



# Nukw7ántwaí Regional Gathering

## Report and Recommendations

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# Nukw7ántwał Regional Gathering

## Report and Recommendations

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## INTRODUCTION

This document is the final report of the Nu'kw7ántwa' Regional Gathering held on March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017. The first part of the report contains a short summary of the Gathering. The second part of the report is a discussion of the key themes and possible next steps that emerged. The third part of the report contains the recommendations of the Gathering Organizing Committee for consideration by all governments in the region. The final part of the report contains the appendices including:

- The agenda for the Nu'kw7ántwa' Regional Gathering (Appendix A);
- The list of participants (Appendix B);
- The bio of the key note speaker (Appendix C);
- Summaries of the workshop exercises and presentations (Appendix D, E, F, and G); and,
- The summary of participant evaluation results (Appendix H).

## PART 1 - BACKGROUND

On March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017 the Nu'kw7ántwa' Regional Gathering was held at Úllus Community Complex in Mount Currie with participation from Líl'wat Nation, Lower Stl'atl'imx Tribal Council, N'Quatqua, Samahquam, Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD), and the Village of Pemberton.

Nu'kw7ántwa' is the Southern Stl'atl'imx ucwalmictwts phrase which means "To help each other." The two-day Gathering was part of an on-going effort to strengthen relationships between neighboring communities in the Southern Stl'atl'imx region.

The Gathering began with a welcome by Líl'wat Nation Cultural Chief Táya (Leonard Andrew). Following dinner, there was a keynote address by Satsan (Herb George). Satsan is a respected Indigenous leader and intellectual. His presentation on different perspectives of reconciliation set the stage for participants to enter into discussion on day two.

The second day of the Gathering was designed to allow participants ample opportunity to work in small groups, exchange ideas, learn about each other's organizations and communities, and begin to develop a shared understanding of what reconciliation could look like in this region. Working sessions were fast paced, interactive and included many light-hearted and fun exchanges as well as some honest and more difficult conversations.

Thirty-seven participants attended some portion of the Gathering. Feedback from participant evaluation forms was overwhelmingly positive. This reflected the

genuine interest of participants to learn together about reconciliation. As one participant remarked, the day had a “new and different energy”.

*“I got to know and like people. It was a time of truly open minds and hearts. A privilege.”*

Much of the discussion on day two of the Gathering was how the group could capture the positive spirit of the day and use it as a springboard to positive collective action. This is the focus of the remaining sections of this report.

The Gathering was supported financially by the Regional Community to Community Forum (C2C) Program and the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District, with support from the Líl’wat Nation which sponsored the keynote speaker. Planning and coordination for the Gathering was done by an Organizing Committee that included:

- Ernest Armann, Líl’wat Nation
- Sheldon Dowsell, Lower Stl’atl’imx Tribal Council
- Vaughan Gabriel, N’Quatqua
- Jeannette Nadon, Squamish-Lillooet Regional District
- Jill Brooksbank, Village of Pemberton

The forum was facilitated by Sheldon Tétreault.

## **PART 2 - DISCUSSION**

The Village of Pemberton and the Líl’wat Nation have hosted a number of C2C forums and joint Council meetings over the past decade. For its part, the SLRD has also had some positive interactions with various Southern Stl’atl’imx community representatives. These efforts have resulted in collaboration on projects of mutual interest like the Lillooet River Corridor Engineering Study, Lillooet River Flood Plain Mapping and Risk Assessment, Mount Currie – Pemberton Friendship Trail, Riverside Wetlands/Ském’em Community Park Management Planning, recreation services planning, transit funding, economic development planning, emergency management and advocacy, and Winds of Change.

Despite these examples, there continues to be a perception of barriers preventing the respective governments (and communities) from realizing the power of a healthy and fully functional relationship. Furthermore, these collaborative efforts have not included the other Southern Stl’atl’imx First Nations.

Over a similar period, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada was investigating and documenting Indian Residential Schools. On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission released its final report and issued 94 “Calls to Action”. While the majority of the Calls to Action are directed to the federal or

provincial governments, there are a number of the Calls to Action that speak directly to local government. In light of this, in September 2016, the SLRD resolved to become a “Regional District of Reconciliation”. The Nukw7ántwał Gathering on March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> therefore was an invitation to local and First Nation governments to explore the meaning of reconciliation in the region. As a result, the first question posed to participants at the Gathering was “What does reconciliation mean to you?”

Over the course of the Gathering, participants came to realize that reconciliation can mean different things to different people. Nonetheless, there was a common sentiment at the Gathering, that reconciliation requires understanding, recognition, and respect. Through discussion, participants shared that understanding, recognition, and respect means:

- Acknowledging that our governments and the people we represent are in a relationship;
- Taking responsibility for our individual role in reconciliation and making a commitment to personal action;
- Understanding and acknowledging the local (and on-going) nature of colonization and its impacts;
- Recognizing that Aboriginal title and the inherent right of self-government exist in our region - even if they are not fully realized yet;
- Understanding and acknowledging differences between each community;
- Overcoming stereotypes of each other by learning about each community’s history, culture and values;
- Building trust;
- Having regular opportunities to improve communication and the potential for collaboration at personal, community, and government-to-government levels; and,
- Finding practical steps that can lead to improved socio-economic outcomes.

Based on this preliminary discussion, participants then explored opportunities for reconciliation in the region. There were many examples given. Most of the examples relate to four broad, sometimes overlapping themes:

- Personal commitment to reconciliation;
- Increasing knowledge about Southern Stl’atl’imx – the people, culture, history and present realities;
- Creating opportunities for intergovernmental communication and collaboration; and,
- Improving community connections.

Many participants recognized that reconciliation has to begin with a personal commitment. This is something that every individual must do on their own. However, governments have a unique leadership role and can use their public position to put the spotlight on important values, including reconciliation. When

they do this, governments are leading by example and encouraging others to make a similar commitment to reconciliation. For example, it would be a very powerful statement for all of the governments represented at the Nukw7ántwał Regional Gathering to sign a declaration signifying their commitment to reconciliation.

Further to an expressed commitment to reconciliation, participants at the Gathering also emphasized the importance of developing a deeper understanding of colonization in Canada and its impact within the Southern Stl'atl'imx region.

Suggested learning opportunities included:

- Facilitated tours of local communities;
- Presentations on how local governments operate vs. how First Nation governments operate;
- Local speakers on relevant topics like residential schools, Aboriginal law, Stl'atl'imx land use, etc.;
- Language classes to learn ucwalmictwts;
- Joint council meetings hosted in each of the communities;
- Elected official exchanges;
- On-line courses about reconciliation;
- Engaging regular citizens in regional forums similar to the Nukw7ántwał Regional Gathering;
- Reconciliation discussion groups; and,
- Orientations for newly elected officials.

To be effective, opportunities to learn about colonization and the Southern Stl'atl'imx people need to be tailored to different audiences. For example, learning opportunities for elected officials and staff might be different from learning opportunities for community members; youth may need different opportunities than adults; etc. Regardless of how the learning is delivered, the objective must be to increase knowledge and awareness, to facilitate local dialogue, and to inspire individual commitment to reconciliation.

Closely linked to increased knowledge of Indigenous people and history in our region is the objective of increasing opportunities for meaningful connection: at the government-to-government level and at the citizen-to-citizen level.

First Nations governments are different from local governments. They have different sources of authority, their scope of jurisdiction is different, they have different means of raising revenues, and the scope of services provided to citizens is different. Having said that, there are some areas of overlap and some areas of mutual interest where local governments can collaborate with First Nations governments. On these matters, government-to-government collaboration could be beneficial. Disaster response is a clear example. A catastrophic earthquake for example, will not respect community boundaries and will require the coordination

of all available resources to save lives. Participants at the Gathering considered intergovernmental collaboration and suggested the following:

- Coordinating emergency preparedness;
- Regional economic development planning;
- Collaborative advocacy and lobbying for regional interests;
- Advocating to change the names of major landmarks from colonial namesakes to include ucwalmictwts words (e.g. Mount Currie Mountain to Ts'zil Mountain);
- Promoting the use of ucwalmictwts in government business and communication;
- Identification of joint projects of mutual interest;
- Investigating the potential for joint services;
- Convening intergovernmental issues-based forums;
- Regular information sharing; and,
- Processes to resolve issues or conflicts.

Finally, there were many suggestions for reconciliation to be supported by strengthening personal relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people at the community level. Participants want to see more community connections with the objective of building trust and friendship at a citizen-to-citizen level. Suggestions included:

- Cross-cultural celebrations and gatherings;
- Friendly sporting events;
- Hiking trips to visit Stl'atl'imx cultural areas or archeological sites;
- Food celebrations;
- Ucwalmictwts language classes;
- Jointly sponsored celebrations like National Aboriginal Day and Canada Day; and,
- Jointly sponsored commemorations like Orange Shirt Day.

To recap, participants at the Nu'kw7ántwaí Regional Gathering believe that reconciliation is a product of understanding, recognition and respect. They generated many practical examples of what reconciliation can look like. They also identified many opportunities for reconciliation in this region spanning four broad, sometimes overlapping themes:

- Personal commitment to reconciliation;
- Increasing knowledge about Southern Stl'atl'imx people and history;
- Creating opportunities for intergovernmental communication and collaboration; and,
- Improving community connections.

These ideas and suggestions embodied a spirit of good will that all participants wanted to see continue beyond this particular Gathering.

However, for all of the good will demonstrated at the Nukw7ántwaí Regional Gathering, participants recognized that reconciliation will not be easy. Practically, the most significant barrier to progress will be the lack of resources (i.e. time and money) needed to enable reconciliation activities. For example, the Nukw7ántwaí Regional Gathering was made possible by a \$5,000 Regional Community to Community Forum Program grant with funds contributed by the SLRD for the remaining approximate 2/3 of the cost of the Gathering. Without this funding, the Gathering may not have happened. So obviously, if the long list of ambitious projects identified by participants at the Gathering is to have a chance of implementation, new financial and human resources will need to be identified. If and when resources are identified, there will still be a need to identify the practical mechanisms to facilitate government-to-government collaboration as well as an additional mechanism to coordinate reconciliation activities at the citizen-to-citizen level. These practical questions were not fully explored at the Gathering.

Finally, it is important to be clear about the role each party plays moving down the road of reconciliation. In particular, Section 35 Constitutional rights (including Aboriginal title, governing authority, and jurisdiction) are not yet fully defined in law or implemented in the region. While clarifying and implementing these Aboriginal rights and title may be part of the necessary work of reconciliation, it is not something that local governments will be a party to. This work must be addressed at the provincial and federal government level.

However, this is not a reason to delay local action on reconciliation. All of the ideas generated at the Gathering can be implemented notwithstanding the need for the federal and provincial governments to engage in reconciliation with First Nations as well.

### **PART 3 - RECOMMENDATIONS**

Following the Gathering, the Organizing Committee met to share their reflections on the event, review the draft report, and discuss next steps. The following four initiatives are recommended:

1. The Council / Board of each participating organization receive the Gathering Report and commit to moving forward with reconciliation by way of a Council / Board resolution allocating the staff resources needed to keep the Nukw7ántwaí Regional Gathering Organizing Committee intact to lead the development of recommendations 2-4.

2. Convene a leadership meeting to draft a formal joint declaration on reconciliation that all governments in the Southern Stl'atl'imx region are invited to sign.
3. Create a standing Nukw7ántwaí Intergovernmental Relations Committee to strengthen relationships, improve communication and foster regional collaboration; including a commitment of resources to support the committee.
4. Convene a meeting to discuss the future of Winds of Change, including the possibility of changing it into a regional citizen-based reconciliation initiative. Consider changing the name and reframing the terms of reference so that the committee mandate is to increase knowledge and awareness, to facilitate local dialogue, and to inspire individual commitment to reconciliation.

## PART 4 – APPENDIX

### Appendix A – Gathering Agenda

Nukw7ántwaí Regional Gathering  
March 1 & 2, 2017  
Úllus Community Complex, Mount Currie

Gathering Name:

- “*Nukwán twal*” is the ucwalmictwts phrase for “To help each other.”

GATHERING OBJECTIVES
Learn who are the political leaders of each participating community
Learn about each participating community: values, history, priorities
Explore what reconciliation means
List practical steps on the path to reconciliation
Have some fun

#### March 1 (6pm to 9pm)

5:30: Registration

6:00: Opening Prayer and Welcome

6:25: Facilitator Comments

6:35: Introductions

6:50: Dinner Blessing

7:00: DINNER

7:45: Key Note Address: Satsan Herb George “What is Reconciliation?”

8:50: Closing Comments

March 2 (9am to 4pm)

8:30: Registration

9:00: Opening Prayer and Song

9:15: Facilitator Comments

9:30: "What is Reconciliation?" Exercise

10:30: BREAK

10:45: Community Introductions Exercise

12:00 Lunch Blessing

12:05 LUNCH

- Lílwat7ul Cultural Centre Open House

1:00: Energizer

1:20: Local Government in BC / First Nation Government in BC - Interactive Q&A

2:00: BREAK

2:15: Steps on the Road to Reconciliation

3:15: Evaluation and Assessment of Learning

3:30: Facilitator Comments

3:35: Reflection

3:45: Closing Prayer

## Appendix B – Gathering Participants

<b>Delegate Name</b>	<b>Community / Organization Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>1-Mar</b>	<b>2-Mar</b>
Skalúlmecw Chief Dean Nelson	Líl'wat	Political Chief	✓	✓
Táya Chief Leonard Andrew	Líl'wat	Cultural Chief	✓	✓
Emháka7 Felicity Nelson	Líl'wat	Councillor	✓	✓
Háma7 Alphonse Wallace	Líl'wat	Councillor	✓	✓
Kík7ak Helena Edmonds	Líl'wat	Councillor	✓	✓
Lhpatq Maxine Bruce	Líl'wat	Councillor	✓	✓
Mámaya7 Lois Joseph	Líl'wat	Councillor		✓
Petsklh Vaughan Gabriel	Líl'wat / N'Quatqua	Councillor (Líl'wat) / Administrator (N'Quatqua)	✓	✓
Sawt Martina Pierre	Líl'wat	Councillor	✓	✓
SíkSik Joshua Anderson	Líl'wat	Councillor	✓	✓
'Gig' Greg Bikadi	Líl'wat	Councillor	✓	✓
Yámk̓cen Tara Smith	Líl'wat	Councillor	✓	
Tsekónamus Rosemary Stager	Líl'wat	Councillor	✓	
Ernest Armann	Líl'wat	COO	✓	✓
Kerry Mahafey	Líl'wat	Director, Economic Development & Líl'wat Business Operations	✓	✓
Gerard Peters	Líl'wat / In-SCHUCK-ch	Member	✓	
Sharyle Peters	Líl'wat / In-SCHUCK-ch	Member	✓	
Sheldon Dowswell	Lower Stl'atl'imx Tribal Council (LSTC)	Administrator	✓	✓
Chantel Thevarge	N'Quatqua	Councillor	✓	✓
Teresa Barney	N'Quatqua	Councillor	✓	✓
Sharleen Patrick	N'Quatqua	Councillor		✓
Sheila Johnny	N'Quatqua	Member	✓	✓
Chief William Schneider	Samahquam / LSTC	Chief / LSTC Chair	✓	✓
Howie Smith	Samahquam	Councillor	✓	✓
Malcolm Smith	Samahquam	Councillor		✓

Chair Jack Crompton (RMOW)	SLRD / Resort Municipality of Whistler	SLRD Board Chair / RMOW Councillor	✓	✓
Debbie Demare	SLRD Area A	SLRD Director	✓	✓
Russell Mack	SLRD Area C	SLRD Director	✓	✓
Lynda Flynn	SLRD	CAO	✓	✓
Jeannette Nadon	SLRD	Communications & Grants Coor.	✓	✓
Graham Haywood	SLRD	Project & Research Coord.	✓	✓
Mayor Mike Richman	Village of Pemberton / SLRD	Mayor / SLRD Director	✓	✓
James Linklater	Village of Pemberton	Councillor	✓	✓
Ted Craddock	Village of Pemberton	Councillor		✓
Nikki Gilmore	Village of Pemberton	CAO	✓	✓
Jill Brooksbank	Village of Pemberton	Communications & Grants Coor.	✓	✓
Loretta Stager	Xa'xtsa	Administrator	✓	
Sheldon Tetreault		Facilitator	✓	✓
Satsan Herb George		Keynote Speaker	✓	

## Appendix C – Satsan (Herb George) Bio

Satsan is a Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chief of the Frog Clan and has been a long-time Speaker for the Wet'suwet'en Nation, which is located in BC. He previously served as Speaker for both the Gitksan and the Wet'suwet'en Nations. Satsan was a key figure and strategist in the Delgamuukw-Gisday'wa case, which was the subject of a successful judgment before the Supreme Court of Canada in December 1997. Satsan is a Senior Associate for the Centre for First Nations Governance. He served two terms as Regional Chief, representing B.C. at the Assembly Of First Nations, and one term on the Executive of the First Nations Summit. Satsan was also Adjunct Associate Professor in the School of Public Administration at the University of Victoria, and taught for several years in the University's Administration of Aboriginal Governments Program.

## Appendix D – What is Reconciliation – Exercise Results

Question #1: What does reconciliation mean to you?

- Mutual recognition, respect and understanding of one another
- Understanding history and acknowledging it
- Learning the history of the real people of the land
- Learning about the culture, communities, and each other's values
- Regular meetings to discuss the future and determine a shared vision for the future
- Knowing, understanding and acknowledging differences
- Overcoming stereotypes
- Working together in good faith
- Reconnecting and working together in a positive way
- Acknowledging that we are in a relationship
- Repairing relationships / making amends
- Decolonizing / reconciling with ourselves
- Understanding where we are now and where we want/need to get to
- Taking responsibility for our part/role
- Reconciliation is about justice
- Reconciliation means different things to different people
- Reconciliation is about equity
- Reconciliation is understanding that colonization isn't just something that happened in the past – it is happening today – institutions, laws, etc. continue to propagate colonization
- Working together
- Learning about each other
- Respect
- Equality

Question #2: What opportunities for reconciliation exist in our region?

- Education (without understanding difficult to move forward)
- Education for all communities (e.g. Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution)
- Exposing general public to education – local information and ties
- Start from knowing history – trusting!
- Revisit past collaboration (Winds of Change) to strengthen collaboration
- Regional board
- Economic development projects – dream big
- Neighbouring First Nations
- Closing the socio-economic gap between First Nations and non-First Nations communities
- Sports and food
- Health of region – engage all youth!
- Governments need to know how each other’s governance structures work
- Lack of trust!
- Understanding history
- Leadership has responsibility to build trust: targeting specific ages, working with Federal, Provincial, local government and identifying opportunities
- Year that begins reconciliation
- Vision based on principles and values
- Understanding local government
- Sports in neighboring communities
- Meeting at community level as well as political level
- Winds of Change – needs a change!
- Trust!!
- Understanding, trusting
- Local government as advocates in provincial & federal level discussions
- Focus on opportunity of reconciliation and recognition for the area – values, principles reintroduced to decisions being made on this land
- Everyone working together – stronger lobby / stronger hand
- Building baseline relationships
- Understand different view points (conflict / issues)
- Leadership and community are at a new place – there is a feeling/willingness that exists now
- More workshops and meetings like this
- More cross-cultural sharing
- Economic development will follow reconciliation
- Community to community forums – not just Council to Council forums

Question #3: What is the challenge for reconciliation in our region?

- Finding time - lack of opportunities to come together – takes time and resources

- Resistance / reluctance / lack of understanding
- Lack of (or no) understanding of reconciliation
- Stereotypes
- Lack of awareness of Indigenous people
- Trust a challenge right now
- General lack of understanding of First Nations
- Lack of trust in each other's decisions
- Internal preparedness - getting everyone on board
- Long term effects and legacy of colonization – makes it difficult to build trust and move forward
- Responsibility for our being
- TRUST
- So many communities together but not all in the same place
- Geography and remoteness
- Understanding and defining Aboriginal title and rights
- Transparency issues
- Diversity of people in the area. Bring a part of our identity.
- Need to spend time together – informal gatherings
- Misconceptions – not being accepted
- “What do I stand to lose?”
- Need for public education
- Afraid to acknowledge fear
- Difficult to realize equal opportunities
- Lack of equality – need to “come to table” as equals
- Governments have a different definition / understanding of what reconciliation is to First Nations
- Hard to commit to relationship that isn't there
- Our Prime Minister promises reconciliation but doesn't deliver
- Overlapping governments and jurisdictions
- Resolving past grievances to start reconciliation

Question #4: 25 years from now, what do you hope will be different in the way Indigenous and non-Indigenous people live, work, and interact with each other in this region?

- In 25 years celebrate accomplishments
- Seeing outcomes of working relationships for a positive future
- Living together harmoniously
- Reconciliation will be fulfilled
- Shared infrastructure and businesses
- Change image of one another in our minds
- More business and government partnerships
- Greater understanding of each other's histories to foster respect

- Real history of First Nations is common knowledge and entrenched in education system
- Harmonious existence and sharing of the land
- Full interaction of our communities
- Mutual respect and comfortable interaction between all members of the communities as a result of common practices
- Greater balance between communities
- One big decision-making table
- Recognition of territories without boundaries
- The area is recognized as a leader in reconciliation in the province and the country
- Winds of Change has awarded it's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary bursaries for high school graduates

## Appendix E – Community Introductions Exercise Results

### Líl'wat Nation

Important Value: Family / Connecting across generations  
 Historical Event: Logging / resource extraction (Resources were taken from them, but they now have control over their resources.)  
 Líl'wat Priority: Balance / All free / Living in humble relationship to Earth

### Samahquam

Important Value: The next generations / Our community  
 Historical Event: Logging → Our fathers and grandfathers used to log Samahquam  
 Priority: Teamwork / Education / Learning how to improve our health

### Village of Pemberton

Important Value: Working together  
 Historical Event: Flooding  
 Village Priority: Building strong infrastructure for our community

## **Squamish-Lillooet Regional District**

Important Value: Team / Coming together at one table as equals / Everyone is different but we come together and work together as a team / Strive to be the best we can be

Historical Event: Flooding

SLRD Priority: Protection of agricultural land / commitment to farming / connection to the land

## **N’Quatqua First Nation**

Important Value: Gardening / Community food security

Historical Event: Today is our historical event because we are going to make history together by bridging the gaps and finding ways to work together

N’Quatqua  
Priority: Communication

## **Appendix F – Comparing Local Government and First Nation Government in the Region Exercise Results**

### **Municipal Governments**

Services include: land use and planning, political representation and advocacy, water/sewer/roads, recreation, emergency services (fire/police/response), by-law enforcement, tax, manage finances, economic development, parks

Source of governing authority: Community Charter and Local Government Act

Annual budget: Ranges from \$1.4 million (VoP) to \$80 million (RMOW)

Revenues from: Frontage tax, small community grant, commercial and residential taxes, provincial grants, federal grants, development cost charges (plus Whistler can access RMI)

## **Regional District**

Services include: Same services as municipal governments plus regional planning, financing, and regional services (like solid waste). Some services shared with municipal governments. No responsibility for roads, policing.

Source of governing authority: Community Charter and Local Government Act

Annual budget: Approximately \$10.6 million

Revenues from: Taxation on commercial and residential, development fees, utility fees, grants, payments in-lieu of taxes

## **First Nation Governments**

Services include: Same services municipal governments plus daycare, education, health, economic development, post-secondary, operating businesses, social services, policing, housing, infrastructure, representation of title and rights, land and resource management, culture/language

Source of governing authority: In our region Indian Act, Inherent Rights protected by Section 35 Canadian Constitution. (Could potentially include treaty agreements or other sectoral agreements)

Annual budget: In our region ranges from \$600,000 to \$19 million based on size of community

Revenues from: INAC funds about 66% of total budget. Remaining comes from other federal departments (e.g. DFO) provincial government, Own Source Revenues, and specific program funding.

## Appendix G – Practical steps on the Road to Reconciliation Exercise Results

- Nukwan Twal'
- Help Each Other
- It's a conscious decision
- Change our own hearts / minds to be more open and inclusive
- Start the conversation – be open to talking about the hard stuff
- A seat at the local government table
- Elected official exchange
- Local speakers list on Reconciliation (Central Information Hub)
- Communications – learning language
- First Nations place names throughout the region – better learning about the region
- Learn some Ucwalmicwts words / place names and use them (e.g. Ts'zil)
- Regular leadership meetings
- Keep meeting regularly – change up the venue and activities
- Continue learning about each other and our shared history
- Organizational training day (annual) to broaden understanding to all levels of staff
- Advocate to include the real history of Canada in school curriculum – continuing education for educators
- Gain an historical perspective of each other through education / sharing of information
- Recognize each other's gifts from their ancestors
- Sharing wise practices across communities
- Share resources and efforts regarding emergency preparedness
- Joint emergency services and preparedness
- Regional emergency services development plan, capacity build, implement
- Acknowledging traditional territories
- Form a regional reconciliation committee
- Regional committee with First Nations and local government involvement to set priorities and report outcomes with biannual meetings
- Intergovernmental annual meetings on reconciliation
- Define what reconciliation is to the group
- Joint Council meetings
- Identify possible development areas / project and focus to deliver
- Shared fundraisers
- Develop a joint communications plan to inform citizens and public about reconciliation
- Re-commit to Winds of Change (are changes needed? Re-focus on reconciliation / connecting the communities)
- Share resources around health and wellness, including recreation
- Communities dinner

- Recognize we are “home”: understanding; forgiving; reconciliation; accepting. Ceremony in “Welcome Home”
- Share / celebrate each others events (big and small)
- Annual celebrations (June 21<sup>st</sup>) to recognize our achievements and events (seasonal)
- Government to government collaboration
- Do projects together (e.g. Friendship Trail, Winds of Change, Riverside Wetlands / Ském’em Community Park)
- Joint services – identify common needs (i.e. – Elders Centre)
- Meet on specific issues
- Intergovernmental issue-based forums
- Go to a Canucks game & share a box
- Commit resources to support reconciliation (time/money)
- Be advocates of education / our history in our communities and for the next generation
- Establish reconciliation MOU and celebration
- Document that shows the picture and bio of leaders in each community
- Engage youth in truth / reconciliation
- Engage youth (i.e. – youth session similar to the C2C forum)
- Find a buddy
- Learn about cultural protocols and take responsibility to act on them
- Tours of our communities
- Inter-community intramural sports

## Appendix H – Participant evaluation summary

Núkw7ántwaí Regional Gathering  
March 1 & 2, 2017  
Úllus Community Complex, Mount Currie

Evaluations - 26 Completed

1. Was this a good opportunity for you to meet leaders from other communities?

26 Yes / 0 No

2. Do you feel you had enough time to have meaningful conversations with other leaders?

23 Yes / 2 No (1 Yes/No “Lots of folks I didn’t get to talk to”)

3. Do you feel you are leaving this gathering with more information about the other communities than before you arrived?

26 Yes / 0 No

### Comment:

- I don’t think there can be enough time. I look forward to more opportunities in the near and far future.
- But only the beginning. Much to learn.
- NOTE: correction – we began to have meaningful conversations.
- Very informative. Would like to continue.
- Very informative on governance, services, funding and contribution agreement and taxation for revenues – structures.
- Definitely a good day to learn about each other. Good job Sheldon. Well organized workshops.
- LOTS!
- History, other First Nations willingness to move forward.
- A great combo of formal and informal discussion and activities.
- Everyone was open and shared info.
- Good amount of time for intros.
- It was an effective way to network within the region.

4. Has your understanding of reconciliation changed over the course of this gathering?

23 Yes / 2 No (1 yes/no)

### Comment:

- Learning how the interpretation of reconciliation is different between Federal/Provincial government and Aboriginal people. This will help to move forward with reconciliation.
  - Not so much my own but I realized how different reconciliation is for everyone.
  - Reconciliation is a different process for each person and requires a commitment in order for this to be a shift in our communities.
  - Next steps?
  - Have a good understanding of what it is and what needs to happen.
  - The puzzle pieces are starting to fit together. Perhaps a bit more emphasis on the benefits of what can come out of reconciliation would help drive the need, and help determine funding sources/commitments.
  - Like a divorce and getting back together to work things out.
  - Yes, I have always thought of reconciliation as a negative word connected to Residential Schools.
  - I feel like I understand this land and these people much better. I feel like I am welcome to participate in reconciliation.
  - Herb George.
  - More appreciation for social and self aspects associated with reconciliation.
  - Takes all involved to get to recognition.
  - Herb George's distinction was new to me – TRC and inherent right – reconciling this with Federal / Provincial government.
  - I look forward to learning more.
  - Learned that it needs to start with ourselves and needs to be turned into action.
  - Will take time and funds.
5. Do you feel that you have an idea of practical steps that could lead to reconciliation?

25 Yes / 0 No (1 Maybe)

**Comment:**

- More of a direction with a range of steps to look at.
- Just do it!
- More meetings like this.
- Recognition, acknowledgement, communication are key.
- Talking, understanding, learning each other's differences is key.
- I would love to see an intergovernmental panel push some actions from this event forward.
- Looking forward to the notes/minutes and taking to Council.
- Good suggestions put forth to provide steps / measures to move.
- Continue to be involved to learn, heal (reconcile) within myself to move toward and be ready to meet others.

- Challenge is to organize, prioritize and action those steps.
- More defined.
- Take the first step and then keep taking more steps – meet, learn, share.
- Work together G to G / Nation to Nation.
- But need to find ways to put it to work.

6. What did you like about the gathering?

Comment:

- Having the opportunity to talk and listen to individuals I have spoken to and seen for years but do not know.
- Meeting and discussing and hearing each other's governance structures.
- The open hearts and minds that people came with. It was not over structured, room for us to shape the gathering as a group.
- What I liked about this gathering was that the people that were here were supposed to be here.
- Learned more about other communities.
- The overall look at the why's, what's, how's, of reconciliation.
- Well facilitated. Strong activities. Good food. Decent keynote speaker.
- Fun, working together, understanding each other.
- I liked working together, by and through personal discussions. Getting to know others in various roles.
- I got to know and like people. It was a time of truly open minds and hearts. A privilege.
- People games. More understanding.
- Communication / understanding.
- The venue, the participants, the meals, facilitator, Herb George.
- Good to see everyone participate in the activities and discussions.
- The openness of all that were here participating.
- Excellent facilitation for adults – adult learning principles used – wonderful!
- See Q#3 – Sheldon you did a fabulous job!
- Getting to know other leaders.
- The format, facilitator (awesome!), the games (brought us together) and the openness to share – new and different energy together.
- Great to see representation from Lower Stl'atl'imx communities.
- The fun sharing. Not so serious.
- I was very pleased with the turn out.
- Finally meeting with SLRD and other people's involvement.
- Lots of goal setting possibilities.
- Open sharing with good intentions.
- It was very resourceful.

7. Suggestions for improving a gathering in the future?

12 Yes / 8 No (1 yes/no)

Comment:

- Having an opportunity to learn about the different territories and locations of them would be great.
- Well done Sheldon!
- Develop lists of resources such as websites that can be visited so we can learn more about each other such as First Nation languages.
- PowerPoint on any other communities that have gone through it positively.
- Very good format, a good circular format.
- Stronger focus on future funding and affordability for on-going work.
- Would be nice to have follow up to this day.
- Just do more...and include non-political types.
- Different venues.
- Change venue – nothing wrong here though. Hope next one is a step forward; more discussions and understanding but let's get to work. Good job all!
- Have entertainment from each community or sector depicting their culture.
- This was very well done.
- Thank you Jeannette and SLRD for organizing!
- Have a portion with entertainment – more time to mingle. Dance DJ.
- Invite Whistler. They have the most to learn!
- Afternoon, evenings works better for those that have other jobs.
- I think the keynote speaker was a great way to start the gathering.
- Have a nice day.
- Action items.
- Have each local government host it semi-annually or annually.