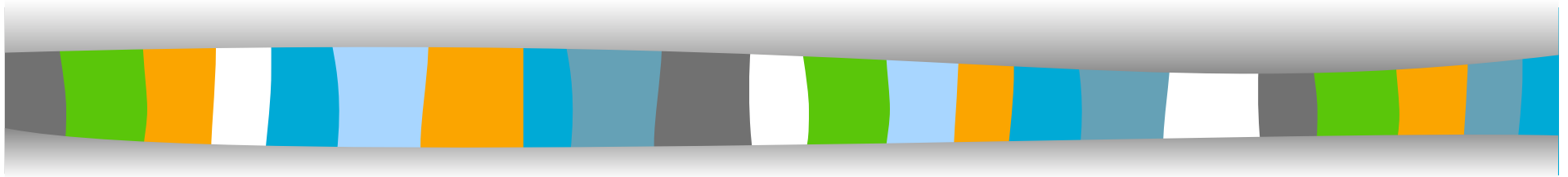


Working with First Nations



2012 Newly Elected Officials Seminar





Working with First Nations

- Relationship building
- Engagement and consultation
- Treaty negotiations
- Regional district membership



2 Communities / 2 Systems

Local Governments First Nations

- 188 LGs
 - Provincial legislation
 - Mayor and Council
 - Revenues –
property taxation
 - Economic realities
 - Social trends
- 203 First Nations
 - Federal legislation
 - Chief and Council
 - Revenues – no
property taxation of
Band members
 - Economic realities
 - Social trends
 - Aboriginal rights



Similarities

- Elected Councils
- Provide local services
- Maintain infrastructure
- Desire for economic development and prosperity
- Growing need for coordinated land use



Why Build Relationships?

- Capitalize on common interests:
 - Economic development partnerships
 - Address social issues and problems
 - Surrounding lands and resources
 - Community building – common history
- Easier to manage the unexpected
- Avoid misunderstandings

Relationship Building Activities

- Joint Community Events
- Community to Community Forums

ubcm.ca/EN/main/funding/first-nations-relations/community-to-community-forum.html

- Protocols and MOUs

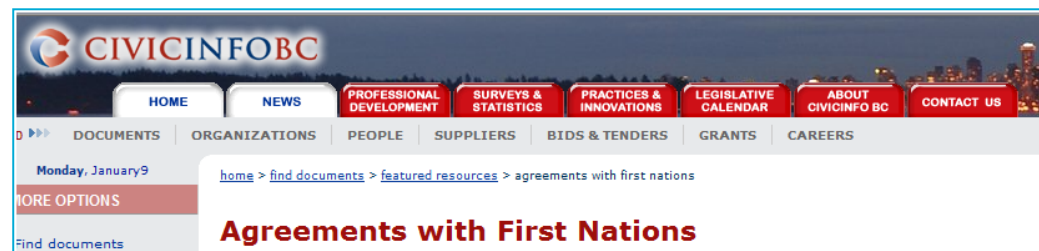
www.civicinfo.bc.ca/13_show.asp?titleid=4

Guide to Community to Community Forums in British Columbia

"The spirit of cooperation and willingness to work together was recognized as a necessity for the health of the Central Coast community."

"Sharing this meal gave the participants the further opportunity to have more casual, personal and informal discussions and it was anything more significant in my career. Building peoples' relationships is much more satisfying."

"of give and take, compromise, respectfulness and treating others with dignity creates the framework for successful relationships and future partnerships." "This forum will be instrumental in cementing the relationships between our respective governments, and discussing sustainable communities."





Engaging First Nations – Tips and Ideas

- Staff resources – capacity & scope of FN responsibilities
- No direct counterparts – who do you call?
- Different legislation, approval systems, land use regimes, expectations
- Time, perspective, personal contact



Court Direction

- Aboriginal rights:
hunt, fish, plant gathering
- Provincial obligation
to consult
- Local government
statutory approvals

**Guide To
First Nations Engagement
On
Local Government Statutory Approvals
(INTERIM)**

Ministry of Community and Rural Development
Local Government Department
June 2009

Note: The Interim Guide to Engagement with First Nations on Local Government Statutory Approvals is a compilation of best information available to the Ministry of Community and Rural Development at this time. It is intended to be a guide only and should not be considered as legal advice. If legal advice is required, legal counsel should be sought. Some of the content of this document may be impacted by future events and decisions including: future court decisions; federal or provincial government initiatives and policy changes regarding First Nations and treaty negotiations.



Land Claims and Treaties

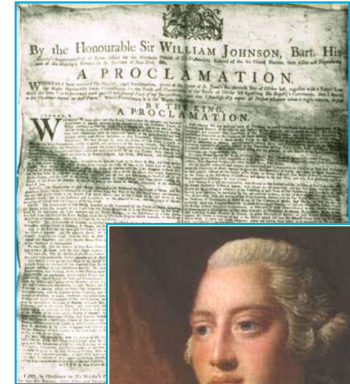
- *The Royal Proclamation* (1763)

“...any lands that had not been ceded to or purchased by Us as aforesaid, are reserved to the said Indian.”

King George III

- Douglas Treaties (1850s)

- Treaty 8 (1899)



Modern Day Treaties

- Nisga'a Treaty – 1998
- Tsawwassen – 2007
- Maa-nulth – 2009
- 60 First Nations in treaty talks (majority: stage 4)





Local Government & Treaty

- **Harmonization of land use**

Consultation provided through FA

- **Service provision**

Contracts or through RD membership

- **Regional District membership**

Local Government Act, s. 795

TFN Director = other Directors

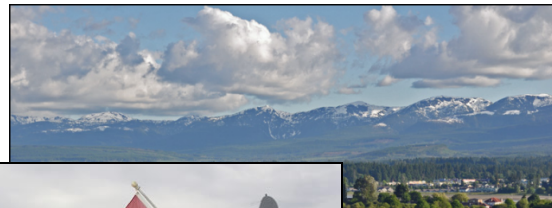
Participation in regional services

Comox Valley Regional District

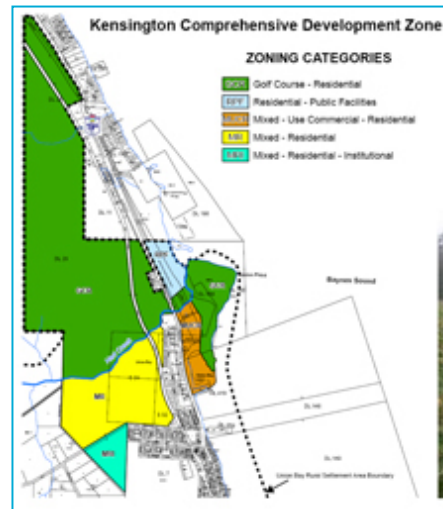
- 3 municipalities
- 3 EAs
- Pop. 58,000

K'ómoks First Nation

- 3 reserves adjacent to municipalities
- Members: 287



Facing Challenges – Turning the Corner



Kensington
bylaws approval
with final reading



Towards a Shared Understanding

- Communication
- Meetings, workshops – information sharing
- Parties celebrated



Conclusion

