

Elkstwec ell re Knucwentwec Friendship Agreement



Shuswap Indian Band
and
District of Invermere



The Chief and council of the Shuswap Indian Band and the Mayor and council of the District of Invermere recognize that we live together on the shared traditional territories of the Secwepemc and Ktunaxa Nations. Shuswap Indian Band and District of Invermere share a common vision of developing a collaborative working partnership, based on principles of trust and friendship, for the benefit of our communities.

PARTNERS

This Friendship Agreement is comprised of the following partners, through Council resolutions, namely:

- Shuswap Indian Band
- District of Invermere

While the current collaborative work will take place within the boundaries of the two communities of the Shuswap Indian Band Reserve and District of Invermere Municipality, we are hopeful that over the coming years there will be opportunities to engage other neighbouring First Nations and local governments in the Columbia Valley.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Partners:

- Acknowledge our past and histories but are not restricted by them;
- Respect each other's customs, traditions, and beliefs; share values and culture in spirit and practice;
- Respect the knowledge and experience of the Elders of both communities;
- Respect the skills, governance authorities and respective community governance practice and jurisdiction of the other partner;
- Strengthen the cooperative and supportive bond between governing bodies to promote the wellbeing of all community members;
- Invest in the next generations by providing accessible wellness, cultural, recreational, educational and professional opportunities.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Agreement is to:

- Provide the framework upon which the partners, including their respective governments and community members, will collaborate with one another;
- Strengthen the partners mutual intentions to pursue a lasting friendship based on mutual respect, honour and recognition;
- Develop mutual protocols and activities that engage transparent communications, trust, inclusion, belonging and community betterment;
- Collaborate on community economic and social development, including but not limited to the following outcomes:
 - o Strengthened community to community relationship and awareness, and increased collaboration amongst the two communities;
 - o Safe and accessible all-season Active Transportation Corridor connecting the Shuswap Indian Band and District of Invermere;
 - o Secwepemc and Columbia Valley cultural and historical information represented on the Active Transportation Corridor;
 - o Increased access to environmental and wildlife education displayed on the Active Transportation Corridor
 - o Connected Shuswap Indian Band and District of Invermere economic centres;
 - o Local Active Transportation Corridor linked with Regional Active Transportation Infrastructure.

VISION

As neighbouring communities, we commit to share our wisdom to build a better future for our children and generations to follow; two communities committed to building a friendship through trust, celebration and respect for one another, our ancestors and our environment.

PROCESS

The Partners:

- Will regard this Friendship Agreement as a "living document" intended to evolve as the partners' friendship and partnership evolves;
- Will recognize that this Friendship Agreement is not mandated, but is a choice of the current elected leadership representing both communities;
- Will establish protocols to foster transparent communication with each other, and our communities;
- Will build on our Joint Strategic Plan for Joint Active Transportation Network Plan, and will set and review our shared goals and objectives with measurable outcomes, annually;
- Will maintain a Working Group to work on identified common priorities, governed by Terms of Reference;
- Will establish an annual celebration of the Friendship Agreement in order to engage community members from both Shuswap Indian Band and District of Invermere and our partners throughout the Columbia Valley.
- Will establish an annual joint council meeting, in review of our friendship and partnership and in consultation on issues of joint interest of both communities. The joint council meeting will occur once annually.

For the Shuswap Indian Band

Chief Barb Cote

For the District of Invermere

Date
Mayor Al Miller

Date
Oct. 13, 2020