

Shuswap Local and Secwépemc Governments Communications Protocol

Draft v.2 as at 21 March 2018

Purpose of the Communications Protocol

To i) establish and maintain a long-term, cooperative government-to-government relationship and open communication across the Shuswap watershed portion of Secwépemc'ulecw¹, ii) complement existing local protocols, and iii) support the development of local protocols where none exist².

Guiding Principles of Communication

1. A relationship is the foundation of communication.
2. Trust, mutual respect and recognition of each other as legitimate governments, and that this carries over beyond election cycles and political terms.
3. Recognition of Secwépemc title and rights³.
4. Openness, transparency and “no surprises” from neighbouring governments.

Goals

1. Integrate local government and Secwépemc communities on areas of mutual interest through regular communication and working together on joint initiatives⁴.
2. Provide a collective voice to the governments of BC and Canada on common issues.
3. Raise awareness of Secwépemc'ulecw and Secwépemc traditions.
4. Deliver joint education opportunities⁵ for elected officials, staff and residents, members and constituents.

Therefore the signatories of this communications protocol will:

1. Communicate in many formats (e.g., letters, emails, phone calls), but recognize that in-person meetings are most desirable from a relationship-building perspective.
2. Meet with each other at least once per year in a formal setting of elected officials at a mutually beneficial time with respect to elections (e.g., joint council/board meetings, delegations to each other's meetings, annual community to community forum).
3. Meet and communicate with each other informally (e.g., coffee, share a meal, text)
4. Encourage and direct staff to communicate with staff in similar roles in neighbouring governments.
5. Collaborate to work together on initiatives of joint benefit to local and Secwepemc governments.
6. Develop a more detailed, formal agreement⁶ in a smaller geographic area as needed, or where a consultation process needs to be established.
7. Raise awareness of this protocol and its content with their residents, members and constituents.

¹ Territory of the Secwépemc people

² Protocols are known to exist between Chase and Neskonlith, Chase and Adams Lake Indian Band, Enderby and Spltasin, Lumby and Spltasin, and Sicamous and Spltasin.

³ The Canadian Constitution (s.35) recognizes and affirms current and future Aboriginal rights, including land claims.

⁴ Topics to be discussed may include, but are not limited to: annual priorities; land use and development; environmental protection; water; infrastructure and cost-sharing approaches; emergency management and response; health, healing, local foods and wilderness camps; skills training and education.

⁵ Joint education opportunities may include, but are not limited to: clarification of which order of government makes decisions on different topics; sharing and supporting information about Secwepemc history and traditions; and sharing information about how Secwepemc governments, regional districts and municipalities operate, generate revenue, make decisions, their jurisdiction and decision making authority

⁶ Agreement could be a communications protocol, a memorandum of understanding, or a letter of intent

Term, Amendments and Opt-out Clause

This protocol is intended to be long-term, and is proposed to have no term. It may be reviewed periodically at joint meetings (#2 above) and amended with the agreement of all parties as needed. If a signatory wants to opt-out of this protocol, it shall be discussed at a joint meeting (#2 above); an amendment to this protocol shall be proposed and discussed.

Signatories (add logos to final) – signed ____, 2018 at ____:

Cst’elneq (Adams Lake Indian Band)	Skwlax (Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band)	Sk’atsin (Neskonlith Indian Band)	Splatsin
Columbia Shuswap Regional District	Regional District of North Okanagan	Village of Chase	City of Salmon Arm
City of Enderby	District of Sicamous	Village of Lumby	