



PROTOCOL ON COOPERATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

THIS AGREEMENT dated JUNE 11, 2014 2014

BETWEEN

Nak'azdli Indian Band Council
P.O. Box 1329
284 Kwah Rd
Fort St James, BC
VOJ 1P0
(250) 996-7171

AND

District of Fort St. James
P.O. Box 640
477 Stuart Drive West
Fort St James, BC
VOJ 1P0
(250) 996-8223

Hereafter, Nak'azdli Indian Band Council and the District of Fort St. James Council are collectively referred to as "the Parties."

1. Whereas the Parties:

- a. acknowledge that both communities are situated on Nak'azdli traditional territory and that with this acknowledgement comes respect for the land, people and unique histories of that territory; and
- b. recognize that each council has unique responsibilities and authorities for their respective communities, within their respective areas of jurisdiction; and
- c. recognize the need to collaborate on matters that impact the other, and that a collaborative relationship with each other must be founded on the fundamental principles of trust, honesty and mutual respect; and

- d. wish to develop a shared vision that celebrates diversity, promotes healthy communities and supports the principles of sustainable development; and
- e. wish to establish a strong government-to-government relationship for the purpose of sharing information, improving communications, and working together on joint initiatives.

2. NOW THEREFORE the Parties agree to:

- a. Engage in co-operative action and invest in building the intergovernmental relationship at all levels (elected officials, administration, staff and citizens); and
- b. Develop joint service agreements that are mutually beneficial; and
- c. Recognize this Protocol as a living document that will be renewed regularly to reflect emerging priorities of the intergovernmental relationship; and
- d. Implement this Protocol in the best efforts of each council and staff member of the respective Parties; and
- e. Appoint representatives to participate on the Partnership Steering Committee—to meet quarterly; and
- f. Engage in annual Council to Council meetings to develop the intergovernmental relationship and move forward on joint priorities. The first of such meetings will be held no later than June 30, 2014.

3. The Purpose of this Protocol is to:

- a. enter into a more formal arrangement between the Parties;
- b. invest in a long-term cooperative working relationship (at political, administrative and staff levels); and
- c. establish regular and ongoing communications on issues of mutual concern; and
- d. cultivate enhanced cross-cultural awareness to promote a greater understanding of local cultures and values, economy and community; and
- e. develop a collective vision for growth in the area that supports the principles of healthy, liveable and sustainable communities; and
- f. foster mutually beneficial economic development opportunities that are economically, environmentally and socially viable.

4. Shared Principles:

The Parties have mutually developed the following shared principles. It is hereby agreed that each party will strive to:

- a. Pursue a renewed and lasting relationship among equals based on trust, mutual respect, patience, understanding and communication; and
- b. Respect the jurisdiction, authority, and interests of one another; and
- c. Identify opportunities to improve the standard of living and health for all citizens; and
- d. Seek areas of mutual interest for sharing information, collaboration and co-operative actions; and
- e. Acknowledge that economic prosperity is a result of vibrant and interdependent economies; and
- f. Identify ways to use and manage lands and resources that incorporate the values and interests of both Parties; and
- g. Meet regularly to promote and encourage open and constructive dialogue based on mutual trust, honesty, respect and understanding; and
- h. Work cooperatively to ensure that the Parties have a full understanding of each other's governing structures, capacities, traditions, roles, responsibilities and current projects.

5. Shared Values:

The Parties have mutually developed the following shared values. It is hereby agreed that each party will strive to:

- a. Celebrate and enhance the cultural values of both Parties; and
- b. Protect the environment; and
- c. Provide employment and capacity-building opportunities that reflect each community's standards and values; and
- d. Develop sustainable communities that meet the unique economic, cultural, social and environmental needs of both parties; and
- e. Enhance the quality of life for members and citizens of both parties through the development of joint service agreements.

6. Communications:

The Parties agree to communicate in the following ways to promote a healthy intergovernmental relationship:

- a. Engage in open and transparent communication on matters of mutual interest and concern; and
- b. Respect the need for confidentiality in mutual communications (work together to develop appropriate public messages on joint initiatives); and

- c. Collaborate on decision-making and establish cooperative action plans on areas of common interest (this can be facilitated by the Partnership Steering Committee and annual Council to Council meetings outlined below); and
- d. Provide reasonable notice on issues of mutual concern; and
- e. Share information affecting one another for the following purposes:
 - To facilitate meaningful opportunities for co-operation; and
 - To stimulate meaningful consultative dialogue prior to making a decision that may impact the other party; and
 - To maintain a strong and mutually beneficial relationship between our neighbouring communities and jurisdictions; and
 - To determine and apply effective methods of dispute for resolving conflicts.

7. Partnership Steering Committee:

While all Councillors and staff should be active in moving this intergovernmental relationship forward, a specific Steering Committee is hereby established as the principle structure for implementing this Protocol agreement. The following outlines this structure (including a meeting schedule, representatives' specific roles and responsibilities and reporting structures). Given turnover, members of this committee will be tasked with handing these roles on to incoming members of council or staff, as needed. This will help to ensure the continuity of this relationship, in the face of turnover.

- a. Each party will appoint a total of four representatives (one Councillor, one staff and alternates for each); and
- b. Representatives to participate in quarterly meetings and report back to their respective councils on any relevant updates, ideas or tasks completed by the Partnership Steering Committee (the first meeting to take place no later than April 30, 2014); and
- c. Alternates should be appointed for each representative to ensure that meetings are always attended and the lines of communication are kept open—in the face of capacity constraints.

At the signing of the agreement, the following representatives have been appointed by their respective councils:

Partnership Steering Committee Representatives				
Nak'azdli Band	Council Rep	Council Alternate	Staff Rep	Staff Alternate
Name				
Title				
Phone Number				
Email address				
District of Fort St. James	Council Rep	Council Alternate	Staff Rep	Staff Alternate
Name				
Title				
Phone Number				
Email address				

8. Roles and Responsibilities of Appointed Committee Representatives (and Alternates):

Members and alternates hereby agree to:

- a. participate actively in quarterly scheduled meetings; and
- b. prioritize, develop and prepare specific joint projects to recommend to the respective councils (based on Joint Interests described below); and
- c. liaise between the two councils—providing updates on any relevant issues, activities and priorities of the other council and sharing information at regular council meetings; and
- d. implement the decisions of the Councils through undertaking specific projects and initiatives; and
- e. establish technical committees or working groups to undertake specific projects as required; and
- f. identify and secure financial and other resources as required to undertake specific projects; and
- g. prepare draft documents (such as reports, funding proposals, service agreements and renewal of this living agreement Protocol) for approval, renewal and signature of the councils.

9. Council To Council Forums:

As stated above, the full elected councils will meet at least annually (and more often as required) to monitor and evaluate the implementations of this Protocol and the ensure that specific initiatives that are undertaken by the Partnership Steering Committee and councils. The Councils will provide vision, policy and strategic direction to the Partnership Steering Committee at these regular forums.

10. Initiatives and Opportunities for Collaboration

The Parties hereby agree to:

- a. Celebrate cultural diversity by identifying initiatives and opportunities to promote the unique culture, history, laws and traditions of the Band, and the district; and
- b. Work co-operatively to ensure continuous dialogue that builds understanding, improves relationships, identifies shared values, and establishes co-operative action plans; and
- c. Encourage collaborative communications between community leaders in relation to areas of common interest including economic development and the use and management of natural resources;
- d. Identify ways to promote healthy and safe communities through access to: clean drinking water, wastewater treatment facilities, solid waste management, primary health care, recycling and joint service agreements.

11. Joint Interests:

The Parties agree to work together on all areas of mutual interest, including the following list. As this is a living agreement, these joint interests are subject to future revision to reflect changing community priorities. Current joint interests include but are not limited to:

- a. Intergovernmental Coordination
- b. Cooperative Land Use Planning and Management
- c. Cultural and Heritage Protection
- d. Economic Development
- e. Environmental Protection
- f. Natural Resource Management
- g. Shared and Reciprocal Services (e.g., water, sewer, fire protection, mutual aid, leasing agreement, recycling, snow removal, solid waste management, public transit)
- h. Efficient and Affordable Service Delivery
- i. Transportation Initiatives (e.g., service to Prince George from Fort St. James)


- j. Emergency Preparedness
- k. Capacity Building
- l. Housing
- m. Public Safety
- n. Social Services
- o. Joint Infrastructure
- p. Youth and Elder community engagement
- q. Education
- r. Long-term employment
- s. Policing
- t. Sustainable Healthy Communities (e.g., Mining Community Health & Sustainability Committee)
- u. Zoning Processes

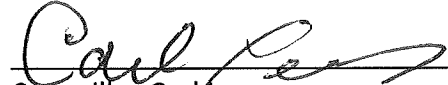
12. Terms of the Agreement and Renewal:

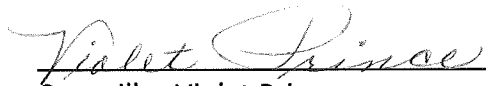
- a. The Parties agree that this Protocol shall take effect by a formal resolution by each respective Council.
- b. The Parties agree that this Protocol is a living document and may be subject to revision by mutual consent. The document will also be renewed annually at the Council to Council forum. At this time any changes to the Partnership Steering Committee shall be amended and responsibility for participation handed over to the newly appointed representatives.
- c. This Protocol does not affect any Aboriginal right, title or interest of the Nak'azdli Nation.
- d. This Protocol does not prejudice or affect the District's right, powers, duties or obligations in the exercise of its functions pursuant to the Local Government Act and the Community Charter as amended from time to time.
- e. It is acknowledged that the spirit of this Protocol agreement will be reflected in each party's best efforts rather than any enforceable obligations to implement its terms and conditions.

13. **IN WITNESS WHEREOF** the Parties have hereunto affixed their signatures as of the day and year first written above.

For Nak'azdli Indian Band:


Chief Fred Sam, Chief


Councillor Carl Leon


Councillor Violet Prince

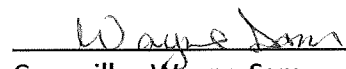

Councillor Ronald Prince

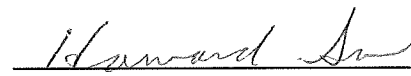

Councillor Ann Joseph

Ramona Joseph

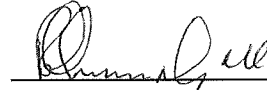

Councillor Crystal Millard


Councillor Anne M. Sam


Councillor Wayne Sam


Councillor Howard Sam

For District of Fort St. James:


Mayor Rob MacDougall


Councillor Dave Birdi


Councillor Joan Burdeniuk


Councillor Russ Gingrich


Councillor Riley Willick