

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

Prepared by:
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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?

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

Task	Responsibility	Timing
Meeting summary from today	Mike Simpson	By November 30
Share contact information with all participants	Robyn Cyr	By November 30
Confirm from Sexqéltkemc te Secwépemc (STS Lakes Division) meeting the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Geographic extent of this protocol (Shuswap watershed, or the larger Secwépemc'ulecw territory) ▪ Whether Shuswap Band (based in Invermere) desires to be included ▪ Which level to engage with on developing this protocol – individual bands, STS Lakes Division, or Shuswap Nation Tribal Council 	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

Task	Responsibility	Timing
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"> ▪ Give a Secwépemc name back? 	Mike Simpson to organize	Before March 31
Community input <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation at gatherings? ▪ Other formats? 	Individual governments to decide best approach 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

Time	Topic	Who or Format
9:30	Doors open, coffee available, networking	Informal
10:00	Welcome, introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Elected officials welcome ▪ Introductions around room 	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"> ▪ Chase and Neskonlith 	Mayor Rick Berrigan Chief Judy Wilson
11:15	Together Shuswap February 2017 - small group session on communication protocols <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recapping the direction provided ▪ 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> 	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"> ▪ What does success look like? 5 years from now? ▪ What are the most important elements to include? 	Talking circle
2:45	Coffee break	
3:00	Next steps, future meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Key questions from February – who's in? Geography? Which level of FN to engage with? ▪ Advisory Committee ▪ Future meetings – spring 2018, late summer 2018 ▪ Community input? Approval by councils, boards? ▪ Aim to finalize communications protocol by Sept 30, 2018 	Large group discussion
3:30	Adjourn	

Appendix 2 – List of Participants

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

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

Appendix 3 – Excerpt from Breakout Session at Together Shuswap, February 15, 2017 (see full summary at 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.