

C2C Meeting: Ucwalmicw Centre, T'it'q'et

District of Lillooet; Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (Areas B Director); and Northern St'at'imc

November 16, 2019

Attendees;

Chiefs: Colleen Jacob, Susan James, Shelley Leech, Courtney Adolph-Jones, Randy James

Mayor: Peter Busse

Director Vivian Birch-Jones

Councilors: Judy Higginbottom, Marilyn Napoleon, Jennifer Leach, Jamie Howe, Barb Wiebe, Laurie Hopfl.

Staff: Andrea Leech, Bain Gair, Jim MacArthur

Guests: Bob McCabe

Facilitator: Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council

9:00 am Opening Prayer

Opening Remarks

9:30 **Potential BCH Trust** – Mayor Busse to provide an update.

10:00 **DoL & SLRD boundaries** - an update of current and future/planned boundary initiatives.

10:30 **Marketing Lillooet and Area** – promoting and managing growth

11:00 **Housing** – All parties have an interest in housing in Lillooet.

12: 00 noon **LUNCH**

1:00 **REC Centre** – Bob McCabe will join as a guest for this item.¹

2:00 **Various items of community concern –**

1. Sturgeon fishing,
2. partying/alcohol in Cayoosh Creek Campground,
3. helicopter flight path;
4. a united voice for implementing train service from Vancouver to Lillooet.
5. Boat traffic on the Fraser River
6. Climate change initiatives
7. Salmon fishery
8. Fountain Valley

3:30 **Transportation** (to Kamloops; Whistler; Lytton) as well as highway safety and 10-mile slide

4:00 **T'it'q'et – DoL – SLRD Protocol** - update from the parties on how it is working.

4:30 **Summary & Next Steps**

1. A Bridge River–Lillooet Trust

Mayor Peter provided an update that the DoL has been working with Urban Systems to update the proposal to the Province to create a Bridge River-Lillooet Trust. At this time, the focus is on informally canvassing senior provincial staff in Victoria to assess potential support and build potential support for such a Trust. Bain provided a brief history of the efforts from 2005 to bring people up to speed.

The discussion also branched into the impacts to the area from forestry harvesting, and it was proposed that perhaps forestry impacts should be added to the focus of the Trust proposal.

The discussion also branched into the PILT grants (Payments in Lieu of Taxes) BC Hydro provides to the SLRD. The question was raised, could PILTs somehow create a revenue stream for Lillooet and Area.

Chief Susan suggested an analysis of PILTs should be undertaken to ensure such payments do not adversely impact and St'át'imc communities that tax on-reserve developments and to assess whether St'át'imc communities could attract (i.e. collect) a PILT from BC Hydro² -Mayor Peter will provide more information on the SLRD PILT copy to St'at'imc.

In summary, DoL proposed that a proposal to the Province should be a joint proposal (DoL and St'at'imc) and St'át'imc stated, "As long as such a proposal does not adversely impact St'át'imc interests, St'át'imc support such an approach.

2. Boundaries

The St'át'imc asked for an update on any boundary extensions or revisions either SLRD or DoL may be contemplating. Both SLRD and DoL reports they have no such plans in the works.

3. Marketing Lillooet & Area

There is a general recognition that maintaining the services Lillooet already has (e.g. health, commercial, education, transportation, etc.) relies on maintaining a healthy tax base and population base. Influencing growth may be an area that would benefit both DoL and St'át'imc.

Growth is already happening in the area but we have little control over what kind of growth. We should give some thought to, "How much growth is ideal, and how much is too much?" Perhaps we (Lillooet and Area) should we have a Growth Management Plan – how many people can sustainably live in the Area?

² At this point, the Province's *Hydro and Power Authority Act* enables BC Hydro to make PILT payments to "municipalities and other local governments (including 'taxing treaty first nations' and the Nisga'a Lisims Government) within the territorial jurisdiction of which the authority (BCH) generates, transmits or sells electric power or otherwise carries on business." It may be possible to lobby for changes to the legislation under the current UNDRIP implementation initiative.

For example, Chief Colleen expressed concern that there are currently some large tracts of land for sale in Fountain Valley and large parcels are being developed. She is concerned that Xaxli'p members are being pushed out of the Valley if single families are buying 160 acre parcels. Such development will also put new demands on the water resources. She stated, "Xaxli'p needs to do a land use plan to ensure future membership growth has a place to live." She also asked if it is possible for SLRD to "consult" on zoning and development permits?

The discussion also focused on the current lack of housing (affordable or otherwise) as affecting growth:

- For example, most St'át'imc communities cannot house all their members and some members chose to live in Lillooet, but there is also a severe shortage of housing in Lillooet.
- Councilor Jenn has a real estate background and recalled, there are many people who want to "cash out" of Vancouver and live a less expensive lifestyle. However, there are not enough new homes being built to accommodate them.
- Mayor Peter acknowledged that in-migration requires more housing and advised that the DoL did have a backlog of six applications for housing subdivisions, but have recently approved three of those for development. Work is underway to adjudicate the remaining three. The Mayor believes new housing development will be a substantial boost over the coming years.

In addition to the lack of housing, there are other factors that deter in-migration to Lillooet:

1. The quality of Lillooet schools is a sticking point for young families. Perhaps the next C2C discussion should invite the local school board trustees so we can collaborate on this.
2. As well, Lillooet and Area need fiber optics to attract young professionals who want to work remotely.
3. Highway safety and the lack of transportation options affect who is willing to move to the area and who is willing to visit the area. Currently, the main alternative to driving oneself is the Transport BC Medical Bus patient bus³.
4. Related to transportation, lifestyle, and health services, Chief Susan advised that Xwisten has begun bringing in a mobile health service so community members do not need to travel to Kamloops. Also, Chief Courtney advised that sometimes a health practitioner simply rents space from T'it'qet and books their own appointments. Mayor Peter expressed an interest in the DoL coordinating with such initiatives to expand choices for Lillooet as well.

Concerning the idea of marketing Lillooet and Area, Chief Shelley stated, "There is a responsibility that comes with promoting Lillooet as "Guaranteed Rugged", and that is to

³ The Medical Bus runs Tuesday and Thursday, costs \$5 one way and is usually over half full. They did a survey a few years ago and people wanted a third day's service on a consecutive day (so a person can go to Kamloops for a medical procedure and return the next day).

ensure the safety of wildlife, clean water, trails, etc., and St'át'imc ability to continue our way of life and to use the land...It is important to ensure a balance between attracting visitors/recreationist and limiting their impacts. Recreation should include education about these things so as to avoid impacts such as those occurring on the Joffre Lake trails.

She also suggested that water management agreements, such as the one recently signed between the Province and the Nicola Tribal Council, could be a relevant model to look at.⁴

The idea was expressed of creating a video that promotes the Area and lifestyle to professionals potentially interested in moving here.

The question was raised, "Do we have a database of people who have expressed interest in moving here?...or how can we create one? It was suggested that next steps should include working with local realtors and key informants to collect data on persons who express an interest in moving to the Area.

4. Housing

As described above, there is widespread recognition that more housing of all types is needed in Lillooet. The discussion identified that a number of entities in Lillooet and Area are concerned about the lack of housing and have taken several preliminary steps toward addressing the problem:

- The Lillooet Friendship Centre – 2017 Homelessness Survey toward meeting low-income needs.
- SLRD had an online survey, but the focus was slanted to the housing needs in Whistler/Pemberton.
- District of Lillooet – 2018 Senior's Housing Analysis
- Mile 0 Housing Society has engaged a consultant to compile existing work and new data towards a comprehensive housing needs assessment.

All the parties appear to have their distinct respective goals for a BC Housing proposal:

- District of Lillooet envisions an all-encompassing project that serves a broad market - low income; seniors, "upper market" retirement; to young families.
- Mile 0 Housing Society appears to favour a mixed target market, including 'affordable housing' (below market rates) and assisted living.

There was a consensus that it is not helpful if the various local entities submit competing proposals, and everyone should be encouraged to collaborate on one joint proposal. There was also agreement that the Friendship Centre is in a better position to operate a housing project (collect rents, maintenance, capital planning, resident relations, delivering programs, etc.).

⁴ In 2018, the five member communities of the Scw'exmx (Nicola Valley) Tribal Council signed an MoU with the Province towards collaborative decision-making on the health and management of water in the Nicola Watershed.

Therefore, LTC staff was asked to attend the December 3, 2019 Mile 0 meeting to explore their willingness to collaborate with the Friendship Centre on a joint housing proposal to BC Housing.

The first steps in submitting a BC Housing proposal are:

1. Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment that combines the work already done and supplementary work to identify levels of need/demand for specific types of housing. Chief Susan expressed concern that unless the needs assessment is already started, it will be difficult to meet the spring BC Housing submission deadline.
2. Secure a parcel of land that is able to satisfy those needs.

The discussion identified that the St'át'imc communities have membership data that could help support a needs assessment (demographics, population stats, housing demand stats). And the LTC Chiefs support providing this kind of information toward a Housing Needs Assessment.

As well, Chief Colleen offered a support letter from Xaxlip.

5. REC Centre

Bob McCabe joined the meeting at lunch to present some information that has been compiled since 2015. Bob has been a vocal champion of the idea that DoL and St'át'imc should collaborate further on keeping the REC Centre open, and enhancing its financial viability.

Bob proposed that one such collaboration could be to build a new Cultural Centre on the REC Centre property (possibly where the tennis courts currently sit). He proposed the DoL and St'at'imc form an alliance that could jointly own and operate the REC Centre; there could be cost savings to put both facilities (REC Centre and Cultural Centre) under one administration. Bob suggested it would be helpful to engage both MPs and MLAs, and build a familiarity with the various grants funding available. He pointed out that a Cultural Centre has the ability to generate income through educational programs ⁵

Bob also stated, the REC Centre is generally under-used and could be busier. He suggested that potentially TRU or NVIT may wish to partner by creating office space and classroom space in the new facility.

Bain agreed that culture is not yet a focus of the REC Centre programming. He advised that is from a lack of awareness to what to focus on and his lack of knowledge about who can instruct such programming but he is open to feedback and ideas.

Bob stated, there is a need for a facility that promotes education, language, and history. Currently Lillooet has 500 buses per year stop to use our toilets, grab a sandwich, and move on.

⁵ The Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre in Whistler has come to generate income for operations by hosting events, offering interpretative presentations, and through retail outlets.

We need a hook to encourage people to stay; we need a sustainability plan. As well, we should not discount the other history Lillooet has – such as the mining history, the Japanese internment camps, and people of Chinese heritages' role in building Lillooet. There is room in a museum for all these stories.

And finally, Bob suggested a good working group on a Cultural Centre would show our ability to work together. The funding possibilities would be greater if the project was joint/collaborative. He stated, there is confidence that the funding is out there, but it requires a dedicated resource person to identify it and secure it.

At the conclusion of Bob's presentation, the general discussion turned to some specific logistics of a Cultural Centre project (for example):

- The portrayal of St'át'imc culture must be authentic (e.g. 'no teepees'), the structure has to be authentic and culturally-based from the start,
 - We have a lot of membership living in town and many of our children are not learning their culture and history, a Cultural Centre would be a helpful resource.
 - In order to fund such a partnership, each St'át'imc community would need to hold a referendum on whether to spend their in-trust funds, that would require a group effort.
 - The St'át'imc language would have to be a central part of the presentation of culture...It would be good to incorporate the museum.
 - We should be cautious not to duplicate things if there are services in the communities that are already there.
 - A Cultural Centre could also refer tourist to (St'át'imc) community events or attractions.
 - There is a need for a social place to gather that is affordable to have a cup of tea. For example, if Tsal'almec etc. are in town shopping waiting for the train back home.
- ¹DoL is "rethinking/envisioning" the future of the REC Centre (what could it become)? There are shared interests such as better campus facilities for TRU & NVIT and coordinating education/training amongst various entities (Library, LTC, ISETS, SET etc.)

Next steps – It was suggested that realistic first step towards a Cultural Centre could be to designate one room in the REC Centre to create a small-scale cultural centre where classes and interpretative presentations could be held. The mechanics of a lease can be worked out. Bain committed to exploring the opportunities for such a space.

As well, such a project requires an initial step to sanction and define the project – perhaps an MoU could encode roles and responsibilities and identify the organizational champions. It was suggested Bob McCabe, Susan James, and Peter Busse could comprise a working group. The working group needs a ToR.

6. Various Concerns

The St'at'imc wanted to discuss a variety of concerns that pertain to zoning or managing nuisance behaviours:

- a. Sturgeon fishing,
- b. partying/alcohol in Cayoosh Creek Campground,
- c. helicopter flight path;
- d. a united voice for implementing train service from Vancouver to Lillooet.
- e. Boat traffic on the Fraser River
- f. Climate change initiatives
- g. Salmon fishery
- h. Fountain Valley

Sturgeon Fishing, Boating, and Use of the Campground

In recent years several companies have started up to offer commercial sturgeon fishing. Their boats cause disturbance/waves to St'at'imc fishing north of the 23 Camels bridge:

- The Province (MoE) licenses the fishing guides, and should be consulting on potential impacts of fishing north of 23 Camels Bridge,
- It is worth connecting with the Conservation Officer (Bob Butcher) to hear what he can do concerning the boating behavior.
- Transport Canada regulates boating on navigable rivers (e.g. The Fraser)
- DoL controls the business license. To launch the boat and sell guiding. DoL stated, "There are businesses operating out of the campground, perhaps we need to upgrade the boat launch and charge for its use."
- As well, going forward, DoL is going to limit unruly behavior and incompatible uses in the campground.
- DFO may merge middle and upper Fraser and list sturgeon as endangered

Related to a fishing concern, the St'at'imc require access to the Fraser River to fish, and as new people move into town and buy riverfront lots, they should be advised of the St'at'imc's history and use of the river. Real estate agents should know the St'at'imc use the river and advise potential buyers. St'at'imc could put a note on the DoL and SLRD property file to be aware of St'at'imc fishing history and rights.

Helicopter Flight Path

2019 saw increased helicopter traffic because of the Big Bar slide incident. Residents of Fountain Valley and Lillooet experienced significant noise disturbance:

- If/when we invite Transport Canada to discuss boat traffic, we should also discuss helicopter flight paths and noise abatement.

- The question was asked, “Can we create flight paths that are less disruptive to homes and residents?”⁶

Similar to the helicopter noise, there is dirt biking occurring regularly in the hills on the west side of DoL. It would be helpful to determine if this is on private property or not, and what can be done about that noise.

Climate Change

This is strictly an information exchange session to update on what the parties are doing:

- SLRD claims to have a zero carbon footprint and the SLRD landfill has a carbon credit. This is of interest to the other parties. Director Vivian will research details and provide more details.
- The OCP process is the place DoL will focus on climate change. – e.g. buying electric vehicles, recycling.

7. Transportation

Transportation (in all directions) is a longstanding concern to Lillooet and Area. As it was late in the day, it was agreed to table the highway safety discussion until the next meeting. People provided a few quick updates on other transportation issues:

- Tsal’alh is lobbying Province to pressure CN to improve service,
- The current driver of the Kaoham Shuttle is close to retirement, and that is a well-trained position that will be hard to replace. Perhaps Tsal’alh could explore a succession plan.
- SLRD is on record supporting the train service and it is a low-carbon option to automobiles.
- SLRD is advocating to CN to extend the train service from Vancouver to Pemberton, and will continue to do so.

8. Increased Communication

During the course of the meetings, several examples of the need for/benefit of increased communication were raised:

- Chief Susan commented, “There is a gap of communication in that the Big Bar slide happened in November, 2018 but wasn’t discovered until the spring 2019, but Xwisten was in the Fraser River in November salvaging fish when the water drained, but no one put these two events together as being related.

⁶ The Local Government act empowers regional districts to address noise and disturbances to the peace. The Community Charter enables municipalities to address noise and disturbances to the peace.

- Chief Colleen would like a contact for who to speak with at DoL to communicate 10-mileslide closures.
- Emergency planning is another area where increased communication and collaboration would be useful. If a slide similar to Big Bar happens again, but closer to Lillooet, many residents could be impacted:
 - There is a EOC (Emergency Operations Centre) joint emergency preparedness group doing table top exercises, including a breach n Terazaghi Dam. Fire Chief Darren Oike chairs it. The FNHA is sponsoring additional emergency management and preparedness – based on the Elephant Hills learning.
 - LTC has hired an Emergency Management Coordinator. People should be aware they are available.
 - Emergency Planning to be tabled for next C2C meeting.

9. T'it'q'et – DoL – SLRD Protocol

Chief Shelley provided a brief update on the protocol, as both the SLRD and DoL participants are largely new since it was signed in 2018; No staff familiar with the protocol were present:

- There was supposed to be a follow up meeting at the anniversary date (May, 2019), but not sure if it happened. Mildred Mackenzie and Chief Shelley will represent T'it'q'et at that follow-up mtg. There has been a gap in staff at all three signatory parties, which has created a gap in momentum.
- Chief Shelley will send out the agenda and minutes from the protocol meeting(s) to the participants of this meeting.

10. Next Steps

Participants agreed the meeting had been helpful and successful and that a follow-up session is warranted. LTC staff will type up the notes and distribute them to participants. Participants also expressed a preference for the circle-discussion format used in this meeting, rather than break-out groups. Participants also suggested the next meeting could have a few themes instead of such a broad agenda.

Next meeting

- Recommendation for next meeting January / February 2020
- Follow-up on action items from last C2C forum in Xwisten 2015

An analysis of PILTs should be undertaken to:	
a. ensure such payments do not adversely impact and St'át'imc communities that tax on-reserve developments	Jim
b. to assess whether St'át'imc communities could attract (i.e. collect) a PILT from BC Hydro	Jim; Done
DoL will provide more information to St'at'imc on the SLRD PILT.	Peter
Perhaps the next C2C discussion should invite the local school board trustees so as to collaborate on the issue of promoting in-migration.	Planning Committee
DoL would like to coordinate with St'at'imc in hosting visiting (health) professionals in Lillooet.	DoL
Collaborate to create a video that promotes moving to Lillooet & Area to professionals.	Jeremy/Andrea
Create a database of people who have expressed interest in moving to Lillooet by working with local realtors and key informants to collect data on persons who express an interest in moving to the Area.	?
The Lillooet Friendship Centre and Mile 0 Housing Society should be encouraged to collaborate on one joint proposal to BC Housing. To action this, LTC staff was asked to attend the December 2019 Mile 0 meeting to explore their willingness to collaborate with the Friendship Centre on a joint housing proposal.[2]	Jim; Done
The St'at'imc support providing demographic information toward a Housing Needs Assessment and will wait to be contacted by the person conducting the Assessment.	Mile 0 Consultant
Xaxli'p offered to provide a letter of support for a joint proposal to BC Housing.	Mile 0 Consultant
DoL agreed to explore designating one room in the REC Centre to create a small-scale cultural centre where classes and interpretative presentations could be held. The mechanics of a lease need to be worked out.	Bain
Bob McCabe, Chief Susan James, and Mayor Peter Busse will formalize a working group to pursue a model of joint ownership and joint administration of the REC Centre. A Terms of Reference will be developed.	Jim ToR
As well, the REC Centre collaboration should be defined by an MoU to encode roles and responsibilities and identify the organizational champions.	Jim/Jeremy
St'át'imc to follow up on being consulted by MoE on the commercial Sturgeon fishing licenses.	Jim
St'at'imc to follow up with Bob Butcher on what MoE can do to monitor boating behavior around fishing sites.	Jim
DoL will monitor/intervene in incompatible uses in the campground.	DoL
St'át'imc and DoL will collaborate to identify where St'át'imc fishing on the Fraser occurs and put a note on DoL and SLRD property files that should be aware of St'át'imc fishing history and rights.	Matt
Consider inviting Transport Canada to discuss boat traffic in the Fraser River and noise abatement from helicopters.	
SLRD will provide more information on its zero carbon footprint initiative.	Vivian
Chief Colleen Jacob would like to know who can be her contact at DoL concerning 10-Mile closures during construction.	Jeremy
Emergency Planning will be tabled to the next C2C meeting.	Planning Committee
T'it'q'et (Chief Shelley Leech) will send out the agenda and minutes from the protocol meeting(s) to the participants of this meeting.	Shelley

**C2C Meeting
District of Lillooet; Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (Areas A& B Directors);
and Northern St'at'imc**

9:00 am	Opening Prayer Opening Remarks
9:30	Potential BCH Trust – Mayor Busse to provide an update.
10:00	DoL & SLRD boundaries - Boundaries have been a concern in the past. The St'at'imc would appreciate an update of current and future/planned boundary initiatives.
10:30	Marketing Lillooet and Area - How can we compile information on who might be interested in moving to Lillooet, and their demographics?
11:00	Housing – All parties have expressed an interest in ensuring there is affordable housing available in Lillooet. ¹
12: 00 noon	LUNCH
1:00	REC Centre – St'at'imc and DoL have explored opportunities for St'at'imc to become more involved in the ownership and management of the facility. (Bob McCabe will join as a guest for this item). ²
2:00	Various items of community concern – 1. Sturgeon fishing, 2. partying/alcohol in Cayoosh Creek Campground, 3. helicopter flight path; 4. a united voice for implementing train service from Vancouver to Lillooet. 5. Boat traffic on the Fraser River 6. Climate change initiatives
3:30	Transportation (to Kamloops; Whistler; Lytton) as well as highway safety ³

¹ DoL and SLRD are both conducting a Housing Needs Assessment. This should help identify the various categories of housing that is needed (e.g. seniors, social, attract young family in-migration, etc.) and help focus on areas of potential partnerships between the parties. As well, DoL is updating its Official Community Plan, which may influence zoning and housing opportunities.

² DoL is “rethinking/envisioning” the future of the REC Centre. What could it become? The LTC Chiefs believe the Education & Training discussion could happen as part of the REC Centre discussion – Shared interests such as better campus facilities for TRU & NVIT and coordinating education/training amongst our various entities (Library, LTC, ISETS, SET etc.)

³ Can we get the statistics for usage of the IH medical bus to Kamloops?

- 4:00** **T'it'q'et – DoL – SLRD Protocol** - update from the parties on how it is working.
- 4:30** **Summary & Next Steps**
-