



## RELATIONSHIP PROTOCOL

BETWEEN

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS,  
AND  
FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT,  
AND  
UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

(Collectively referred to as the “FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL”)

AND

UNION OF BC MUNICIPALITIES

(collectively the “Parties”)

This Agreement is made as of Monday, September 16, 2024

### **WHEREAS:**

1. The First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) is comprised of the political executives of the BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN), First Nations Summit (FNS), and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC). The FNLC is not an independent political entity or organization but is a collaborative political working partnership among the three organizations, with the aim of advancing the interests of First Nations in British Columbia (B.C.). The mandate and work of the FNLC is collectively directed by First Nations’ governments through resolutions of the three political organizations. The FNLC is also mandated to work as an advocacy body; undertake analysis at the provincial level on issues of common concern and importance to First Nations; foster effective communications and information-sharing amongst First Nations in B.C.; uphold and support the unconditional implementation of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*; develop and foster unity among First Nations as well as among the First Nations’ three provincial organizations (BCAFN, FNS and UBCIC); and ensuring that the purpose, principles and values of the *Leadership Accord* are upheld, supported and realized.

2. UBCM represents all municipalities and regional districts in B.C. as well as those First Nations who apply and meet criteria for membership. UBCM is a non-partisan organization and serves as a forum for members to collaborate, share information, establish policy priorities and advocate for common interests. UBCM provides various services to its members, including policy development, training, advocacy on issues that impact local government interests, and administration of federal/provincial grants. As a policy-based organization, UBCM's advocacy work is directed by member resolutions.
3. The Parties share the view that cooperative relationships and effective communication in key priority areas can contribute directly to the well-being of communities.

**THEREFORE:**

4. This Relationship Protocol reflects the Parties' commitment for sincere and honest engagement on priority issues.

**OBJECTIVES:**

5. **Building Trust and Understanding:** Build trust and understanding between the Parties' members by fostering positive relationships.
6. **Facilitating Communication:** Engage in ongoing dialogue and learning that includes exchanging information, communicating interests and sharing concerns and perspectives on matters of mutual interest.
7. **Promoting Partnership and Collaboration:** Facilitate collaboration between First Nations and local governments toward shared goals and priorities that promote social, economic and environmental well-being of communities.
8. **Addressing Common Challenges:** Address common challenges facing First Nations and local governments by leveraging resources and expertise from both Parties.
9. **Advancing reconciliation:** Promote dialogue, cooperation and respectful engagement between local governments and First Nations to advance reconciliation.

**PRINCIPLES:**

10. This Relationship Protocol is guided by the spirit of cooperation, respect, partnership and the understanding and recognition of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People* (UNDRIP) as well as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. This intention is further fortified by the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (B.C.) which, among other things, affirms UNDRIP's application to the laws of B.C. and serves as B.C.'s framework for reconciliation.

11. The Parties recognize and acknowledge First Nations' legal, spiritual, social and cultural practices associated with the land, environment and natural resources must be respected and share the vision of healthy, resilient communities for current and future generations.
12. The Parties acknowledge the benefit of co-operative intergovernmental relations between First Nations and local governments.
13. The Parties seek to engage in dialogue to share knowledge, expertise, experience and perspectives in support of promoting effective relationships between First Nations and local governments.

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

14. The Parties agree to meet at least once annually to discuss issues of mutual concern and build joint work and communication plans, including outcomes for the upcoming year. The Parties also agree to an annual review of relationship commitments.
15. The Parties will endeavour to provide notice to each other on issues of mutual interest in a timely manner and prior to public release.
16. The Parties agree to set up a working group comprised of staff from the Parties, with ongoing communication between staff to further the general objectives of this Relationship Protocol. Staff from the Parties will meet on a regular basis to review joint initiatives and projects as well as progress on the objectives.
17. Each Party will provide the other with a standing invitation to each other's public assemblies/annual conventions.

**TERM AND REVIEW:**

18. This Relationship Protocol shall be effective upon signing by the Parties. It may be terminated by either of the Parties with three months' notice.
19. The Parties acknowledge that this Relationship Protocol does not create any enforceable legal or equitable rights or any obligation.
20. The Parties may agree in writing to amend this Protocol.
21. This Protocol does not and is not intended to, define or extinguish any Aboriginal or treaty rights.

In witness whereof the parties have executed this Memorandum of Understanding this 16<sup>th</sup> day of September 2024.

**On behalf of the UNION OF BC MUNICIPALITIES**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Trish Mandewo  
President

**On behalf of the BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Terry Teegee  
Regional Chief

**On behalf of the FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cheryl Casimer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Phillips

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Hugh Braker

**On behalf of the UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS**

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Grand Chief Stewart Phillip

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Chief Don Tom

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Chief Marilyn Slett