

Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act

Board Meeting

SEP 08 2021

CCRD ITEM C)(2)

DRAFT ACTION PLAN

DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

* Pls refer to Action 1.13 for direct relevancy to CCRD's advocacy efforts.



Message from the Minister

June 2021

In late 2019, the Province of British Columbia made history. The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act) was passed unanimously in the B.C. legislature. This pivotal legislation establishes the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) as the framework for reconciliation in B.C. It ensures the human rights of Indigenous peoples are respected and helps create clarity and predictability for all people in British Columbia on the path ahead.

Under the Declaration Act, the provincial government must develop an action plan in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples to meet the objectives of the UN Declaration. Delivering an action plan is one of the key mandates that Premier John Horgan gave me when I was appointed Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation in November 2020.

Its importance has come into sharp focus at this time, as we face our collective truth – truth of the impacts of colonial laws, practices and policies over generations, and truth in the ongoing harms Indigenous peoples across the province and the country still experience every day. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission described the residential school system as having the effect of “cultural genocide.” The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls produced an expert report characterizing the impacts of colonialism on Indigenous women and girls as “genocidal.” The truth is that we need to do better as a government and as a society.

I sincerely acknowledge the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc's leaders and knowledge-keepers as they exercise their protocols to determine the next steps to care for the children who didn't come home from the Kamloops Indian Residential School. I also acknowledge the survivors, families and communities across the country who continue to share their truth, seek justice and do the hard work of healing.

It is our hope that the proposed actions in this draft plan demonstrate our government's commitment to pursuing true and meaningful reconciliation.

The provincial government and organizations representing Indigenous peoples and nations have worked together over the past year in an effort to identify the priority goals and actions to include in this first draft. We are very grateful for the leadership, expertise and commitment of Indigenous partners who have engaged with us on this important work.

We are now looking for further input from all Indigenous peoples in B.C. so that we can ensure that the finalized action plan appropriately represents your priorities. We want to hear from Indigenous peoples about your thoughts on this draft action plan.



In developing this draft, our engagement has been extensive. We have worked with representatives from ministries across the provincial government to hold more than 80 separate meetings, with over 75 First Nations and Indigenous partners, to identify potential actions. We also received 30 written submissions and input from engagement with 11 First Nation organizations carried out by the First Nations Leadership Council (which represents the BC Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit and Union of BC Indian Chiefs).

The draft action plan also draws from priorities identified through a variety of agreements with First Nations and Indigenous organizations and in response to the advocacy and leadership of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples over many years. The results of all this engagement form the foundation of this draft action plan. The collaboration between Indigenous leadership and ministries has been invaluable. We appreciate the wisdom and perspectives that everyone has brought to the table as part of these discussions.

Now we want to hear from you. Please visit engage.gov.bc.ca/declaration for information on how you can share your thoughts on the draft action plan.

Thank you for taking time to provide your input. Feedback from Indigenous peoples throughout B.C. is essential so that we develop the best possible action plan. This plan will help guide the provincial government's work with Indigenous peoples over the next five years, to make sure that we continue to make real progress on reconciliation.



Murray Rankin
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation



Introduction

The Government of B.C. unanimously passed the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#) (Declaration Act) in the Legislative Assembly in November 2019. British Columbia was the first jurisdiction in Canada to adopt the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (UN Declaration) through legislation, recognizing in law the human rights of Indigenous peoples. The Declaration Act was developed jointly with Indigenous leaders and legal staff, and was introduced through a historic ceremony.

The Declaration Act established the UN Declaration as the Province’s framework for reconciliation, as called for by the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#). Section 4 of the Declaration Act requires the development and implementation of an action plan, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, to meet the objectives of the UN Declaration.

The UN Declaration is a “universal framework of minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the Indigenous peoples of the world and it elaborates on existing human rights standards and fundamental freedoms as they apply to the specific situation of Indigenous peoples.”¹ The provincial government is committed to implementing these human rights in its institutions, laws, policies and practices to advance reconciliation and address the legacy and harms of colonialism on Indigenous peoples.

This draft action plan provides an outline of significant actions the Province and Indigenous partners have cooperatively identified and propose to pursue over the next five years. The Province has released this draft action plan to seek input and feedback from Indigenous peoples before finalizing it.

First Nations people have lived, governed and thrived on the lands now known as British Columbia since time immemorial. Colonization drastically disrupted the self-determined lives and cultures of Indigenous peoples across Canada. The Declaration Act is both an acknowledgment of these histories and a commitment by the Government of B.C. to affirm and restore the human rights of Indigenous peoples.

If history is a teacher, meeting this collective responsibility will require a different approach from what has been done before. This draft of the action plan has been built through discussion with Indigenous peoples in B.C. on the best approach to taking on this work together. It proposes initial actions for the Province to take in collaboration with Indigenous peoples over the next five years. Through the action plan, the Province is committed to changing the trajectory of history through coherent, concrete and co-operative action.

¹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (Indigenous Peoples). Available at: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html>



Overview

This draft action plan is intended to provide a province-wide, whole-of-government roadmap. It describes shared long-term goals and outcomes for the provincial government to meet the objectives of the UN Declaration over time.

The proposed actions have been identified through collaboration and consultation between the provincial government and Indigenous peoples to support changes in beliefs, behaviours and systems that will begin to shift the status quo, address Indigenous-specific racism and establish new foundations of government that reflect the human rights of Indigenous peoples.

The action plan is meant to help everyone who lives in British Columbia to understand the importance of reconciliation for B.C. and how it will help the province achieve its greatest social, cultural and economic potential.

The draft action plan outlines proposed actions to be taken in cooperation with Indigenous peoples between 2021 and 2026, with progress reviewed on an annual basis and publicly reported.

The actions identified in the draft action plan build on priorities brought forward through decades of advocacy and leadership by Indigenous peoples. These include existing priorities identified in current agreements between the Province and Indigenous organizations.

The 2018 [Implementing the Commitment Document - Concrete Actions: Transforming Laws, Policies, Processes and Structures](#) is one existing document between the First Nations Leadership Council and the Province that sets out priorities with First Nations, including with respect to policy and legislative changes that reflect the recognition and implementation of title and rights.

The [Métis Nation Relationship Accord II](#) between Métis Nation British Columbia and the Province is another critical existing document that sets out priorities with the Métis people, including with respect to a wide range of social, cultural and economic topics.

The actions also address priorities and commitments set out in treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements with Indigenous peoples.

It is important to note that the draft action plan does not include all provincial initiatives to advance reconciliation in B.C. Further, while closely linked to work under section 3 of the Declaration Act to ensure laws are consistent with the UN Declaration, the action plan is a separate and distinct obligation. Actions proposed in this draft plan do not replace, limit, change or stop existing initiatives or related commitments. These efforts will continue alongside the development and implementation of the action plan.



The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act contributes to the implementation of the UN Declaration in B.C. by:

- requiring the Province, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, to take all measures necessary to ensure the laws of B.C. are consistent with the UN Declaration (section 3);
- requiring the development and implementation of an action plan, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, to achieve the objectives of the UN Declaration (section 4);
- requiring the Province to report annually on progress made toward alignment of laws and achievement of the goals in the action plan (section 5); and
- enabling agreements with Indigenous governing bodies, including joint or consent-based decision-making agreements that reflect free, prior and informed consent (sections 6 and 7).

The action plan will be updated within five years, identifying new actions in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples that reflect emerging opportunities and build on progress made.



Shared Understandings

The action plan and its implementation are informed by the following understandings:

Comprehensive The articles of the UN Declaration are interrelated and interdependent, intended to be read together and understood as an indivisible whole.

Distinctions-based The design and implementation of the action plan reflects that First Nations, Métis and Inuit are distinct peoples with unique cultures, histories, rights and legal traditions in what is now B.C., and the Province's relationship with each will reflect their respective rights, interests, priorities and circumstances.

Diverse The action plan reflects the principle of diversity amongst Indigenous peoples as stated in section 1(2) of the Declaration Act, which includes meeting the standard in article 37(2) that nothing in the UN Declaration “may be interpreted as diminishing or eliminating the rights of Indigenous peoples contained in treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements.”

Legally Plural The action plan is grounded in the affirmation, consistent with the UN Declaration, that upholding the human rights of Indigenous peoples includes recognizing that within Canada there are multiple legal orders, including Indigenous laws and legal orders with distinct roles, responsibilities and authorities.

Principled The goals, outcomes and actions in the action plan and the process of implementing them will be consistent with “the minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being” of Indigenous peoples in the UN Declaration.

Cooperative The action plan has been developed and will be implemented in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples.

Enabling The action plan must enable and support government-to-government relationships between Indigenous peoples and the Province based on recognition and implementation of the rights of Indigenous peoples.

Impactful The implementation of the action plan must make tangible improvements to Indigenous peoples' social, physical, cultural and economic well-being.

Transparent Progress under the action plan will be reviewed and publicly reported on annually.

The Province of British

Columbia recognizes that a distinctions-based approach is needed to ensure that the unique rights, interests and circumstances of Indigenous peoples in B.C. are acknowledged, affirmed and implemented. Throughout the draft action plan, references to First Nations, Métis and Inuit are made very intentionally to reflect these distinctions. Goals, outcomes and actions in the draft plan are similarly aligned with the unique priorities and interests of each people. Feedback on the draft action plan is being sought to ensure that these priorities have been accurately reflected, and to provide an opportunity for Indigenous peoples to shape the plan further before it is finalized.



2021 – 2026 Actions

Actions to be taken between 2021 and 2026 are organized in the following four themes:

1. Self-determination and inherent right of self-government
2. Title and rights of Indigenous peoples
3. Ending Indigenous-specific racism and discrimination
4. Social, cultural and economic well-being

The proposed actions are introduced by statements of **Goals** that will be achieved through implementation of the UN Declaration and **Outcomes** that will demonstrate that the objectives of the UN Declaration are being successfully met throughout B.C. The Goals and Outcomes describe the long-term vision for this work, providing guidance for assessing progress and developing future actions.

The ministry or ministries responsible for leading the work on each action are noted in brackets.

1. Self-Determination and Inherent Right of Self-Government

GOAL

Indigenous peoples exercise and have full enjoyment of their rights to self-determination and self-government, including developing, maintaining and implementing their own institutions, laws, governing bodies, and political, economic and social structures related to Indigenous communities.

OUTCOMES

A British Columbia where:

- ◆ Indigenous peoples are fully supported in their work of freely determining and implementing their systems and institutions of government, through their internal processes of nation-rebuilding.
- ◆ Indigenous governments are recognized and engaged with as governments with formalized and predictable relationships with the Province and are exercising their jurisdictions and laws.

2021-2026 ACTIONS

The Province recognizes that the work of nation-rebuilding is internal to Indigenous nations, to be conducted in accordance with Indigenous legal processes, rights, cultures, traditions and standards, and undertaken as part of expressing, building, strengthening and implementing an Indigenous nation's freely chosen governance systems. To advance this, the Province will take the following actions in collaboration with Indigenous peoples from 2021 to 2026:

- 1.1 In partnership with the Government of Canada, establish a new institution designed and driven by First Nations to provide supports to First Nations in their work of nation- and governance-rebuilding and boundary resolution in accordance with First Nations laws, customs and traditions. (*Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation*)



- 1.2 Shift from short-term transactional arrangements to the co-development of long-term agreements that recognize and support reconciliation, self-determination, decision-making and economic independence. *(Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation)*
- 1.3 Utilize sections 6 and 7 of the Declaration Act to complete government-to-government agreements that recognize Indigenous self-government and self-determination. *(Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation)*
- 1.4 Co-develop with Indigenous peoples a new distinctions-based fiscal relationship and framework that supports the operation of Indigenous governments, whether through modern treaties, self-government agreements or advancing the right to self-government through other mechanisms. This work will include collaboration with the Government of Canada. *(Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation)*
- 1.5 Co-develop and implement new distinctions-based policy frameworks for resource revenue-sharing and other fiscal mechanisms with Indigenous peoples. *(Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation)*
- 1.6 Enhance treaty implementation infrastructure for effective and fully resourced implementation of responsibilities related to treaties across government. This will include a comprehensive approach to educating public servants about treaty rights and obligations. *(Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation)*
- 1.7 Demonstrate a new and more flexible funding model and partnership approach that supports First Nations to plan, design and deliver mental health and wellness services across a full continuum of care and to address the social determinants of health and wellness. *(Ministry of Health, Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions)*
- 1.8 Prioritize the implementation of the First Nations Justice Strategy, and the Métis Justice Strategy once it is finalized, to reduce the substantial overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples involved in and impacted by the justice system, affirm Indigenous self-determination and enable the restoration of traditional justice systems and institutions. *(Ministry of Attorney General, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General)*
- 1.9 Co-develop an approach to deliver on the BC Tripartite Education Agreement commitment: “The Ministry of Education and First Nations Education Steering Committee co-develop legislation that requires local education agreements (LEAs) with First Nations where a First Nation wants one, and that requires the application of the provincial LEA at the request of a First Nation.” *(Ministry of Education)*
- 1.10 Recognize the integral role of Indigenous-controlled post-secondary institutions in the province through the development of legislation and provision of core funding. *(Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training)*
- 1.11 Strengthen culturally appropriate post-secondary educational opportunities for urban Indigenous learners in the Lower Mainland. *(Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training)*
- 1.12 Co-develop an updated Emergency Program Act with Indigenous peoples. *(Emergency Management BC)*
- 1.13 Support inclusive regional governance by advancing Indigenous participation in regional district boards. *(Ministry of Municipal Affairs)*



2. Title and Rights of Indigenous Peoples

GOAL

Indigenous peoples exercise and have full enjoyment of their rights, including the rights of First Nations to own, use, develop and control lands and resources within their territories in B.C.

OUTCOMES

A British Columbia where:

- ◆ The distinctions-based rights of Indigenous peoples are upheld and exercised.
- ◆ The rights of Indigenous peoples, including First Nations title, are exercised, recognized and respected, and co-operatively implemented including through treaties, government-to-government agreements and other constructive arrangements.
- ◆ The Province's laws, policies and practices recognize and respect the distinctions-based rights of Indigenous peoples.
- ◆ Dispute-resolution and relationship-building with Indigenous peoples are supported through co-operatively established institutions and processes that are fair, just and accessible, integrate Indigenous laws and protocols, and use the court system only as a last resort.
- ◆ First Nations benefit socially, culturally and economically from land and resources in their territories, including having access to multiple and diverse streams of revenue to finance their governments and deliver services to their citizens.
- ◆ Indigenous governments exercise their autonomy to set their own priorities, allocate fiscal resources and determine how to deliver programs and services to their citizens.

2021-2026 ACTIONS

The Province recognizes the need to shift from patterns of litigation and expensive and slow negotiations about title and rights to cooperative implementation through effective government-to-government relationships. To advance this, the Province will take the following actions in collaboration with Indigenous peoples from 2021 to 2026:

- 2.1** Create a dedicated secretariat to coordinate government's reconciliation efforts and to ensure new legislation and policies are consistent with the Declaration Act. *(Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation)*
- 2.2** Finalize the [Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples](#). *(Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation)*
- 2.3** Issue guidelines from the Attorney General of B.C. to the Ministry of Attorney General legal counsel regarding the conduct of civil litigation involving the rights of Indigenous peoples. *(Ministry of Attorney General)*



- 2.4** Address the need for non-derogation clauses universally either in the Interpretation Act or some other means. (*Ministry of Attorney General*)
- 2.5** Negotiate new joint decision-making and consent agreements under section 7 of the Declaration Act that include clear accountabilities, transparency and administrative fairness between the Province and Indigenous governing bodies. Seek all necessary legislative amendments to enable the implementation of any section 7 agreements. (*Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation*)
- 2.6** Co-develop and employ mechanisms for ensuring the minimum standards of the UN Declaration are applied in the implementation of treaties, agreements under sections 6 and 7 of the Declaration Act and other constructive arrangements with Indigenous governments. (*Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation*)
- 2.7** Co-develop and enhance strategic-level policies, programs and initiatives reflecting collaboration and cooperation on stewardship of the environment, land and resources. (*Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, BC Oil and Gas Commission*)
- 2.8** Engage with First Nations in matters related to the sustainable management of water including, for instance, the development of the Watershed Security Strategy and associated Watershed Security Fund. (*Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy*)
- 2.9** Engage with Indigenous partners on issues related to conservation and biodiversity in B.C. including the protection of species at risk. (*Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy*)
- 2.10** Lead work with the federal government to develop new strategies to protect and revitalize B.C.'s wild salmon populations, including the development and implementation of a cohesive B.C. Wild Pacific Salmon Strategy. (*Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries*)
- 2.11** Reform forest policy in consultation with First Nations to ensure shared prosperity while protecting the environment. (*Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development*)
- 2.12** Integrate traditional practices into current practices by supporting the reintroduction of cultural fire across all types of natural landscapes to enable First Nations to use traditional knowledge to care for and protect their lands and communities, in particular from wildfire. Partner with First Nations to build understanding about the importance of the traditional and cultural uses of fire, and the benefits of reviving traditional and cultural burning on the land base as part of wildfire prevention and land management. (*Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development*)
- 2.13** Advance reconciliation discussions on historical road impacts and road accessibility with First Nations on reserve, treaty and title lands. (*Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure*)





3. Ending Indigenous-specific racism and discrimination

GOAL

Indigenous peoples fully enjoy, express and exercise their rights without interpersonal, systemic and institutional interference, oppression or other limitations associated with Indigenous-specific racism and discrimination.

OUTCOMES

A British Columbia where:

- ◆ All citizens have a constructive and respectful understanding of the distinct history and unique rights of Indigenous peoples in B.C.
- ◆ The overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples in the justice system is eliminated.
- ◆ Indigenous peoples feel safe accessing the health-care system, knowing that they will receive high quality care, be treated with respect and receive the culturally safe and appropriate services that they deserve.
- ◆ Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQA+² people enjoy full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.

2021-2026 ACTIONS

The Province recognizes that systemic racism and discrimination against Indigenous peoples exists throughout British Columbia and that fundamental changes to systems, behaviours, attitudes and beliefs are needed. To advance this, the Province will take the following actions in collaboration with Indigenous peoples between 2021 and 2026:

- 3.1** Provide essential training across the B.C. public service and other public institutions and corporations to build foundational competence and understanding of the rights of Indigenous peoples, the UN Declaration, the Declaration Act, Indigenous history, treaties, Indigenous-specific racism, the dynamics of proper respectful relations and meaningful reconciliation. *(Public Service Agency, Ministry of Finance – Crown Agencies and Board Resourcing Office)*
- 3.2** Establish and pursue targets for Indigenous representation in the public sector, including at senior levels. *(Public Service Agency, Public Sector Employers' Council Secretariat)*
- 3.3** Develop and implement an anti-Indigenous racism and discrimination strategy in the K-12 system to address the "racism of low expectations" reported by the Auditor General in 2015, including formally exploring how to implement a mandatory course or bundle of credits related to First Peoples as part of graduation requirements in B.C. *(Ministry of Education)*

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2 2SLGBTQQA+ refers to two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual and other sexually and gender diverse people.



- 3.4** Conduct external review of Indigenous-specific racism and discrimination in the provincial public education system and create a strategy, including resources and supports, to address findings. *(Ministry of Education)*
- 3.5** Develop full-course offerings in First Nation languages and implement the educational Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in the K-12 system. *(Ministry of Education)*
- 3.6** Introduce anti-racism legislation that addresses Indigenous-specific racism. *(Ministry of Attorney General)*
- 3.7** Recognize the [In Plain Sight: Addressing Indigenous-specific racism and discrimination in B.C. health care](#) report as a blueprint for action to address systemic racism in the health-care system and collaboratively implement associated recommendations, striving for a health-care system in B.C. that is culturally safe and free of Indigenous-specific racism. *(Ministry of Health)*
- 3.8** Collaboratively finalize and initiate implementation of the Province's plan to address the [Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#) and the upcoming strategy to end gender-based violence, so that Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people enjoy equal protection against all forms of violence and discrimination. *(Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Ministry of Attorney General, Ministry of Finance - Gender Equity Office)*
- 3.9** Engage with First Nations to identify and implement multi-modal transportation solutions to support safe and reliable transportation services for communities. *(Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure)*
- 3.10** Seek legislative amendments to add Indigenous identity as an enumerated ground in the B.C. Human Rights Code. *(Ministry of Attorney General, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General)*
- 3.11** Implement improvements to public safety oversight bodies and complaints processes, such as enhanced investments in the B.C. Human Rights Tribunal and new models for including Indigenous laws in complaints resolution. *(Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Ministry of Attorney General)*
- 3.12** Develop and implement comprehensive policing reforms to address widespread concerns about systemic biases and racism within policing, including updating the Police Act to reflect today's challenges and needs, implementing updated Provincial Policing Standards, contributing to the modernization of the federal First Nations Policing Program, and enhancing community-based prevention programming for at-risk individuals. *(Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Ministry of Attorney General)*
- 3.13** Advance the collection and use of disaggregated demographic data, guided by Indigenous data governance, and support the establishment of an Indigenous-governed and mandated regional data centre and alignment with the Data Governance Strategy. *(Ministry of Citizens' Services)*
- 3.14** Broaden the Province's adoption of an inclusive digital font that allows for Indigenous languages to be included in communication, signage, services and official records. *(Ministry of Citizens' Services)*
- 3.15** Review, evaluate and improve B.C.'s Indigenous Youth Internship Program. *(Public Service Agency)*



4. Social, cultural and economic well-being

GOAL

Indigenous peoples in B.C. fully enjoy and exercise their distinct rights to maintain, control, develop, protect and transmit their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, languages, food systems, sciences and technologies, which are supported by initiatives that promote connection, development, access and improvement, as well as full participation in all aspects of B.C.'s economy.

This includes particular focus on the rights of Indigenous women, youth, elders, children, persons with disabilities and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

OUTCOMES

A British Columbia where:

- ◆ Indigenous peoples, communities and nations in B.C. are thriving and prospering as full participants in the social, cultural and economic landscape of the province.
- ◆ Indigenous nations design, control and set the standards and policies for the services that support and facilitate the well-being of Indigenous citizens.
- ◆ Indigenous communities care for their own children and youth, and Indigenous nations exercise jurisdiction over their own child and family services through systems and practices they determine for themselves, with family preservation prioritized and children and youth kept connected to their communities and culture.
- ◆ Indigenous children in need of protection are cared for by their community and where they cannot be cared for by their community, they are connected to community and culture.
- ◆ Health, social and education systems apply an intersectional lens to meet the needs and honour the worldviews, cultures, lived experiences, knowledge and histories of Indigenous peoples.
- ◆ Indigenous languages are living, used, taught and visible throughout their respective territories, including in the provincial public school system.
- ◆ Indigenous food systems are recognized and supported in their foundational and interconnected role in providing for cultural, social, environmental and economic well-being.
- ◆ Indigenous learners lead graduation rates, are supported to pursue their own excellence, and can access relevant and responsive post-secondary education and skills training.
- ◆ Government functions in such a way that distinct Indigenous cultures and identities are understood, upheld and respected, including how Indigenous peoples access and interact with all government services.
- ◆ Respect for Indigenous cultures is tangibly demonstrated through Indigenous maintenance, control, protection and development of their cultural heritage resources, intellectual property, art, spiritual traditions, knowledge systems, economic systems, food systems and spiritual and sacred sites.



2021-2026 ACTIONS

The Province recognizes that social and economic disparities exist in British Columbia with particular impacts on Indigenous peoples, and that addressing these disparities while supporting the cultural distinctiveness of Indigenous peoples is fundamental to upholding human rights. To advance this, the Province will take the following actions in collaboration with Indigenous peoples from 2021 to 2026:

Social

- 4.1 Identify and undertake concrete measures to increase the literacy and numeracy achievement levels of Indigenous students at all levels of the K-12 education system. *(Ministry of Education)*
- 4.2 Develop and implement an effective recruitment and retention strategy to increase the number of Indigenous teachers in the public education system. *(Ministry of Education)*
- 4.3 Co-develop expectations for the involvement of Indigenous Education Councils in school district financial planning and reporting. *(Ministry of Education)*
- 4.4 Identify, develop and implement mechanisms and approaches to enable boards of education to better support Indigenous students, including increasing and ensuring equitable access to education and safe environments. *(Ministry of Education)*
- 4.5 Co-develop, with Indigenous post-secondary and skills training partners, a framework for Indigenous post-secondary education and training, including: revising and expanding the Aboriginal Service Plan program to all 25 public post-secondary institutions; prioritizing Indigenous representation on public post-secondary institution boards; and ensuring adequate and culturally appropriate housing for Indigenous post-secondary students. *(Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training)*
- 4.6 Continue to strengthen and evolve the First Nation health governance structure in B.C. to ensure First Nations are supported to participate as full and equal partners in decision-making and service delivery at local, regional and provincial levels, and engage First Nations and the Government of Canada on the need for legislation as envisioned in the tripartite health plans and agreements. *(Ministry of Health, Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions)*
- 4.7 Advance the implementation of Primary Care Networks, the First Nations-led Primary Health Care Initiative, and other primary care priorities, embedding Indigenous perspectives into models of care to increase Indigenous peoples' access to primary care and other health services, and improve cultural safety and quality. *(Ministry of Health)*
- 4.8 Strengthen the continuum of Indigenous-led and community-based social services and supports that are trauma-informed, culturally safe and address a range of holistic wellness needs, for those who are in crisis, at-risk and have experienced violence and trauma. *(Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions)*



- 4.9** Build on collaborative efforts to address the disproportionate impact of the overdose public health emergency on Indigenous peoples, including fast-tracking the move toward decriminalization by working with police chiefs to push the federal government to decriminalize simple possession of small amounts of illicit drugs for personal use, as a way to end stigma and shame associated with addiction. In the absence of prompt federal action, develop a multi-pronged made-in-B.C. solution that will save lives and ensure there are adequate recovery beds and evidence-based, culturally appropriate services to meet the needs. *(Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Ministry of Attorney General)*
- 4.10** Increase access to culturally safe substance use services, including through the renovation and construction of Indigenous-run treatment centres and the integration of land-based and traditional approaches to healing. *(Ministry of Health, Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions)*
- 4.11** Support Indigenous partners in COVID-19 pandemic health and wellness planning and response, including the implementation of the [Rural, Remote, First Nations and Indigenous COVID-19 Framework](#) to deliver more immediate and culturally safe care closer to home. *(Ministry of Health, Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions)*
- 4.12** Co-develop a B.C.-specific fiscal framework, in consultation with Indigenous peoples, to support Indigenous jurisdiction over child and family services *(Ministry of Children and Family Development)*
- 4.13** Continue efforts to reduce the number of First Nation, Inuit and Métis children and youth in care and support increased family preservation. *(Ministry of Children and Family Development)*
- 4.14** In collaboration with Indigenous partners, continue planning for long-term systemic change in the delivery of culturally safe Indigenous-led child care and improve access to culturally relevant child care for Indigenous families who want or need child care. *(Ministry of Children and Family Development)*
- 4.15** Advance a collaborative, whole-of-government approach in the partnership between Métis Nation British Columbia and the Province of B.C., respecting Métis self-determination and working to establish more flexibility and sustainability in funding. *(Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation)*
- 4.16** Create a provincial urban Indigenous advisory table to address priorities identified by urban Indigenous communities that represent the interests of Elders, youth, women and persons with disabilities. *(Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation)*
- 4.17** Undertake a cross-government review of provincial supports and services for Indigenous peoples in urban settings and develop a plan that will provide greater collaboration and coordination to meet needs. *(Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation)*
- 4.18** Expand support to Aboriginal Friendship Centres that serve the needs of local Indigenous communities while playing a vital role in connecting Indigenous peoples in urban settings to their home communities. *(Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation)*
- 4.19** Build more housing for Indigenous peoples both on- and off-reserve and pursue new federal contributions. *(Ministry of Attorney General)*



Cultural Heritage

- 4.20** Establish a working group to develop a strategy for the preservation and revitalization of Indigenous languages in B.C., including potential legislative supports. *(Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Ministry of Education)*
- 4.21** Support cultural preservation and revitalization by funding key projects designed to preserve and respect Indigenous cultures and revitalization of First Nations languages. *(Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation)*
- 4.22** Co-develop a K-12 First Nation Language Policy and associated implementation plan for the public education system, including ensuring that the language and culture of the local First Nation(s) on whose territory(ies) a board of education operates schools are the ones primarily reflected in any First Nations language and culture programs and services of the board. *(Ministry of Education)*
- 4.23** Co-develop a policy framework to support First Nations repatriating cultural belongings. *(Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport)*
- 4.24** Reset the relationship between the Royal BC Museum and First Nations in B.C. by ensuring that Indigenous voices are prioritized and inform the development of narratives, exhibitions and learning programs at the Collections and Research Building and new museum in order to advance public understanding of Indigenous history, rights, cultures, languages and the negative impacts of Indigenous-specific racism. *(Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport)*
- 4.25** Engage First Nations across B.C. in a dialogue on the Heritage Conservation Act to ensure consistency with the UN Declaration and the protection of Indigenous heritage sites and objects, including an enhanced role for First Nations in decision-making. *(Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development)*
- 4.26** Reflect Indigenous peoples' histories and cultures in provincial parks and wilderness areas through re-naming parks and associated geographic features using Indigenous languages. *(Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy)*

Economic

- 4.27** Ensure every First Nations community in B.C. has high-speed internet services. *(Ministry of Citizens' Services)*
- 4.28** Provide funding to assist Indigenous tourism businesses that have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in order to further support recovery of the Indigenous tourism sector in B.C. *(Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport)*
- 4.29** Establish new investments in Indigenous tourism in B.C. *(Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport)*
- 4.30** Provide funding and strengthen partnerships for the delivery of community-based skills training and post-secondary education programs to enable more Indigenous people to upgrade their skills, obtain credentials and secure employment. *(Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction)*



- 4.31** Working with Indigenous partners, develop economic metrics to help evaluate progress as reconciliation is advanced. The baseline data will begin to address the persistent gap in Indigenous-specific economic metrics and through this co-designed effort, build a comprehensive set of data to measure Indigenous economic well-being and track progress over time. *(Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation)*
- 4.32** Prioritize and increase the number of placements for Indigenous peoples and other groups currently under-represented in B.C.'s technology sector. *(Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation)*
- 4.33** Improve economic supports for Indigenous workers and employers by increasing access for Indigenous clients to the Ministry of Labour's services and programs, including employment standards, workers' compensation and workplace safety. *(Ministry of Labour)*
- 4.34** Engage First Nations to identify and support clean energy opportunities related to CleanBC, the Comprehensive Review of BC Hydro, and the B.C. Utilities Commission Inquiry on the Regulation of Indigenous Utilities. *(Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation)*
- 4.35** Engage with Indigenous peoples on relevant elements of CleanBC including, for example, the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy. *(Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy)*
- 4.36** Advance a collaborative approach to cannabis-related governance and jurisdiction between First Nations and the Province that reflects common objectives to protect youth, prioritize public health and safety, strengthen First Nations governance capacity and secure economic benefits for First Nations. *(Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General)*
- 4.37** Work with the B.C. Indigenous Advisory Council on Agriculture and Food and other Indigenous partners to identify opportunities to strengthen Indigenous food systems and increase Indigenous participation in the agriculture and food sector. *(Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries)*
- 4.38** Review existing provincial mandates to enhance treaty and self-governing Nations' fiscal capacity to deliver services to their citizens. *(Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation)*



Accountability and Implementation

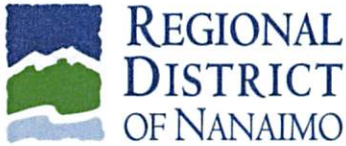
The Province's development of the draft action plan was undertaken in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, and centred around the shared understandings outlined previously. The process to finalize and implement the action plan will be approached in the same way – comprehensive, distinctions-based, diverse, legally plural, principled, cooperative, enabling, impactful and transparent.

Once the action plan has been finalized, ministries across government will continue to work in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples to effectively manage the implementation of action items identified in the plan. Ministries will be responsible for managing oversight of actions they are leading and ensuring effective monitoring and reporting on progress. As the action plan is provincial in scope, it requires an all-of-government approach to support success in its implementation.

The Province will work with Indigenous peoples to identify suitable tools, indicators and measures for monitoring, assessing and reporting out on progress on implementation in the annual report of the Declaration Act.

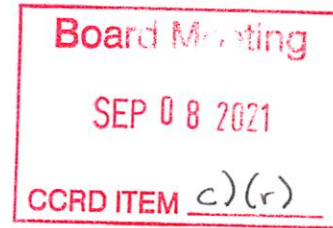
The action plan will be reported on in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples through the annual report and will be comprehensively updated within five years.





August 24, 2021

Re: Legislative Reform Initiative



Dear Regional District Chairs:

I wish to express my appreciation to all of you for your interest in this initiative, and to thank those of you who were able to attend our June 25, 2021 session in which we canvassed in a preliminary way the possibility of mobilizing a collective effort to modernize the *Local Government Act* with the goal of developing a more responsive legislative framework for regional district governance.

Don Lidstone has kindly provided his PowerPoint presentation which has been adjusted to capture and reflect points raised in our June 25, 2021 discussion. This document is attached for your reference, and we are certainly grateful to Don for his guidance and expertise. As discussed at our session, it is suggested that this material be presented on a confidential basis to your respective Boards, with a motion recommending that further collaborative work on the legislative reform initiative be endorsed.

I can advise that on July 13, 2021, the Regional District of Nanaimo Board of Directors unanimously passed a resolution to continue with efforts to modernize the Regional District provisions of the *Local Government Act*. I offer a draft resolution for your own Board to consider:

That the Board endorse the legislative reform initiative with the goal of interjurisdictional collaboration and consensus among participating Regional Districts and the Province for the purpose of modernizing Regional District provisions of the Local Government Act.

Many thanks again for your enthusiasm for exploring this project further, for the thought-provoking contributions to our collective conversation and for the significant time committed, despite busy schedules, to this important discussion last month. I very much look forward to continuing the momentum.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tyler Brown".

Tyler Brown, Chair
Regional District of Nanaimo
tyler.brown@nanaimo.ca

Attachments



MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional District Chairs and Respective Boards

DATE: August 24, 2021

FROM: Tyler Brown, Chair
Regional District of Nanaimo

SUBJECT: Legislative Reform Initiative Session June 25, 2021 – Follow Up and What We Heard

This memorandum provides a summary of the discussion at the virtual session held with regional district Chairs and CAOs on June 25, 2021, hosted by the Regional District of Nanaimo in collaboration with Don Lidstone, Q.C., to explore the possibility of mobilizing a collaborative effort to modernize the *Local Government Act*.

It was noted that regional districts face complex challenges within the current structure of governance, including limitations on legislative authority. Changes in demographics and population growth have resulted in increasing demands on electoral areas. Many rural areas are experiencing higher population densities and increased development, while others have unique rural challenges that require more adaptable legislation to assist with service provision in sparsely populated areas. These changes highlight the question of limitations on the powers of regional districts in comparison with municipalities in several key areas. It is time to look at any service or authority that is automatic for a municipality but requires a regional district to request special authority from the Province, at great expenditure of resources, to create a new model.

The extraordinary circumstances associated with the Covid-19 pandemic have highlighted problematic and inefficient areas in the current legislative scheme as it relates to regional district authority, including revenue generation models, the conduct of meetings and public participation. Now is the appropriate juncture to commit to revisiting these matters in a comprehensive and forward-looking way.

Mr. Lidstone, who practices in local government law and who has extensive experience in legislative reform processes both in BC and elsewhere, provided an extensive presentation to the group, which was followed by discussion. Mr. Lidstone has adjusted his presentation to reflect the themes raised in the June 25, 2021 discussion and this updated material is attached to this memo for your review.

Mr. Lidstone was involved in the lengthy process of developing the *Community Charter* which replaced the *Municipal Act* in 2003. The *Community Charter* was initially meant to be structured into two parts. Part one regulated the powers and financial aspects of municipalities, and part two was to apply to regional districts and planning. Ultimately, while part one was passed in relation to municipalities, part two did not proceed. The *Community Charter* is viewed as among the best pieces of municipal legislation in Canada, including by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities which conducted a comparative review. There has been little requirement for judicial interpretation of the *Community Charter* due to its clarity.

The *Local Government Act* (LGA) remains the governing legislation for regional districts. It was created in 1966 and was in turn based on the *Baldwin Act* of 1849. Several concerns with this dated legislation were highlighted, including convoluted language, anachronistic provisions, restrictions on taxation and revenue sources, complexities in service establishment, and the lack of provisions comparable to Section 8 of the

Community Charter which gives municipalities powers to regulate, prohibit, and impose requirements by bylaw without provincial approval or establishing bylaws.

Some of the specific areas of concern about inequitable authority of regional districts compared to municipalities included business licensing authority, authority to approve subdivisions, regulation of fireworks discharge, parking enforcement, tree management, and taxation and funding models for services.

It was noted in discussion that the social, political and economic environment that regional districts operate within continues to evolve, along with societal values. For example, the importance of engagement and participation of First Nations in local government structures was not a priority at the time the existing legislative paradigm was crafted but is recognized as a key value today as well as an integral aspect of reconciliation work. Issues like climate change and environmental stewardship are just two examples of areas that would not have been contemplated in any meaningful degree when the existing legislation was conceived.

Broad themes captured in discussion among session participants included:

- First Nations must be part of the modernizing exercise; their interests must be explored and incorporated. It is crucial that opportunities for First Nations are not diminished.
- The involvement of UBCM would be of great value and UBCM should be kept informed.
- A new legislative scheme should be able to contemplate 7 generations into the future and establish a policy framework that is responsive to future societal changes that may not exist today.
- Regional Districts must guard against asking for more authority and having more work downloaded from provincial jurisdiction while at the same time not being granted more resources to do this important work (“be careful what you wish for”). Regional Districts need to ask for the resources along with the authority.
- Boundaries and fringe areas adjacent to municipalities offer unique challenges. Taxpayers deserve a lot better. However, the process for redrawing boundaries is slow and cumbersome. The legislative reform group would want to ensure that the core task – modernizing regional district legislation – is not delayed or sidetracked by other issues which may need to be captured and addressed separately through other processes.
- Regional districts need more flexibility with revenue sources. Municipalities have statutory authority to use fees to shape people’s conduct and behaviour. For example, carbon pricing influences energy conservation. Regional districts can only charge fees for the cost of a service. This may be something to add to updated legislation.
- Community amenity contributions should be addressed in this legislative reform process.
- Consultation with Boards, First Nations, stakeholders, developers, owners, citizens, and the Province is key.
- MFA would be part of the “blue ribbon panel” or a separate technical advisory group.
- This process should be kept confidential throughout its duration.

The process outlined below broadly follows that which Mr. Lidstone undertook when developing the *Community Charter*:

- 1) Establish a Committee of Board Chairs and CAOs to oversee legislation review process.
- 2) Develop a ‘blue ribbon panel’ of approximately 3 or 4 experts to identify the problems, solutions, consequences, and to provide an economic, social, and environmental analysis for all proposed solutions, as well as to assess implications for First Nations interface. This panel would be comprised of elected officials, administrators, and a consultant, and would report to a

'parliament' of elected officials/CAOs for input and guidance. This process would be subject to a non-disclosure agreement.

- 3) Conduct thorough consultation with affected regional districts and municipalities.
- 4) Include treaty and non-treaty First Nations as parties/partners in the process.
- 5) Based on outcomes from the 'blue ribbon panel' Board Chairs would formally produce a detailed draft *Regional District Charter* with accompanying commentary of approximately 15 pages.
- 6) Identify and consult stakeholder groups including elected officials, administration, the Local Government Management Association, and the Municipal Finance Authority. Symposiums could also be conducted for ample opportunity for stakeholders to submit ideas and establish a consensus.
- 7) Develop a plan to identify milestones of the process to reform legislation.
- 8) Establish buy in from the Premier and Minister of Municipal Affairs.
- 9) Engage in the legislative drafting process, where provincial legislative counsel would ultimately present a draft bill to the Legislative Assembly. The aim is to have this done for the spring of 2023.

Discussion took place about focusing the scope of this initiative and employing a decision matrix to provide a mechanism to track other desired areas of change that might best be dealt with separately.

In general, participants indicated interest in moving forward with the legislative reform initiative in accordance with a process similar to that presented by Mr. Lidstone, pending approval of their Boards. Chairs and CAOs were asked to seek endorsement from their respective Boards to proceed with this initiative and are being provided with this information package from Chair Brown and Mr. Lidstone to take back to their Boards on a confidential basis for review.

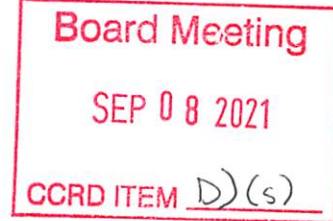
I can advise that on July 13, 2021, the Regional District of Nanaimo Board of Directors unanimously passed a resolution to continue with efforts to modernize the Regional District provisions of the *Local Government Act*. I offer a draft resolution for your own Board to consider:

That the Board endorse the legislative reform initiative with the goal of interjurisdictional collaboration and consensus among participating Regional Districts and the Province for the purpose of modernizing Regional District provisions of the Local Government Act.

Courtney E. Kirk

From: Bella Coola Canadian Ranger Patrol -
Sent: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 2:06 PM
To:
Subject: Commanding Officer visit to Bella Coola August 27,2021

Hello ,
Here are the details I discussed on the phone calls today.
Date August 27th 2021 between 1300 and 1700



Canadian Army meeting participants:

Commanding Officer (CO) 4th Canadian Ranger Patrol Group
Lieutenant-Colonel Jean-Pascal Roy, MMM, CD

Group Sergeant Major, Chief Warrant Officer Dave Shultz, SMV, MMM, CD

BC Company Headquarters member.

Please let me know as soon as you know if a meeting is possible and who will be meeting with the CO

I will work on getting you some Bio's and photos from the meeting participants for your members.

Thanks!

Stephen "John" Willis CD, MB
Patrol Commander Bella Coola
4th Canadian Ranger Patrol Group



Board Meeting

SEP 08 2021

CCRD ITEM D) (t)

File: 0110.00

July 29, 2021

Honourable Premier John Horgan
 Province of British Columbia
 PO Box 9422 Stn Prov Govt
 Victoria, BC V8W 9V1

The Honourable Adrian Dix, M.L.A.
 Minister of Health
 PO Box 9050, Stn Prov Govt
 Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Email: premier@gov.bc.caEmail: HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Premier Horgan and Minister Dix:

Re: Improvement to Pre-Hospital Care System

At its July 26, 2021 Regular Council meeting, the Council for the City of Langley adopted the following resolution regarding the above-referenced subject.

WHEREAS local governments have been raising concerns of long delays with ambulance response time and First Responders responding to increasing number of Medical Emergency Service Alarm (MESA) calls due to lack of inadequate number of ambulances being available.

WHEREAS the recent heat wave exacerbated the shortcoming of the pre-hospital care system which created unacceptable delays in ambulance response time.

WHEREAS First Responders had to respond to extraordinary number of Medical Emergency Service Alarm (MESA) calls during the recent heat wave and endured unreasonable delays in response time by the ambulance to release them from the calls.

WHEREAS First Responders play an essential role in the pre-hospital care system and in supporting BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) with the delivery of the quickest possible response to patients requiring time-critical care.

WHEREAS the Auditor General of British Columbia's report, published in February 2019, on Access to Emergency Health Services provided recommendations to make transformational changes to the pre-hospital care system.

WHEREAS Health Minister Adrian Dix announced on July 14, 2021 to improve ambulance response time by providing funding for 85 new full-time paramedics, 30 fulltime dispatchers, 22 new ambulances, and converting 22 rural ambulance stations to 24/7 ALPHA stations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of BC and BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) immediately allocate the funding to improve ambulance response

time; and to improve coordination with fire departments to support consistent application of medical standards, information sharing, an integrated dispatch system, and improvements to patient care as recommended in the Auditor General report.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Minister Dix take concrete actions to treat First Responders as an equal and an integral partner of the pre-hospital care system with adequate support (e.g. training) and resources (e.g. cost recovery) in order to achieve this goal; and that this motion be forward to Premier John Horgan; Minister Adrian Dix, Minister of Health; Andrew Mercier, MLA Langley, Susan Wannamaker, Executive Vice President, Clinical Service Delivery, Provincial Health Services Authority; and All municipalities in BC.

Yours truly,
CITY OF LANGLEY



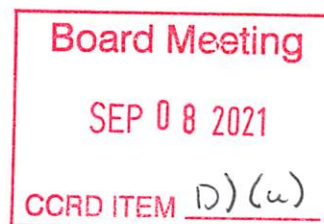
Paula Kusack
Deputy Corporate Officer

cc: Andrew Mercier, MLA Langley
Susan Wannamaker, Executive Vice President, Clinical Service Delivery,
Provincial Health Services Authority
All municipalities in BC.

To:

**Central Coast Regional District
Board of Directors**

August 31, 2021



Re: Local adoption of BC's recently announced vaccine passport

Warm greetings to the board, in these extraordinary times. Thank you for the invitation to share this letter of concern. I am speaking only for myself, yet am confident that my views are representative of many. I have reached out to 3 levels of government so far. Although I understand the CCRD is not the deciding body for this Public Health Order, it is perhaps the only one that is in position to offer meaningful support to concerned citizens on this matter.

What is at stake?

Before evaluating the benefits, let's first consider the local impacts of this proposed vaccine passport. There are perhaps a dozen local businesses that would - under the new requirements¹ - be responsible for checking vaccination status of customers, and subject to fines or closure for failing to enforce. This puts businesses in a very difficult position, especially front-line staff - who must either enforce the segregation order, or risk incurring fines for the business. As for social tensions and divisiveness, one can only imagine. Whichever way we look at this, there will obviously be some local consequences and fallout from this passport, if it is enforced.

This is an electric moment in the province; over 100,000 people joined a Businesses-against-the-vaxpass FB group in 72 hours; several municipalities have issued public statements of non-compliance²³⁴⁵; hundreds if not thousands of businesses are self-declaring their intention to NOT discriminate based on vaccination status. In other provinces, some police unions are declaring they will not enforce vaccine-passport-related measures.

¹ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/proof>

²

https://chambermaster.blob.core.windows.net/userfiles/UserFiles/chambers/1933/File/Premier_Proof_Vaccination.pdf

³

<https://fsjchamber.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Vaccine-Verification-Media-Release-08-26-21-1.pdf>

⁴

<https://www.castanet.net/news/Kamloops/343933/Kamloops-Chamber-won-t-take-action-against-members-flouting-new-vaccine-passport-rules>

⁵

<https://energeticcity.ca/2021/08/25/peace-region-chambers-of-commerce-disagree-with-bc-chamber-on-vaccination-passports/>

Given that there are consequences, let's examine the intended benefits:

This passport is ostensibly keeping us safer by excluding allegedly more-likely-to-be-contagious unvaccinated people from public gathering areas, like cafes/gyms/pubs. The question of transmissibility is key here; our public health officials are telling us the vaccine reduces transmission, yet when we look for confirmation of this in the data and scientific literature, a different picture emerges. The Delta variant is claimed to be the new dominant strain of Covid⁶⁷, Reports from around the world are showing that Delta evades vaccine immunity, and viral loads in vaccinated and unvaccinated Delta carriers are nearly identical⁸. This UK report elaborates⁹, this Japanese study confirms¹⁰, the Israeli experience demonstrates¹¹, even Dr. Fauci spells it out¹².

Given that transmissibility is not reduced by these first 2 vaccine doses, it is not hard to see how the passport becomes a treadmill for boosters, to deal with each variant. Already in Israel you are not 'fully vaccinated' anymore unless you get a 3rd shot¹³. Alberta has already started giving a 3rd shot¹⁴. Recent comments from an Australian Chief Health Officer spells it out further¹⁵. Canada has contracted over 200 million additional doses through 2024, and the PM has just announced \$1B to support provinces in their passport initiatives. It is important to see that this passport is not a temporary measure to increase vaccination uptake, but rather an engine for ongoing boosters.

A central tenet of immunology is that natural immunity is the gold standard; when our bodies have had full exposure to a virus, we develop robust recognition and response capacity. Vaccination seeks to mimic this process, yet when the immunity is based on exposure to a partial picture (ie. spike protein in this case), the resulting immunity is similarly partial. Natural immunity to Covid has been found to be effective against variants so far, whereas vaccine immunity does not seem to be¹⁶. Vaccinated Israelis are showing to be 13 times more likely to have a subsequent covid infection than someone with naturally built immunity¹⁷. Imagine then, a passport that privileges vaccine immunity and ignores natural immunity; what is this really achieving? Over time, our community will inevitably develop deeper herd immunity through natural exposure, yet increasingly irrelevant booster vaccines will be required to go to a restaurant?

⁶ <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/covid-19/epidemiological-summary-covid-19-cases.html>

⁷ <https://photos.app.goo.gl/seCjrwmiLeQowxpa9>

⁸ <https://photos.app.goo.gl/BNkdSP8DSdiGyGy27>

⁹

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1009243/Technical_Briefing_20.pdf

¹⁰ <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.08.22.457114v1.full.pdf>

¹¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/18/world/middleeast/israel-virus-infections-booster.html>

¹² <https://photos.app.goo.gl/dRMsZLRAeWnscntdZ>

¹³ <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-offers-covid-booster-shot-to-all-eligible-for-vaccine/>

¹⁴ <https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=79756F876B4F6-D0CF-EE2A-5B0A09CE5864BEFD>

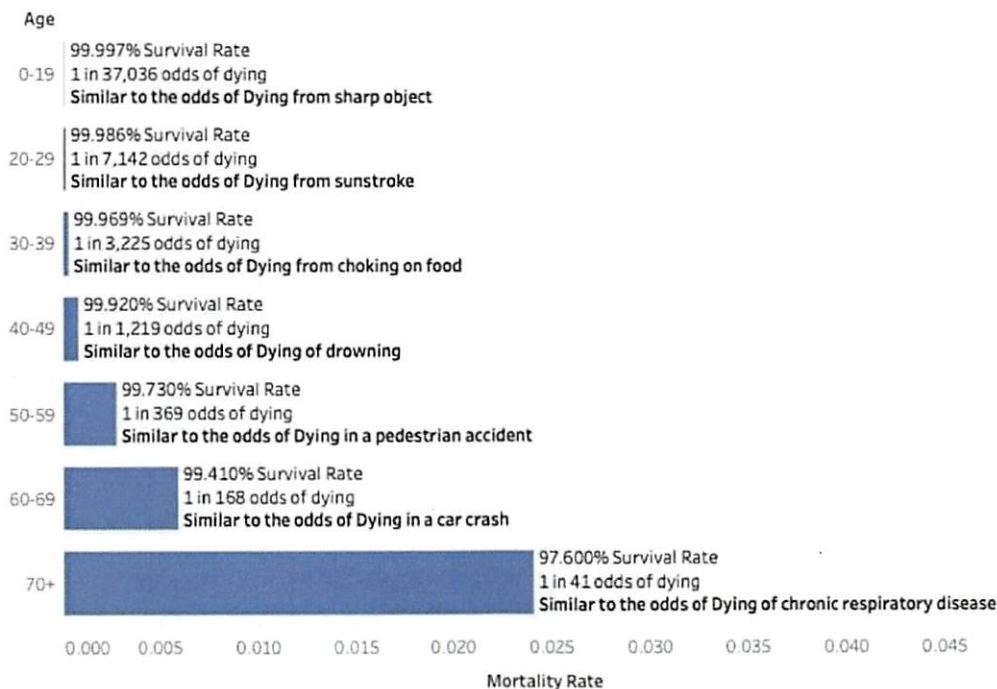
¹⁵ <https://photos.app.goo.gl/8sAz9WcakkHu7mx59>

¹⁶ <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.06.01.21258176v3>

¹⁷ <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.08.24.21262415v1>

While considering the efficacy of this passport, and the cost/benefit to our community, let's remember what this is all about - saving lives, reducing harm, increasing health. To keep the risk we are trying to mitigate in perspective, here is a recent breakdown of covid fatality rates/risk by age, according to the latest meta-study¹⁸ by one of the world's top epidemiologists, John Ioannidis¹⁹:

Mortality Risk COVID-19 - Chances of dying of C19 by Age Group with Comparable Overall Odds to the Population (Stanford Study - Ioannidis & Axfors)



The risk of covid is not matching the hype, the combined case load in Canadian ICUs (300 across the country)²⁰ is not overwhelming by any measure, and the risk profile of the vaccines is becoming more concerning²¹. All these factors underline the need to carefully examine the cost/benefit of covid policies.

Canada has chosen a strategy of containment and vaccination, yet many doctors around the world are calling for early home treatment protocols using over-the-counter therapeutics^{22,23,24};

¹⁸ <https://photos.app.goo.gl/2eTRfjJD4pg41Xef7>

¹⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Ioannidis

²⁰ <https://health-infobase.canada.ca/covid-19/epidemiological-summary-covid-19-cases.html>

²¹

<http://vaersanalysis.info/2021/08/27/vaers-summary-for-covid-19-vaccines-through-8-20-2021/>

²² <https://covid19criticalcare.com/covid-19-protocols/i-mask-plus-protocol/>

²³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAHi3IX3oGM>

²⁴ <https://photos.app.goo.gl/DKjofSsdYgKuczHy7>

well known medicines that have decades of safety data. If saving lives is the true intention, this approach is very attractive, yet government policy has effectively shut down any therapeutic approach. The fact that any effective therapeutic would jeopardize the vaccine's Interim Authorization (Emergency Use Authorization in the US), cannot be ignored.

So, why am I writing the CCRD? What power does the regional district have in this matter?

Firstly, I don't know - I've written to 3 levels of government so far; our MP's office did not respond, our MLA's office wrote me a dismissive and condescending, borderline-threatening reply. Only the CCRD replied with any dignity and care, and for that I am heartened and appreciative.

At this juncture, 18 months into 2-weeks-to-flatten-the-curve, we are presented with a 3-month-temporary-passport - and although the government is not confirming, evidence suggests this will not be temporary either, and we are looking down the barrel of a medical-apartheid system where vaccination status will segregate society. There will be intensely passionate populations on both sides. Personally, I am horrified when I imagine the stress and damage this will bring to bear on our social fabric, locally and in society at large.

I am not privy to the real-world constraints the CCRD operates under, yet local businesses are very much your constituents, and I ask that you consider offering the community some clarity re: individual businesses' right to **not** discriminate.

CCRD assurance that there will be no fines or attempts to close local businesses that refuse to participate with this measure would immediately lower the temperature on this very explosive issue.

I appreciate your attention and consideration,

Respectfully,

Devon Girard
Concerned local citizen



Citywest Announces Collaboration With CCCS

Jul 27, 2021

CityWest wishes to acknowledge this announcement concerns plans for expansion on the unceded traditional territory of the Nuxalk First Nation.

Today, CityWest has announced that it will be collaborating with the Central Coast Communications Society (CCCS), an Internet services provider based in Bella Coola.

The collaboration will make it possible for the Bella Coola valley to be connected to a world-class fibre-to-the-home network – a vision shared by both organizations.

“This official collaboration will empower us to extend service through the rest of the valley, to execute on the society’s greater vision for connectivity, and to create some amazing opportunities within our business for the staff with CCCS,” said Stefan Woloszyn, CEO of CityWest.

The geographic coverage of this collaboration includes Bella Coola, 4 Mile, Hagensborg, and the territories of the Nuxalk First Nation.

“We’re very happy to strike this deal with CityWest, a company that values local customer service as much as we do, and because of the benefits it brings to our communities,” said James Hindley, the Network Administrator & Executive Director of CCCS. “With this collaboration, we’ll not only build a great fibre-to-the-home network, but we’ll also see local employment of our existing technicians, and local governance will be maintained.”

Backhaul bandwidth will be available to the area through the Connected Coast project, which is expected to land in Bella Coola by the beginning of 2022. The fibre-to-the-home network will be constructed shortly afterwards, which will bring last-mile services to the residents and business of the Bella Coola valley.