and the City of Terrace included the following.



**Protocol and
Communications Agreements**



**Land Use Planning
and Development**



**Joint Economic
Development Initiatives**



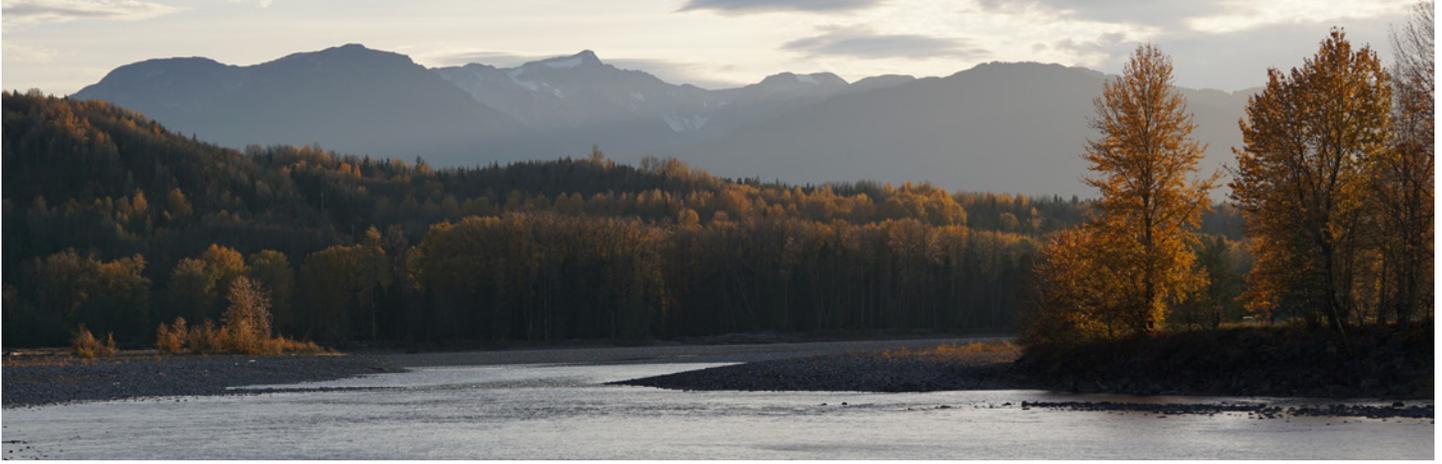
**Relationship-Building and
Leadership Forums**

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Accord of Recognition and Respect and a Framework for Cooperation, as well as the Cooperation Protocol Agreements signed between the City of Terrace and Kitselas, were the foundation for future work between the two governments. The objective of the first agreement was to establish:

- An effective government-to-government working relationship between the parties and other agencies;
- A policy level and technical level dialogue; and
- A cooperative planning process, information sharing and consultation process between the parties.

Terrence broadened the partnership with the Kitselas First Nation with the signing of an MOU for securing 2200 acres of Provincial Airport Option Lands in 2007. This agreement was based on mutual interest in securing lands from the Province to promote industrial development, to generate taxation, and to create employment. These lands fall within the traditional territory of Kitselas. Subsequent agreements were signed in 2008 and 2011, and in 2014 the Kitselas Development Corporation purchased 172 acres of the Skeena Industrial Development Park. A portion of the land is under lease to Chevron to support major LNG development projects in the region.



OUTCOMES

Many benefits have arisen from the expanding partnership between the two communities. The progressive series of MOUs and agreements over time has resulted in a robust relationship between the City of Terrace and the Kitselas and Kitsumkalum First Nations. In the spirit of the Cooperation Protocol Agreements, Terrace is now looking for opportunities to collaborate with Kitselas and Kitsumkalum and will often direct interested businesses to respective development corporations if a proposal is not the right fit for Terrace. That level of trust has resulted in a Revenue Sharing Agreement between the City of Terrace and Kitselas to promote industrial development, generate taxation, and create employment. As a result of the Skeena Development Park and joint economic development initiatives, the City of Terrace and Kitselas First Nation now benefit from property tax revenue alongside employment opportunities available to the entire region.

LESSONS LEARNED AND KEYS TO SUCCESS

One of the main takeaways from this relationship is to take your time. Work and patience are required for relationships to grow and develop, which allows space for agreements of mutual benefit to fall in place. Other lessons learned and keys to success include:

- ✓ **Stronger together is the philosophy.** For neighbouring communities, there are natural connections and interdependencies and it is critical to lend support to one another whenever possible.
- ✓ **Individual success supports regional economic well-being.** The success of economic development initiatives and First Nations enterprises such as the Kitsumkalum Rock Quarry and Logistics Park or Kitselas Forest Products make all local communities healthier and more sustainable.

PATHWAYS TO COLLABORATION

Pathways to Collaboration is a joint initiative of the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), the Province of British Columbia, and the First Nations Summit with funding from the Indigenous Business & Investment Council (IBIC). The project aims to showcase the growing number of successful economic development collaborations and partnerships between First Nations and local governments, while highlighting lessons learned and key steps to success.

The pathways to collaboration communities take are unique, reflecting the context of the communities involved, and involve different activities. Common pathway activities include protocol and communications agreements; servicing agreements and shared infrastructure projects; collaborative land use planning and development projects; joint economic development initiatives; and shared tourism projects. Like signposts along a pathway, these pathway activities are identified in the case study series.

For more information on the project, please contact the communities profiled, or visit www.ubcm.ca



Indigenous Business and Investment Council
Sharing Success