

# **Shuswap Local and Secwépemc Governments Community to Community Forum**

November 23, 2017

Quaaout Lodge  
Little Shuswap Lake, BC



Photo credit: Darren Robinson Photography

Meeting summary as at November 30, 2017

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## **Welcoming Comments, Introductions**

Thirty people from Secwépemc and local governments gathered to advance the development of a communications protocol across the Shuswap region.

Mike Simpson, Senior Regional Manager, Fraser Basin Council, welcomed everyone. Chief Oliver Arnouse, Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band, acknowledged Secwépemc territory, encouraged governments to communicate more effectively, and work together. Director Larry Morgan, Area F North Shuswap, Columbia Shuswap Regional District, thanked everyone for attending and noted his encouragement at working together to identify opportunities. Introductions were made around the room (see Appendix 2).

## **Review of Agenda, Objectives for the Day**

The agenda was reviewed (see Appendix 1) and the meeting objectives were noted as follows:

- Confirm the relationship between local and First Nations governments in the Shuswap and approach to a communications protocol
- Follow up from discussion at Together Shuswap in February 2017
- Strike an advisory committee to work with Fraser Basin Council
- Build relationships

## **Local Protocol Example: Chase and Neskonlith**

Chief Judy Wilson and Mayor Rick Berrigan spoke about their communications protocol, which was finalized in July 2015. They noted it has been good for enabling regular communications, allowing them to stand together on issues with the provincial and federal governments. There are still gaps to address and issues to resolve, but overall both the mayor and the chief extolled the benefits of having the protocol in place.

## **Together Shuswap February 2017 Follow Up**

A small group breakout session was held with First Nations and Local Government elected officials and staff on February 15, 2017 at the Splat-sin Community Centre. An excerpt from the Together Shuswap meeting summary was distributed (see Appendix 3).

It was noted in February that the communications protocols in place are working well. In addition to what was originally listed, **the following were added as working well:**

- Lumby and Splat-sin are joint licensees on the Monashee Community Forest
- Shuswap Trails Roundtable and the Letter of Understanding signed in 2015
- When arriving today, one person noted it felt like they were entering a room full of friends
- Mayors and Chiefs riding in convertibles together in parades
- Identifying Secwépemc culture and history more prominently (e.g., Adams River Pictographs, highway monuments, renaming infrastructure and parks)
- Lots happening even without protocols in place
- Annual canoe journey
- Building the canoe out of cottonwood

Numerous issues were identified to consider in February before developing a communications protocol. The following **issues to consider before developing the protocol were added:**

- Expectations and perspectives – what happens if expectations break down?
- Geographic area, beyond the Shuswap watershed
- Ensure there is a chain of command, who to communicate with, who to report to
- Keep the protocol simple, and build in educational initiatives after
- The ability to recognize that mistakes may be made, that participants may take the wrong step, but it is better than taking no step or staying silent
- Acknowledging that no one person knows everything, but collectively, we know a lot and can find answers together
- Acknowledging that the process of developing the protocol could be more important than the actual protocol itself
- Keep the protocol a living document; review, update, adapt

The following were some **topics to address**, with shared interest and that require communication:

- Land use decisions and development
- Environmental protection, water in particular
- Infrastructure and cost-sharing approaches
- Emergency management and response
- Healing camps, wilderness camps, local food, health
- Skills training and education

The following were topics that are an **educational opportunity** for all parties involved:

- Clarification of which order of government makes which decision on which topics
- Sharing information about how First Nations governments, municipalities and regional districts operate and make decisions, what is within jurisdiction, and their decision making authority

The considerations of **how to develop a Shuswap-wide (Splatsin to Skatsin) communications protocol** identified in February were affirmed. Key points as follows:

- Build on what's working well in existing protocols
- Go slow, put in the political and emotional investment; but not too slow
- Consider capacity of First Nations to meaningfully participate
- Don't "layer over" existing protocols – consider a structure that is broad, general and enabling, and that references existing ones at smaller geographic/local scales, and agrees to develop smaller, local protocols where none exist

### **Talking Circle**

After lunch, participants engaged in a talking circle to answer two questions. It was confirmed that this approach is appropriate, to build on what was previously said rather than repeating the same point, and that you can pass on providing input and participate later, if desired.

Imagine it is five years from now, what does success look like?

- We're beyond the talk, and seeing concrete results and outcomes from working together
- There are no surprises from each other
- Greater transparency, no one is left out, everyone is informed of what's happening
- There's no need for a facilitator to bring Secwépemc and local governments together
- There's a sufficient and comfortable relationship to talk and work together
- Integration of our communities; working together on various initiatives

- Unity
- There’s no need for a press release on joint projects – it’s just normal, a “no-brainer”
- There’s less bureaucracy and protocol to rename a structure or location; it’s easier
- No further need to call this a protocol – it’s just common-sense
- Things currently being taught by elders are incorporated and being practiced
- There is communication not just a political level, but at the staff level too
- More frequent acknowledgement of Secwépemc’ulecw (Secwépemc territory)
- Secwépemc names are given back at every event that is held
- A unified voice for communicating with the provincial and federal governments
- Capitalizes on structures we already have in place (e.g., Union of BC Municipalities, Union of BC Indian Chiefs)
- Increased staff capacity within Secwépemc communities

What are the elements to include in the communications protocol?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Respect</li> <li>▪ Communication</li> <li>▪ Empowerment</li> <li>▪ Trust</li> <li>▪ Sustainability/continuity of the protocol –ensure it doesn’t end with election cycles</li> <li>▪ Culture – how do we understand each other</li> <li>▪ Openness</li> <li>▪ Unconditional</li> <li>▪ Clarity of the meaning of the protocol – utilize plain language</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recognize United Nations Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)</li> <li>▪ Caution citing things such as UNDRIP, if we don’t know what it means yet</li> <li>▪ Education opportunities</li> <li>▪ Meeting frequency and timeframes</li> <li>▪ Ability to identify practical matters of shared interest to work together on</li> <li>▪ Strategic alliances</li> <li>▪ Geography of the protocol</li> <li>▪ Communication about the protocol to community members</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

**Next Steps and closing comments**

It was agreed that all governments present and invited today would continue to be engaged about the next forum; they can choose whether to participate or not, following discussions at their board or council tables. The following is a list of next steps:

| <b>Task</b>   | <b>Responsibility</b>     | <b>Timing</b>                   |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Meeting summary from today  | Mike Simpson              | By November 30                  |
| Share contact information with all participants   | Robyn Cyr                 | By November 30                  |
| Confirm from Sexqéltkemoc te Secwépemc (STS Lakes Division) meeting the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Geographic extent of this protocol (Shuswap watershed, or the larger Secwépemc’ulecw territory)</li> <li>▪ Whether Shuswap Band (based in Invermere) desires to be included</li> <li>▪ Which level to engage with on developing this protocol – individual bands, STS Lakes Division, or Shuswap Nation Tribal Council</li> </ul> | Arthur Anthony            | After 5 bands meeting Nov 29-30 |
| Connect with Thompson-Nicola Regional District, whether they want to be involved  | Nancy Egely, David Lepsoe | By December 22                  |

| <b>Task</b>   | <b>Responsibility</b>  | <b>Timing</b>                                |
|---|--|--|
| Identify who could participate in an Advisory Committee to help shape the next agenda, and work with Mike Simpson on a draft protocol | Individual governments   | By December 22                               |
| Convene the Advisory Committee of 2-3 Secwépemc representatives and 2-3 local government representatives                              | Mike Simpson   | January at earliest, but before C2C Forum #2 |
| C2C Forum #2 (review draft protocol) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Give a Secwépemc name back?</li> </ul>                  | Mike Simpson to organize   | Before March 31                              |
| Community input <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Presentation at gatherings?</li> <li>▪ Other formats?</li> </ul>             | Individual governments to decide best approach<br><br>Mike Simpson could present | April through August                         |
| C2C Forum #3 (sign the protocol)  | Mike Simpson to organize   | September 2018                               |
| Proposed completion date for the communications protocol  | All parties  | September 30, 2018                           |

### **Evaluation**

When asked about what was accomplished today, the following were the responses:

- Enlightened
- “it’s about time”
- Deep gratitude
- Pumped
- Excited for the opportunity
- Thankful
- Positive direction
- Great input
- Happy to see people come together
- Intrigued
- Looking forward to practical, efficient outcomes
- Good start
- Looking forward to shared decision making
- Good relationship building
- Feels like we’re moving forward together

Meeting adjourned at 2:55PM.

## Appendix 1 – Agenda

**Shuswap Local and First Nations Governments  
Community to Community Forum  
9:30AM-3:30PM, Thursday November 23, 2017  
Quaaout Lodge, Little Shuswap Lake**

### Meeting Objectives

- Confirm relationship between local and First Nations governments in the Shuswap and approach to a communications protocol
- Follow up from discussion at Together Shuswap in February 2017
- Strike an advisory committee to work with Fraser Basin Council
- Build relationships

| <b>Time</b> | <b>Topic</b>   | <b>Who or Format</b>  |
|-------------|--|---|
| 9:30        | Doors open, coffee available, networking   | Informal  |
| 10:00       | Welcome, introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Elected officials welcome</li> <li>▪ Introductions around room</li> </ul>  | Chief Oliver Arnouse, LSLIB; Rhona Martin and/or Larry Morgan |
| 10:20       | Review agenda, objectives for the day, timeline for communications protocol development  | Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council                            |
| 10:30       | Local example <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Chase and Neskonlith</li> </ul>   | Mayor Rick Berrigan<br>Chief Judy Wilson                      |
| 11:15       | Together Shuswap February 2017 - small group session on communication protocols <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recapping the direction provided</li> <li>▪ Key issue to draw from local example – <i>don't layer over existing protocols; structure that is broad, enabling, references local protocols where they exist, agrees to develop them where they don't exist</i></li> </ul> | Large group discussion  |
| 12:00       | Lunch (provided)   | -   |
| 1:00        | Hear from everyone on a few key questions about development of a Shuswap-wide communications protocol: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What does success look like? 5 years from now?</li> <li>▪ What are the most important elements to include?</li> </ul>  | Talking circle  |
| 2:45        | Coffee break   |   |
| 3:00        | Next steps, future meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Key questions from February – who's in? Geography? Which level of FN to engage with?</li> <li>▪ Advisory Committee</li> <li>▪ Future meetings – spring 2018, late summer 2018</li> <li>▪ Community input? Approval by councils, boards?</li> <li>▪ Aim to finalize communications protocol by Sept 30, 2018</li> </ul>      | Large group discussion  |
| 3:30        | Adjourn  |   |

## Appendix 2 – List of Participants

The following were present for at least a portion of the day.

| <b>Name</b>             | <b>Organization</b>                    | <b>Position</b>           | <b>Email</b>   |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|
| Arthur Anthony          | Neskonlith                             | Councillor                | <a href="mailto:arthuranthony@neskonlith.net">arthuranthony@neskonlith.net</a>   |
| Brian Schreiner         | City of Enderby                        | Councillor                | <a href="mailto:benhogan@telus.net">benhogan@telus.net</a>                       |
| Carmen Massey           | REACH<br>Marketing/Shuswap<br>Tourism  | Contractor to<br>CSRSD    | <a href="mailto:ctmassey@hotmail.com">ctmassey@hotmail.com</a>                   |
| Charles Hamilton        | Columbia Shuswap<br>Regional District  | CAO                       | <a href="mailto:chamilton@csrds.bc.ca">chamilton@csrds.bc.ca</a>                 |
| Cora Anthony            | Neskonlith                             | Tmicw Assistant           | <a href="mailto:tmicwassistant@neskonlith.net">tmicwassistant@neskonlith.net</a> |
| Dalla Powder            | Neskonlith                             | Communications<br>Officer | <a href="mailto:communications@neskonlith.net">communications@neskonlith.net</a> |
| David Lepsoe            | Village of Chase                       | Councillor                | <a href="mailto:david.lepsoe@chasebc.ca">david.lepsoe@chasebc.ca</a>             |
| David Sewell            | Regional District of North<br>Okanagan | CAO                       | <a href="mailto:david.sewell@rdno.ca">david.sewell@rdno.ca</a>                   |
| Don Paterson            | Adams River Salmon<br>Society          | Director                  | <a href="mailto:dreen@telus.net">dreen@telus.net</a>                             |
| Doug Brown              | Little Shuswap Lake<br>Indian Band     | Administrator             | <a href="mailto:dbrown@lslib.com">dbrown@lslib.com</a>                           |
| Duane Manuel            | Neskonlith                             | Councillor                | <a href="mailto:duanemanuel@neskonlith.net">duanemanuel@neskonlith.net</a>       |
| Fay Ginther             | Neskonlith                             | Councillor                | <a href="mailto:fayginther@neskonlith.net">fayginther@neskonlith.net</a>         |
| Greg Witzky             | Adams Lake Indian Band                 | Councillor                | <a href="mailto:gwitzky@alib.ca">gwitzky@alib.ca</a>                             |
| Judy Wilson             | Neskonlith                             | Chief                     | <a href="mailto:judywilson@neskonlith.net">judywilson@neskonlith.net</a>         |
| Julie Pilon             | Village of Lumby                       | Councillor                | <a href="mailto:pilonj.director@gmail.com">pilonj.director@gmail.com</a>         |
| Kyle Dearing            | Kyle Dearing                           | Contractor to<br>CSRSD    | <a href="mailto:kyle@kyledearing.com">kyle@kyledearing.com</a>                   |
| Larry Morgan            | Columbia Shuswap<br>Regional District  | Director Area 'F'         | <a href="mailto:lmorgan@csrds.bc.ca">lmorgan@csrds.bc.ca</a>                     |
| Lori Mindnich           | Village of Lumby                       | Councillor                | <a href="mailto:lorideann2@gmail.com">lorideann2@gmail.com</a>                   |
| Louis Thomas            | Neskonlith                             | Councillor                | <a href="mailto:louisthomas@neskonlith.net">louisthomas@neskonlith.net</a>       |
| Louise Wallace Richmond | City of Salmon Arm                     | Councillor                | <a href="mailto:lwallerichmond@salmonarm.ca">lwallerichmond@salmonarm.ca</a>     |
| Mike Simpson            | Fraser Basin Council                   | Facilitator,<br>recorder  | <a href="mailto:msimpson@fraserbasin.bc.ca">msimpson@fraserbasin.bc.ca</a>       |
| Minnie Kenoras          | Neskonlith                             | Elder                     |  |
| Nancy Egely             | Village of Chase                       | Councillor                | <a href="mailto:nancy24@telus.net">nancy24@telus.net</a>                         |
| Nick Hodge              | Village of Lumby                       | Councillor                | <a href="mailto:nick-lumby@mofp.ca">nick-lumby@mofp.ca</a>                       |
| Oliver Arnouse          | Little Shuswap Lake<br>Indian Band     | Chief                     | <a href="mailto:oarnouse@lslib.com">oarnouse@lslib.com</a>                       |
| Paul Demenok            | Columbia Shuswap<br>Regional District  | Director Area 'C'         | <a href="mailto:pdemenok@csrds.bc.ca">pdemenok@csrds.bc.ca</a>                   |
| Rene Talbot             | Columbia Shuswap<br>Regional District  | Director Area 'D'         | <a href="mailto:rtalbot@csrds.bc.ca">rtalbot@csrds.bc.ca</a>                     |
| Rick Berrigan           | Village of Chase                       | Mayor                     | <a href="mailto:berrigan@telus.net">berrigan@telus.net</a>                       |
| Robyn Cyr               | Columbia Shuswap<br>Regional District  | Manager                   | <a href="mailto:rcyr@csrds.bc.ca">rcyr@csrds.bc.ca</a>                           |
| Wayne Christian         | Splatsin                               | Chief                     | <a href="mailto:kukpi7_christian@splatsin.ca">kukpi7_christian@splatsin.ca</a>   |

### **Appendix 3 – Excerpt from Breakout Session at Together Shuswap, February 15, 2017 (see full summary at [www.togethershuswap.com](http://www.togethershuswap.com))**

Key outcome of the session: agreement to explore the development of a communications protocol that covers CSRD to Chase.

Communications protocols were described as a document that may be high-level, or very detailed, that outlines how different governments communicate with each other. They outline the “...nuts and bolts of how to do business together...”

There are a number of communications protocols in place in the Shuswap. Here are some ways they were described as working well:

- Built relationships between governments and elected individuals
- Opened up communications between local and First Nations governments, in multiple formats (e.g., sometimes formal joint councils; sometimes informal)
- Enabled a united voice to be presented to other orders of government (i.e., at UBCM conference)
- Addresses issues of mutual interest
- Clarifies how to do business together, both generally and on some specific projects
- Encourages collaboration on funding sources
- Enables long-range planning; adopting a seven generations perspective from First Nations
- Some specific outcomes: procurement policies changed; CP Rail Trail memorandum of understanding; infrastructure projects; economic development; Fortune Park

The following were some issues to consider before developing communications protocols:

- Protocols can build the relationship if it doesn't already exist; if there is a good relationship, perhaps a protocol isn't needed
- Asymmetric needs between the orders of government (e.g., it could be that one government needs the protocol much more than the other)
- Communications protocols can enable continuity between councils/boards as a result of changes to elected officials, and different cycles of local and First Nations government
- Consider which “level” of First Nations government to engage: the band/community; the Sexqéltkemoc te Secwépemc Lakes Division; the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council
- Communications protocols can provide for more regular, more frequent communication than sporadic Community to Community Forum events
- Education takes time
- Protocols should enable clarification of roles, jurisdictions and responsibilities of the different partners
- Protocols should clarify expectations and perspectives

In conclusion, there was agreement to further explore the development of a communications protocol that covers CSRD to Chase, with the following considerations:

- Build on what's working well in existing protocols
- Go slow, put in the political and emotional investment; but not too slow
- Consider capacity of First Nations to meaningfully participate
- Consider geographic scope – cover entire Secwépemc territory, or just CSRD and Chase? RDNO felt they need to deal with their own issues first
- Don't “layer over” existing protocols – consider a structure that is broad, general and enabling, and that references existing ones at smaller geographic/local scales, and agrees to develop smaller, local protocols where none exist
- Specific topic to address – First Nations referrals on land use from local government
- CSRD to host next C2C forum

The Columbia Shuswap Regional District will discuss at their next board meeting to determine how they could support the development of this protocol.