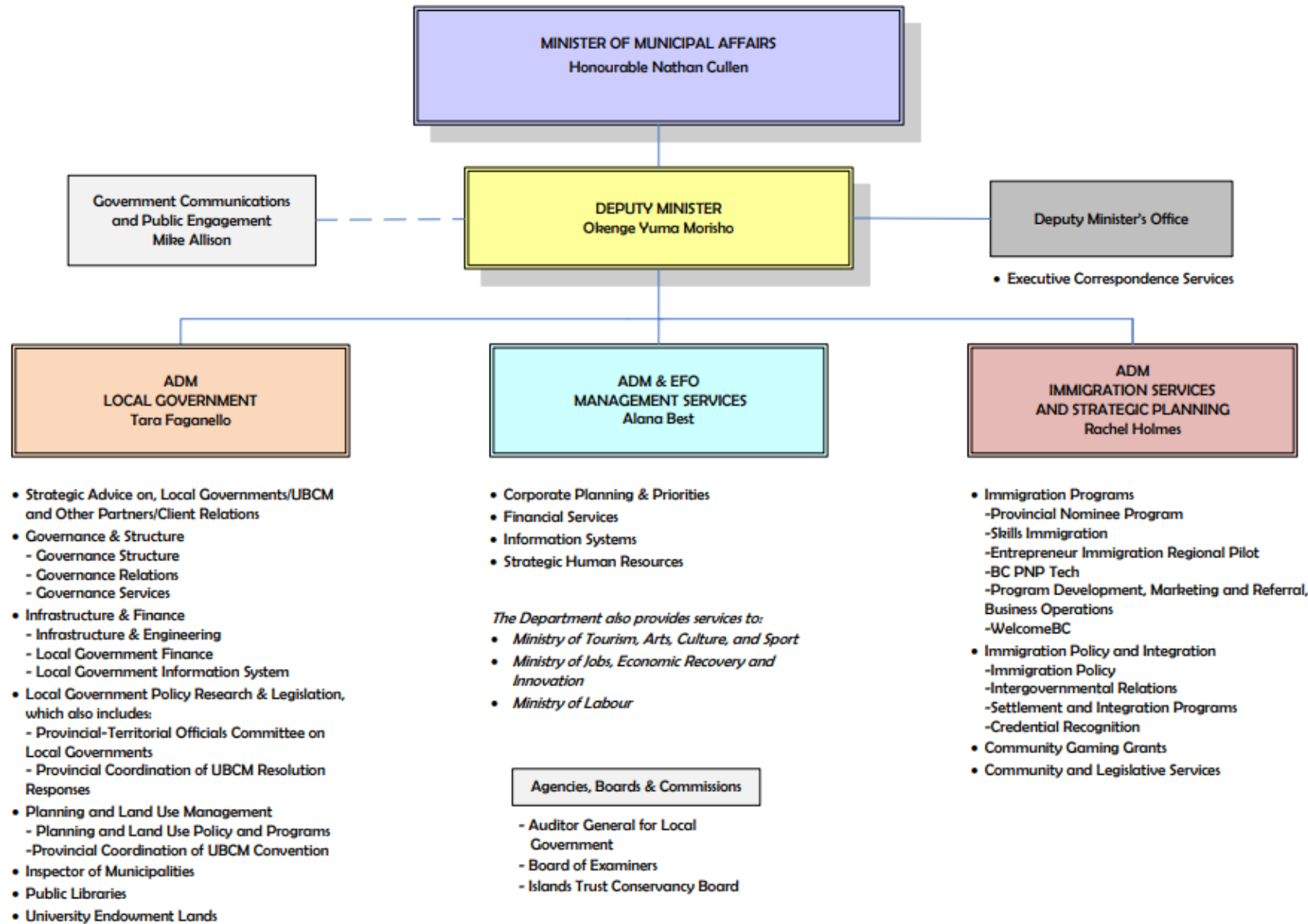


# **Local Governments, Indigenous Reconciliation and the Declaration Act**

April 2022

# MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS



# ***Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act***

- The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act) implements the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration), which the Truth and Reconciliation Commission confirms as the framework for reconciliation.
- Unanimously approved by the legislature November 2019, the Declaration Act enables legislative, regulatory, policy and operational changes to be made over time to support implementation.



# ***Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act***

- It requires government, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples to:
  - Ensure new and existing laws are consistent with the UN Declaration
  - Develop and implement an action plan to achieve the objectives of the UN Declaration
  - Monitor progress through public annual reporting
- It enables new decision-making agreements between B.C. and Indigenous governing bodies on decisions that directly affect Indigenous peoples.

# Action Plan

- Draft released June 11, 2021; Final released March 30, 2022
- 5 year plan; 89 priority actions
- Strategic, provincial-scale, whole-of-government document that identifies short-, medium-, and long-term actions that reflect priorities identified in collaboration with Indigenous peoples
- Action plan is not intended to limit, but rather supplement, ongoing reconciliation work that will continue whether or not it's in the action plan.



# Action plan cont.

The actions identified in the plan are broken into themes:

1. Self-Determination and Inherent Right of Self-Government
2. Title and Rights of Indigenous Peoples
3. Ending Indigenous-specific racism and discrimination
4. Social, cultural and economic well-being

# Action plan cont.

Items directly referencing local governments:

- 1.11 Support inclusive regional governance by advancing First Nations participation in regional district boards.
- This Action was first raised by UBCM membership via resolutions 2018-B150 and OF1.
- 4.27 Review the principles and processes that guide the naming of municipalities and regional districts, and evolve practices to foster reconciliation in local processes.
- This Action was raised by First Nations and local governments in feedback to the Draft Action Plan



# Declaration Act Secretariat

- Separate body
- Will guide government's legislative priorities and engagement with Indigenous peoples and governments,
- Including providing clear policy and process advice on consultation and cooperation requirements, and
- Developing measures to ensure changes in legislation are consistent with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples



# Impacts on local governments

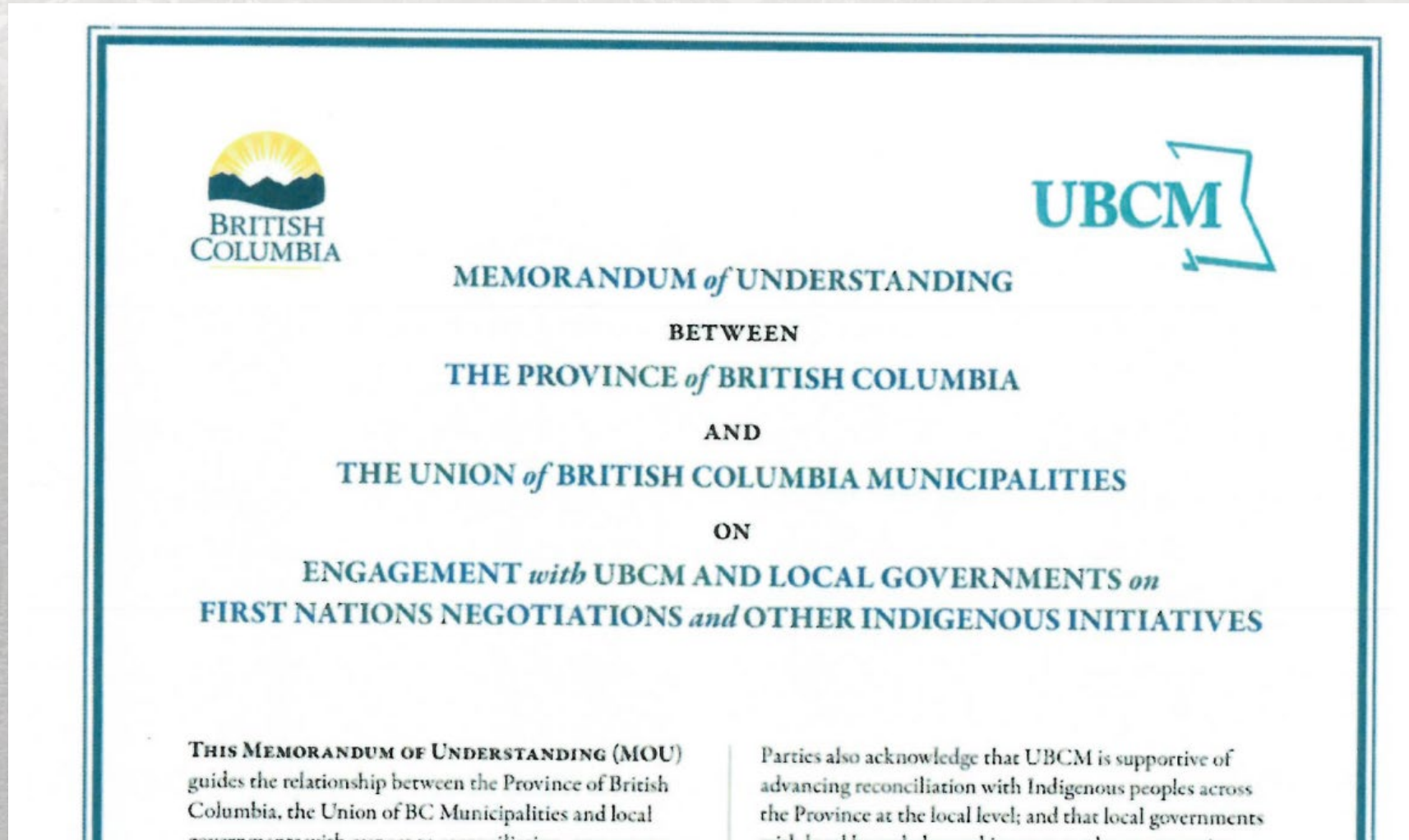
- No immediate effects on local government legislation
- Provincial laws will be brought into alignment over time

# Action Plan Items: non-MUNI

Draft #/Final #	Subject	Ministry Responsible
2.9 [2.8]	conservation / biodiversity	Land Water and Resource Stewardship
2.10 [2.9]	wild salmon	Land Water and Resource Stewardship
2.11 [2.10]	forest [legislation, regulations and] policy	Forestry
3.12 [3.11]	policing systemic biases and racism	Public Safety and Solicitor General, Attorney General, Mental Health and Addictions
4.16 [4.21]	urban Indigenous advisory table	Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Social Development and Poverty Reduction
4.17 [4.23]	cross-government review of provincial supports and services for Indigenous peoples in urban settings and develop plan [with clear timelines] that will provide greater collaboration and coordination to meet needs.	Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation



# Province – Local governments MOU



# Declaration Act and Provincial Staff



- How is it affecting day to day operations of Ministry staff?
- What does engagement and consultation look like?
- How are local governments engaged in Ministry engagement and consultation process?



# Short & Long Term....

Ask yourselves...

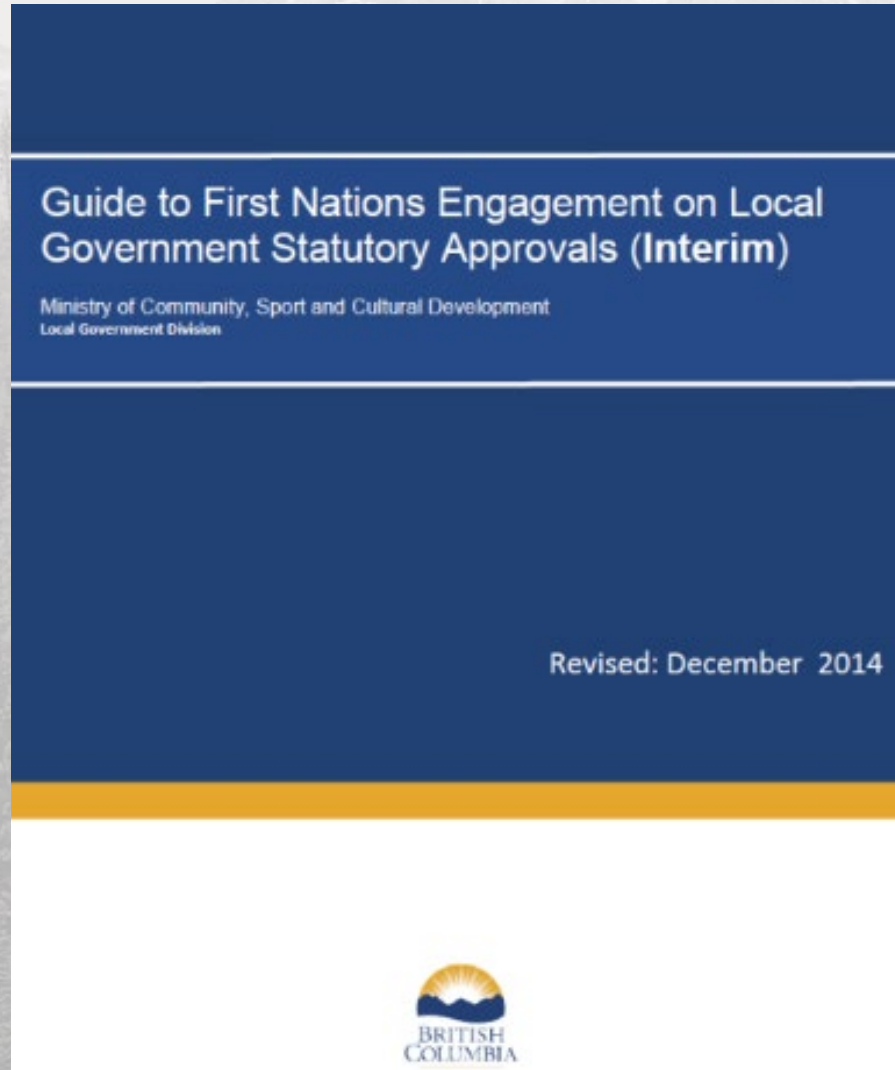
- How is our relationship with Indigenous peoples? Does it need to change?
- Where is my local government now and where could it be in 10 years?

# Local Governments Advancing Reconciliation

- What are local governments responsibilities?
- What have local governments heard from First Nations?



# First nations engagement guide updates



- Prior to Provincial consultation it is beneficial for the local government to have done outreach with First Nations with interests in the area
- 'Guide to First Nations Engagement on Local Government Statutory Approvals' on our website that provides guidance for local government looking to engage with First Nations.
- Principles and the relationship building remains important.

# The Guide and Implications for Local Government Operations

## Current Resources:

- [Contacts for First Nation Consultation Areas](#)
- Updating [Guide to First Nations Engagement on Local Government Statutory Approvals \(Interim\)](#)

## Actions:

- Prioritization of Engagement as Local Government Responsibility
- Inclusion of First Nations in Local Government Processes
- Building Partnerships and Working with First Nations





# Local Governments and Reconciliation

- Neighbours having a conversation
- Building relationships
- Working towards government-to-government reconciliation at the community level
- Local governments are leaders
- More we can do together

*The District of Squamish is located within the Squamish Nation Traditional Territory*  
*Ha7lh en skwalwn Kwis tl'iknumut tl'a Skwxwuu7mesh Uxwumixw*

The logo for the Squamish Nation, featuring a stylized eye and the word "SQUAMISH".

2019 to 2022  
**COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN**

We will continue to seek opportunities to strengthen our relationship with Squamish Nation and further underscore our commitment to truth and reconciliation efforts by encouraging more learning and action across the community as a whole.

## 3a-2.2 – First Nations Economic Opportunity Portal Social Value Procurement

Shared prosperity is an essential component of the CRD's path to Reconciliation. This initiative will advance the First Nation Reconciliation Board Priority by drawing out connections between First Nations, First Nations' businesses and CRD procurement.

The objective of initiative is to establish a First Nations Economic Opportunity Portal, an entry point to the CRD Business Opportunities registry that is tailored for First Nations and First Nations businesses. It will also build additional structures in the CRD Procurement Policy that emphasizes Social Procurement Values. Finally, the initiative will form as the foundation for the CRD to build a First Nations' Skills Index and Service Database. As First Nations continue to develop their business interests and capacity, they will be able to register their businesses with the CRD so that staff can begin to draw from established First Nations businesses when looking to procure goods or services.



# What this means

- We are headed in the right direction
- Need to continue working in partnership
- Need to share best practices and encourage continuous improvement across all BC local governments and communities

## Timeline of Efforts Towards Reconciliation



# C2c and library collection

## FIRST NATIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECONCILIATION

Posted by [Bob Joseph](#) on Oct 20, 2015 12:08:57 PM

Sep 23, 2016  
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### TLA'AMIN NATION - CITY OF POWELL RIVER - qathet REGIONAL DISTRICT

COLLABORATION AND RECONCILIATION



#### PATHWAY OVERVIEW

Located north of Vancouver, on BC's Sunshine Coast, Tla'amin Nation, the City of Powell River, and qathet Regional District are leading the way in building and sustaining proactive and productive intergovernmental relationships. The three governments have successfully collaborated on a variety of projects over the past 15 plus years, both individually and working as three governments together. Tla'amin is a self-governing Nation with the fourth modern treaty to come into effect in British Columbia.

#### PATHWAY ACTIVITIES

The collaborative pathway activities undertaken by Tla'amin Nation, City of Powell River, and qathet Regional District include the following.



Protocol and Communications  
Agreements



Land Use Planning  
and Development



Joint Economic  
Development Initiatives



Shared Tourism  
Projects

#### PROJECT OVERVIEW

In 2002, a dispute arose between the City and Tla'amin Nation. The City did not share their plans to build a sea walk, and construction disturbed, destroyed, and buried significant Tla'amin cultural sites including petroglyphs and shell middens. Acknowledging the mistake, City leaders handed over the \$1.5 million contract to build the sea walk to Tla'amin Nation (then Sliammon First Nation). Through this, Tla'amin was able to protect cultural heritage sites, provide

current hegus (Chief) Clint Williams said that it was written as a framework for reconciliation, "before reconciliation was a buzzword." In 2004, building on the work done developing the Community Accord, the Protocol Agreement for Communication and Cooperation was signed between Tla'amin Nation and the qathet Regional District (then Powell River Regional District).

## Fort St. James and Nak'azdli Whut'en Community Forum: keeping community

Both Fort St. James District and  
Nak'azdli Whut'en got together to help  
understand each other's roles.

2016 11:00 a.m. / NEWS

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PARTICIPATE IN CEDI TO  
STER JO  
LABOR

July 7, 2018

## Guide to Community to Community Forums in British Columbia

September 2019

HOME / RESEARCH TOOLS / JOINT INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES AND RELATIONS

## JOINT INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES AND RELATIONS

A collection of resources related to initiatives, agreements, arrangements, partnerships, and the provision of services between Indigenous governments and organizations, and local governments in British Columbia.



Service Partners

Search Documents Here...

Search



# Communities at Work

Small	Mid	Large
Fort St. John	Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD)	Burnaby
<p>As part of their 5-year Strategic Plan, Council has a strategic objective to Strengthen relationships with First Nations and Métis communities. The municipality is actioning this in many ways including holding events to celebrate diversity and collaborating with First Nations on public art.</p>	<p>Indigenous Relations is one of four strategic drivers, through which CVRD services are being delivered. To support this, the CVRD adopted a framework to deliver core services with an Indigenous Relations lens and promote greater cultural awareness. Some primary objectives of this framework include enhancing the knowledge and understanding of Indigenous culture and history, building capacity of all elected officials and staff to be engaged in collaborative work with Indigenous communities and people; and responding to the TRC's Calls to Action and the UN Declaration.</p>	<p>Has been working on reconciliation since 2016; their actions include building government-to-government relationships; ensuring organizational cultural competency; and action in the community including community-based programs through the school district and Museum and Art gallery partners to support public learning.</p>

# Resources

## ***Declaration Act***

- [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#)
- [Declaration Act Action Plan](#)
- [Local Government Fact sheet on the Declaration Act](#)
- [UBCM Draft Action Plan Submission](#)

## **Pathways to Success**

- [MOU: Engagement with UBCM and Local Governments on Treaty Agreements, Non-Treaty Agreements and Indigenous Initiatives](#)
- [Joint Indigenous and Local Government Initiatives and Relations collection](#)
- [Pathways to Collaboration](#)
- [Community to Community Forum \(C2C\)](#)

## ***Research***

- [Contacts for First Nation Consultation Areas](#)
- [BC Treaty Annual Reports](#)
- [Provincial Agreements with First Nations \(A to Z\)](#)
- [MUNI Local Government and First Nations Relations Webpage \(Guides found here\)](#)
- [Interactive Guide to Building Relationships with First Nations](#)
- Indigenous communities' websites



# Contact Information

Local Government Division  
Governance and Structure Branch, Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Dianna Porter, Senior Program Analyst

[Dianna.Porter@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Dianna.Porter@gov.bc.ca)

(778) 698-3213

OR

Brent Mueller, Director of Governance Relations

[Brent.Mueller@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brent.Mueller@gov.bc.ca)

(778) 698-3220