

Nukw7ántwaí Intergovernmental Relations Committee
Terms of Reference (May 2, 2024)

Vision

“Nukw7ántwaí wi ku stákmenlhkahlh.”

“We help each other to find the way.”

Working together we are stronger,
recognized individual communities and governments,
comfortably and safely working together to protect our people and the land.

Values

- Friendship
- Recognition of each other
- Commitment to working together
- Acknowledging the importance of land and our relationship to land
- Trust
- Inclusion
- Openness
- Learning that fosters reconciliation
- Respect
- Honesty
- Personal responsibility and accountability
- Peace
- Reciprocity
- Relevance

Purpose

We are partners and leaders in shaping our current and future communities. In an effort to strengthen relationships, build trust and increase understanding, the Nukw7ántwaí Intergovernmental Relations Committee will focus on:

- Implementing recommendations that arise at the annual *Nukw7ántwaí Regional Gathering* (to be updated as [Appendix B](#) and attached to this terms of reference);
- Improving communication and intergovernmental coordination;
- Establishing common ground and a shared sense of direction;
- Strengthening collaborative advocacy;
- Building capacity for collaboration;
- Bringing our community-based organizations and citizens together to build shared understanding through dialogue, learning opportunities, and social events;

- Active and ongoing information sharing; and
- Exploring and developing meaningful opportunities for collaborative action on shared priorities and matters of mutual interest and concern.

This Committee will serve as an information exchange, coordinating body, and as a task force to implement projects that are planned by the Committee and fall within the Committee's mandate and allocated budget. The Committee is not a decision-making body.

For a background on regional collaborative activities, please see [Appendix A](#).

Committee Structure and Membership

Committee participation and membership is open to an Elected Official and / or Staff member from the following:

- Lílwat Nation
- N'Quatqua First Nation
- Samahquam
- Skatin
- Squamish-Lillooet Regional District
- Village of Pemberton
- Xa'xtsa

Roles and Responsibilities

Committee members are committed to improving relationships between the Members and their communities. They agree to regularly attend meetings, take part in events when possible, and read the materials sent out in advance of the meetings to help provide informed feedback.

It is the responsibility of each organization's representative(s) to keep their leadership apprised as to the work of the Committee and to obtain the necessary approvals as required.

Process

Meetings

In order to promote candid, open and respectful dialogue, meetings will be attended by Committee members and meeting facilitator(s) only. Special guests and / or experts may be invited by the Committee to participate from time to time.

Committee members are free to speak about their respective government's participation in the Nukw7ántwaí Intergovernmental Relations Committee. Committee members will refrain from speaking on behalf of, or representing, the other governments on the Nukw7ántwaí Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

The Committee will strive to meet quarterly, or more frequently on an as-needed basis. The Committee will implement recommendations that arise at the annual *Nukw7ántwaí Regional Gathering* within the context of financial resources approved by the Member organizations.

Meeting coordination and recording duties will be shared between Staff representatives from Member organizations.

Members will be given appropriate notice of scheduled meetings and will receive an agenda and other necessary materials prior to each meeting.

A meeting chair will be determined for the next meeting at the close of each meeting.

Meeting notes will be the responsibility of the Staff member assigned to the task for each particular meeting. Notes will be shared via email with the Committee no more than five business days after each meeting. Committee members will have another five business days from the date the meeting notes are distributed to recommend a change to the meeting notes after which the meeting notes will be deemed ready for public distribution.

The location of the meetings will rotate between Member communities as agreed to when establishing the meeting schedule.

Working Groups

Working groups may be created on an as-needed basis by the Committee and may either be a standing working group or established as an ad hoc working group to complete a specific task.

Resources & Budget

Each participating Member organization will be responsible for covering all meeting and travel-related expenses for their respective Committee representative(s).

At the discretion of the elected leadership of the Member organizations, the Committee may also explore the potential of grant funding to support operations and/or specific joint projects.

Special Projects

Project-specific budgets shall be established with cost allocations mutually agreed upon by the Member organizations.

Terms of Reference Review

The Terms of Reference will be reviewed at the end of the first year, and then as required as determined by the Committee.

Appendix A

Background

The Village of Pemberton, Lílwat Nation and SLRD have hosted a number of Community to Community (C2C) Forums, joint Council meetings and operational-level meetings over the past decade. 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.

Established in 2004, the Winds of Change Committee was formed to reduce the harm associated with drug and alcohol misuse. The Committee included a broad representation of Staff and Elected Officials from regional governments and community stakeholders including Lílwat Nation, Village of Pemberton, SLRD, Vancouver Coastal Health, RCMP, Sea to Sky Community Services, Mount Currie Health Care Centre, Stl'at'imx Tribal Police, Youth Mental Health, School District #48, Xet'ólacw Community School, and N'Quatqua.

Lílwat Nation, the Village of Pemberton and SLRD Area C provided funding to sustain Winds of Change through two five-year mandates, the last of which concluded in 2014. Up until 2014, the Winds of Change hosted an annual Wellness Gathering and Wellness recognition awards and funded annual student bursaries. Between 2014 and 2017, the Committee became dormant as many of the recommendations within the '*Winds of Change: A Healing Vision*' document had been implemented. However, Winds of Change evolved into the daily blog, *The Wellness Almanac*, which was a voice for practical reconciliation and wellness by championing respect, relationships, recreation and resilience, as tools for building stronger communities.

Despite these past joint initiatives, there continues to be a perception of barriers preventing the respective governments (and communities) from realizing the power of healthy and fully functional relationships. Furthermore, these collaborative efforts have not included the other Southern Stl'at'imx communities.

In order to enhance relationships and provide opportunities for dialogue, the SLRD in partnership with Lílwat Nation, Samahquam, Lower Stl'at'imx Tribal Council, N'Quatqua First Nation, and the Village of Pemberton held the Núkw7ántwaí Regional Gathering. Núkw7ántwaí is a southern Stl'at'imx Ucwalmícwts word that means "to help each other."

Held in March 2017, the Núkw7ántwaí Regional Gathering was attended by Elected Officials and Senior Staff from the partner organizations as part of an on-going effort to strengthen relationships between neighboring communities in the Southern Stl'at'imx region. 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. As a result, four recommendations were drafted to ensure the discussion and work continued, including a recommendation to form an Intergovernmental Relations Committee, which is the subject of this Terms of Reference.

A second regional gathering was held in February 2018, and the Núkw7ántwaí Intergovernmental Relations Committee and / or the staff-level Organizing Committee met several times in 2018 and 2019 to draft a Communications and Engagement Strategy and co-organize another leadership gathering. After a series of postponements due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and cultural protocols, a third, smaller Núkw7ántwaí Regional Gathering was held in September 2022 with representatives from the SLRD, Village of Pemberton and Líwat Nation in attendance. The Communications and Engagement Strategy remains in draft, and would need to be reviewed, updated and approved prior to being implemented. The Núkw7ántwaí Organizing Committee and / or Intergovernmental Relations Committee is currently working to organize a fourth Núkw7ántwaí Regional Gathering, which has been scheduled for May 24, 2024.

Appendix B

Nukw7ántwał Regional Gathering Recommendations

2017

- 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 Nukw7ántwał Regional Gathering Organizing Committee intact to lead the development of recommendations 2-4.
- 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.
- Create a standing Nukw7ántwał Intergovernmental Relations Committee to strengthen relationships, improve communication and foster regional collaboration; including a commitment of resources to support the Committee.
- 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.

2018

- Convene the “Nukw7ántwał Intergovernmental Committee” with representation as set out in the draft terms of reference. Have the committee review, amend, and recommend the terms of reference to their respective principals for approval.
- Work collectively on emergency preparedness (use as a pilot for other joint sector working groups)
- Plan and host a celebration that involves food / food security
- Cross-cultural celebration (for example: Remembrance Day)
- Draft a joint declaration on Nukw7ántwał and plan a signing/celebration event.

2022

- The staff-level Organizing Committee should meet to debrief the 2022 Gathering.
- Another gathering should be planned in the near future to continue the relationship building necessary for implementing the spirit of Nukw7ántwał.
- The draft Communications and Engagement Strategy would give concrete direction to many of the interests expressed in the 2022 and previous Gatherings. It should be reviewed, updated and approved for implementation by the Nukw7ántwał Intergovernmental Committee or a delegated working group.

- The Núkw7ántwaí Intergovernmental Committee should continue to meet quarterly.
- The SLRD and the Village of Pemberton should reflect on how they are engaging in learning about Indigenous and Lí'wat people, assessing and evaluating their organizations, and committing to concrete steps to advance the spirit of Núkw7ántwaí. Lí'wat Nation should consider what role it would like to play in supporting or facilitating those concrete steps. All parties should be prepared to present this at the next Núkw7ántwaí Regional Gathering.

