



**A Joint Relationship Accord Between the  
Okanagan Indian Band and the City of Vernon**

<b>WITH RESPECT THAT:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Chief and council of the Okanagan Indian Band and the Mayor and the council of the City of Vernon ("the Communities") recognize and accept that we share a region and common interests, living on traditional Syilx/Okanagan territory.</li><li>• The Communities understand, recognize and accept each other's responsibilities to their communities within the boundaries of the traditional Syilx/Okanagan territory.</li><li>• The Communities wish to strengthen the social, cultural and economic ties that exist between the two and enhance their relationship based on mutual respect and recognition as this is beneficial to both communities.</li><li>• The Okanagan Indian Band and the City of Vernon Relationship Accord provides the framework upon which the Communities, including their respective governments, residents and members, will collaborate with one another; and</li><li>• We feel the need to develop mutual protocols and activities that engage First Nation and Municipal leaders or their representatives on issues and initiatives of community economic and social development and other matters that respect heritage, the provision of services tailored to the culture and inclusive social participation. This may include a range of sectors, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Environmental and Land Stewardship</li><li>• Economic and Social Development</li><li>• Revitalization of Arts, Culture and Language</li><li>• Recreation and Wellness</li><li>• Tourism</li><li>• Community - to - Community Education and Engagement</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>PURPOSE of this Agreement:</b>	
<b>VISION to guide our work together:</b>	We share our collective knowledge to build a better future for our children and generations to follow; two communities committed to trusting, celebrating and respecting each other, our ancestors and our environment.
<b>PRINCIPLES AND VALUES to guide our relationship:</b>	<p>We, the Communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Acknowledge the history, past experiences and differences that impact current perceptions and opinions, but are not limited by them;</li><li>• Recognize the diversity and uniqueness of our respective communities, and commit to work together as one unified partnership;</li><li>• Commit to honesty, willingness to share knowledge and experience, and building and maintaining strong mutual trust and respect, including each other's customs and beliefs;</li><li>• Commit together to the importance of implementing solutions to address heritage protection and environmental stewardship;</li><li>• Respect the skills, governance authorities and respective community governance practices of the other community; and</li><li>• Acknowledge these values strengthen our communities; and our collective, cultural, economic and physical wellness.</li></ul>
<b>PROCESS to sustain our relationship:</b>	<p>We, the Communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Will establish regular joint council meetings, in consultation on issues in the joint interest of both communities. The council meetings will occur at least twice annually, or at times determined to promote an open and constructive dialogue in order to define common priorities.</li><li>• Agree to cooperate on common issues, concerns, implementation and initiatives based on favorable current opportunities;</li><li>• Will establish protocols to establish open and improved lines of communication;</li><li>• Will establish targets, with steps and benchmarks for progress, and report annually;</li><li>• Agree that this Relationship Accord will be regarded as a “living document” intended to evolve as the Communities relationship evolves;</li><li>• Agree that should a misunderstanding arise between the Communities, either Okanagan Indian Band or City of Vernon may, at any time, call a special Joint Meeting to resolve the issue. Where the Communities are unable to resolve the issue, either may request a facilitated resolution process. If this process is deemed unsuccessful, either of the Communities may withdraw from this Relationship Accord.</li></ul>
<b>COMMITMENT of each signatory community:</b>	<p>We, the Communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commit to maintaining our relationship as outlined in this Relationship Accord;</li><li>• Commit to building and maintaining strong mutual trust and respect with each other.</li></ul>
<b>LIMITATION of the agreement:</b>	<p>Nothing in this Relationship Accord will be construed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To abrogate or derogate from any Aboriginal, constitutional, or legal rights and title of the Okanagan Indian Band and the City of Vernon;</li><li>• To prejudice or affect any statutory power of decision or discretion of the Okanagan Indian Band and the City of Vernon.</li></ul>

**City of Vernon**

Mayor Akbal Mund

October 13, 2018

**Okanagan Indian Band**

Chief Byron Louis

October 13, 2018