

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

SKWXWÚ7MESH ÚXWUMIXW, also known as the Squamish Nation, on behalf of itself and its members as represented by its Council

("Skwxwú7mesh")

AND

DISTRICT OF SQUAMISH, as represented by its Council

("District")

BACKGROUND

- A. On July 17, 2023, Skwxwú7mesh and the District signed the Wa Iyím ta Skwxwú7mesh Protocol Agreement ("Protocol") which lays the groundwork for the development of a Memorandum of Understanding that the parties will work on together.
- B. The District and Skwxwú7mesh are committed to building on their existing Government-to-Government relationship based on respect and recognition to advance reconciliation consistent with the articles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Provincial *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and Action Plan.
- C. The Parties intend to keep building on this relationship through this MOU on a path to reconciliation.

NOW THEREFORE the Parties express their intentions as follows:

PURPOSE

- 1) The purpose of this MOU is to identify shared opportunities to advance reconciliation and to discuss those opportunities with the goal of developing substantive agreements.

PRINCIPLES

- 2) The Parties will work together to apply the following principles to guide the process:

- 1. **Tkwáya7n iy Nexwnewítm** - "Listen & Engage"

2. **Wa nexwniwnen chet ta nexwniw tl'a Skwxwú7mesh** - "Follow the ways of the Squamish"
3. **Texwla7m Ns7eyx** - "Genuinely Care"
4. **Chet wa telnexw tina tl'a snewiyelh tl'a Skwxwú7mesh** - "Learn the advice of the Squamish"
5. **Na wa nelhnilhtway ta uxwumixw** - "The people go through it together"
6. **We7us chet ta Skwxwú7mesh siyamin** - "Protect the rights and title of the Squamish"

COMMUNICATIONS PROTOCOL

- 3) The Squamish Nation is governed by an elected Council, consisting of Councillors and a Chairperson serving four-year terms. The Council represents the Squamish Nation in all government-to-government relations and is supported by the Nation's administration in alignment with Council-approved strategic goals.
- 4) The District of Squamish is governed by an elected Council, consisting of six councillors and a Mayor serving four-year terms. The District of Squamish Council represents the District of Squamish community in all government-to-government relations and is supported by the organization's administration in alignment with the District of Squamish Council-approved Strategic Plan.
- 5) Squamish Nation Council and the District of Squamish Council agree to engage directly with one another in all government-to-government communications, ensuring a respectful and reciprocal relationship.

SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES

- 6) The scope of activities is as follows:
 - a) The Parties have identified priority activities ("Priority Activities") that are further described in Appendix A. These Priority Activities are specific deliverables that the Councils are directing to be completed within a specific timeframe.
 - b) The Parties have identified expected areas of collaboration ("Expected Areas of Collaboration") that are further described in Appendix B. These Expected Areas of Collaboration are areas where both Councils endorse continued collaboration and exploration from staff in advancing the principles of the Protocol Agreement.

IMPLEMENTATION

- 7) The Parties agree to the following implementation process:
 - a) Create an Implementation Oversight Committee that will be made up of at least two staff from each party:

- i) Squamish Nation CAO and a minimum of one other senior staff,
- ii) District of Squamish CAO and a minimum of one other senior staff.
- b) The Implementation Oversight Committee will direct the resources of the two parties to advance Priority Activities and will encourage on-going collaboration with the Expected Areas of Collaboration.
- c) The Implementation Oversight Committee will create a terms of reference outlining its governance structure and specific responsibilities around implementation of the MOU, including dispute resolution mechanisms and other key functions.
- d) The Councils will hold the Implementation Oversight Committee accountable for progress.
- e) Commit to Council-to-Council Meetings at least twice per year. One meeting will be to review a progress report from the Implementation Oversight Committee on the progress of the implementation of the MOU. The other meeting will be to review and evaluate how the principles (contained in Section 2 of this MoU) are being upheld and applied to the implementation of the MOU. This will help to deepen the shared understanding of the principles and how they are successful or where improvement is required. These meetings will continue to build relationships between elected officials and build stronger understandings of shared principles.

RESOURCING

- 8) To support the goals outlined in this MOU the District of Squamish plans to provide resource funding. This funding is dependent on the District's Five Year Financial Plan.

TERM AND TERMINATION

- 9) The Parties will review the Priority Activities and Expected Areas of Collaboration on the 2nd anniversary of signing the MOU and then every 2 years after that date to determine whether the Priority Activities or Expected Areas of Collaboration will need to be revised.
- 10) This MOU may be terminated by either Party on 30 days written notice.

GENERAL

- 11) This MOU will come into effect on the date of the last signature and will remain in place until the Parties agree otherwise in writing.
- 12) This MOU may be amended from time to time by mutual written agreement of the Parties.

13) This MOU is an expression of the respective interests and intent of the Parties to work together and negotiate in good faith to achieve the goals of this MOU.

14) This MOU does not create any legally binding obligations on any of the Parties.

The undersigned have executed this Memorandum of Understanding this 22nd day of July, 2025.

**Signed on behalf of the SK̓W̓X̓W̓Ú7MESH
ÚXWUMIXW**

Signed on behalf of DISTRICT OF SQUAMISH

Council Chairperson
Khelsilem

Mayor
Armand Hurford

APPENDIX “A”

Priority Activities for 2025 to 2028

Formal Apology

The District of Squamish acknowledges the history and impact of settlement on the Squamish Nation, Squamish People, and Squamish lands and waters. To foster true and meaningful reconciliation, the Parties understand that the uncovering of truth of what was done to the people and lands is needed. Once that work has been done, the District of Squamish will formally acknowledge and apologize to the Squamish Nation for these recent and historical harms.

Referrals Management Agreement

Recognizing Squamish’s Rights and Title means that District of Squamish recognizes Squamish Nation as having decision-making authority and jurisdiction. By working together to develop a process and system to operationalize that jurisdiction, both parties will benefit. The Parties will work on a referrals management agreement that will address the following:

- 1) District of Squamish municipal decisions
- 2) District of Squamish-led projects or infrastructure
- 3) Communication protocols for referrals

District of Squamish Official Community Plan

The Squamish Nation is embarking on a Squamish Valley Community Development Plan (“SVCDP”). The plan will be consistent with the Squamish Nation Generational Plan but set out more clearly specific development objectives for the Squamish Valley. It will establish priorities for new community investment including infrastructure, housing, community amenities and services, and parks. The Squamish Nation sees the Squamish Valley as an important area for Nation population growth. The SVCDP is expected to be completed in 2026.

The Official Community Plan (“OCP”) is an important land use planning bylaw that outlines the community vision for the future of the District of Squamish. The District anticipates continued population growth and development pressure. A renewal of the OCP is expected to commence in 2027.

Given these important planning initiatives, the two parties are committed to collaborating in meaningful ways to ensure a coherent and vibrant community across jurisdictions.

The parties commit to co-create the process for renewing the OCP with the objective of creating an OCP that is informed by and aligned with the UNDRIP and the SVCDP.

Access to Recreation Services

Access to recreation services is a central part of creating a welcoming, healthy and inclusive community for all. Recreation not only promotes physical health, but supports community connections, inclusion and a sense of belonging. A shared goal between the District of Squamish and the Squamish Nation includes creating barrier-free access to inclusive recreation spaces, programs and services. The Nation has a need to provide recreation services for its People, and the

District has opportunities within their recreation spaces and services to provide better access for Squamish People.

- a) The District of Squamish commits to creating a category of recreation pass for Squamish Nation members that gives them access to recreation facilities and programming at reduced cost, similar to discount programs for seniors and students.
- b) The parties commit to increasing access of Squamish Nation elders to the 55+ Activity Center. Squamish Nation could run programming for Squamish People in the Centre free of charge and Squamish Nation Staff and District staff could co-create new programs for encouraging the friendships across District of Squamish residents and Squamish People. The objective is to increase the access of Squamish Elders to safe spaces for recreation, fun, and friendship.

Land Back Task Force

The parties agree to create a joint task force made up of two Squamish Nation Councillors and two District of Squamish Council members. The mandate of the committee is to research, learn, discuss, and engage District of Squamish residents and Squamish People on the topic of land back. The Committee will provide a framework for what Land Back possibilities could look like in the District of Squamish. The Framework will include considerations for new policy for future District of Squamish land dispositions and also the joint use of District of Squamish lands.

Cheekeye Fan Lots C, 2, 9, and 10 (The Brackendale Farmer's Institute)

Development of the Debris Barrier unlocks the potential land uses of the Cheekeye Fan Lots C, 2, 9, and 10 lands (totaling approximately 20 hectares of land). An agreement signed in past committed Squamish Nation to supporting the District in application to have the lands transferred from the province to the District; however, this is counter to UNDRIP and the principle of land back. The Parties agree that this specific element of the agreement has no force and the Parties commit to create a legally binding agreement to pause any development of this land and a process that would allow for the potential transfer of this land to the Squamish Nation. The potential exists for a co-created vision and land use plan for the area, if deemed reasonable and beneficial to the Squamish Nation.

APPENDIX "B"
Expected Areas of Collaboration

This is a list of shared interests. It is not exclusive and other items in the spirit and intent of the Protocol Agreement may be added. Staff already collaborate on some items on this list and the Parties are encouraging (permissive) staff to find ways to advance these discussions as opportunities as circumstances arise. The Parties will grant staff permission to explore and collaborate on these items.

- 1) Visibility and Presence in District of Squamish
 - a. Naming Protocols
 - b. Protection of Cultural Sites and Practices
 - c. Acknowledging Squamish Nation History and Culture
- 2) Exploring opportunities for shared decision-making and governance
- 3) Community Safety
 - a. Fire Protection
 - b. Flood Protection
 - c. Dyke Management
 - d. Sea Level Rise
 - e. Policing
 - f. Urban Fire Response
 - g. Wildfire Response and Prevention
 - h. Bylaw Services
 - i. Emergency Services Response and Coordination
- 4) Economic Reconciliation
 - a. Revenue Sharing
 - b. Procurement opportunities
 - c. Employment Opportunities
 - d. Organizational Capacity
 - i. Shared training opportunities
 - ii. Secondments
- 5) Expanding Community Services
 - a. Affordable housing
 - b. Water & Sewer Services
 - c. Improved Transit
 - d. District Energy
 - e. Recreation
- 6) Land Use Planning
 - a. Airport Strategic Plan
 - b. Community Forest
 - c. Marine Use Planning
 - d. Solid Waste Management (landfill expansion)

7) Climate Action

- a. Squamish Nation Climate Legacy Strategy implementation
- b. District of Squamish Community Climate Action Plan implementation