

## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
October 19, 2021

---

### **Tseshaht First Nation & Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Sign Government-to-Government Accord**

**Port Alberni, BC** – On Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, elected leaders from the Tseshaht First Nation (TFN) and Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) participated in a joint signing ceremony for a Government-to-Government Accord (the Accord).

Both organizations desire to establish a cooperative, respectful, and collaborative Government-to-Government relationship for the purpose of sharing information, improving communications, addressing specific concerns, and raising awareness and understanding of TFN Title, Rights and Responsibilities and the powers and limitation of the ACRD under the *Local Government Act* and *Community Charter*.

The TFN and ACRD each have distinct governance authorities and responsibilities towards their residents and members and acknowledge that the interests of persons living in their communities are best served by working together in the spirit of cooperation. The Accord creates a new level of certainty for their communities and jurisdictions and begins an important dialogue in anticipation of successful community development.

This Accord creates a formal arrangement between the TFN and ACRD with respect to establishing and maintaining a long-term cooperative and collaborative Government-to-Government relationship through effective communications. The Accord is a living document that can be modified from time to time by both parties.

*“Tseshaht looks forward to building off our strong working relationship by formalizing this collaboration and partnership that will benefit the entire region, including on Tseshaht ḥaḥuuḥi (territory)”* – Ken Watts, TFN Elected Chief Councillor.

*“This is a first step in cultivating a relationship built on recognition and respect, first and foremost. From there, we will work to have open, honest and respectful communication with one-another on a consistent basis. We are honoured to walk the path with Tseshaht and to work to ensure that our decisions are ones that take into account our common interest”* – John Jack, ACRD Board Chairperson.

For more information, contact:

Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District  
Teri Fong, Acting Chief Administrative Officer  
3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC  
[tfong@acrd.bc.ca](mailto:tfong@acrd.bc.ca)  
(250) 720-2715

Tseshaht First Nation  
Ken Watts, Elected Chief Councillor  
5091 Tsuma-as Drive, Port Alberni, BC  
[KenWatts@tseshaht.com](mailto:KenWatts@tseshaht.com)  
(250) 720-6100

## Government to Government Accord

This ACCORD dated for reference the 19<sup>th</sup> day of Oct, 2021

**BETWEEN: THE TSESHAHT FIRST NATION**

**AND: THE ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT (ACRD)**

**WHEREAS** (The Parties)

- A. The Tseshaht First Nation and the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (the "ACRD") each have distinct governance authorities and responsibilities towards their residents and members and acknowledge that the interests of persons living in their communities are best served by working together in the spirit of cooperation.
- B. The Parties recognize that establishing a formal government-to-government relationship now will create a level of certainty for the Parties' communities and jurisdictions and begin an important dialogue in anticipation of successful community development.
- C. The Parties recognize the following documents and principles as guides to effective inter-governmental relations:
  - United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)
  - The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action
  - ʔiisaak (respect), hišukʔiš čawaak (everything is interconnected) and ʔuuʔaaʔluk (taking care of)

**NOW THEREFORE** the Parties enter into this Accord with the intention and desire to establish a cooperative, respectful and collaborative government-to-government relationship for the purpose of sharing information, improving communications, addressing specific concerns, and raising awareness and understanding of Tseshaht First Nation Title, Rights and responsibilities and the powers and limitations of the ACRD under the *Local Government Act* and the *Community Charter*.

### 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this Accord is to enter into a more formal arrangement between the Tseshaht First Nation and the ACRD with respect to establishing and maintaining a long-term cooperative and collaborative government-to-government relationship through effective communications.

## **2.0 PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION**

The Parties agree that the Tseshaht First Nation and the ACRD will:

- 2.1** Meet regularly to promote and encourage open and constructive dialogue based on mutual trust, honesty, respect and understanding.
- 2.2** Work cooperatively to ensure that the Parties have a full understanding of each other's governing structures, capacities, traditions, roles, responsibilities, and current projects.
- 2.3** Maintain respect for the views and authority of each of the Parties.
- 2.4** Explore potential partnerships and collaborative opportunities that help support a strong regional economy. Each Party will endeavor to advise the other Party at the early stages of consideration about economic development projects that may impact the other Party.

## **3.0 KEY JOINT INTERESTS**

The Parties agree to work together on the following, but not limited to areas of mutual interest:

- Reconciliation
- Natural Resources
- Governance
- Intergovernmental Relations
- Transportation
- Landfills /Recycling
- Infrastructure/Water Systems
- Cultural, Language and Heritage Protection
- Economic Development and Tourism
- Environmental Protection
- Public Safety
- Emergency Response and Preparedness
- Capacity Building
- Service Delivery
- Poverty
- Sustainable Healthy Communities
- Land Use Planning and Zoning
- Joint information sharing of Tseshaht history and place names of Tseshaht territory
- Yearly meetings between the Board and Council

## **4.0 COMMUNICATIONS**

- 4.1** The Parties recognize the success of a government-to-government relationship is predicated upon:

- Open and transparent communication
- Effectiveness and efficiency
- Cooperation and collaboration

**4.2** The parties acknowledge and recognize that communication and information sharing for the interests set out in this Accord may be subject to Federal and Provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Legislation.

**4.3** The Parties agree to seek and explore opportunities to incorporate Tseshaht culture, history, and language into communications, advertising, and signage.

**4.4** The Parties agree to jointly develop and implement a strategy for interaction between the Parties for the purposes of improving timely communication on matters referred to in this Accord.

**4.5** Nothing in this Accord discharges any legal obligation the Crown may have to consult or accommodate Tseshaht First nation respecting potential adverse impacts of projects on the Aboriginal title and rights of Tseshaht First Nation within ACRD's jurisdiction, nor do the parties intend that any discussions or engagement pursuant to this Accord will constitute consultation or accommodation for such projects

**4.6** The Parties agree to provide letters of support to one another when applicable, so long as they are mutually beneficial and both Parties have approval through their appropriate governing processes.

## **5.0 IMPLEMENTATION AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

**5.1.** This Accord shall be administratively implemented through the CAO of the ACRD and the Executive Director of the Tseshaht First Nation. If a dispute arises pertaining to this Accord, the CAO and Executive Director shall meet to seek resolution of that dispute.

**5.2** If the Administration of both Parties cannot resolve any dispute as referenced above, the Chair of the ACRD Board of Directors and the Chief Councillor of the Tseshaht First Nation shall meet to develop solutions in accordance with this Accord.

**5.3** If a dispute cannot be resolved at the levels of Administration or Chair of the ACRD Board and Chief Councilor, then a meeting of both Tseshaht First Nation Chief and Council and the ACRD Board of Directors shall occur to resolve the matter in accordance with this Accord.

## **6.0 COUNCIL TO BOARD FORUM**

**6.1** The Tseshaht First Nation Council and the ACRD Board of Directors will meet at least annually and as required to monitor and evaluate the implementations of this Accord and the specific initiatives undertaken thereto. Tseshaht First Nation Council and the ACRD Board of Directors will also provide vision, policy, and strategic direction to the Administrations of their respective governments in accordance with this Accord.

## **7.0 TERMS OF THE ACCORD**

**7.1** The Parties agree that this Accord shall take effect by a formal resolution by each respective Council.

**7.2** The Parties agree that this Accord is a living document and may be subject to revision from time to time by mutual consent. The revisions must be agreed to in writing, and by formal resolution by each the Tseshaht First Nation Chief and Council and the ACRD Board of Directors.

**7.3** The Accord will remain in effect continuously unless terminated by either of the Parties by providing thirty (30) days' notices in writing, to be delivered by hand, facsimile, or registered mail.

**7.4** The Accord will be reviewed jointly by the Parties on an annual basis.

**7.5** This Accord does not affect the Aboriginal Title and Rights, or interest of the Tseshaht First Nation.

**7.6** This Accord does not prejudice or affect the ACRD's rights, powers, duties, or obligations in the exercise of its functions pursuant to the *Local Government Act* and *Community Charter* as amended from time to time.

**7.7** This Accord is non-binding and is not intended to and does not create any legal rights or obligations.

## **8.0 ADDRESS FOR SERVICE**

TSESHAHT FIRST NATION  
5091 Tsuma-as Drive  
Port Alberni, BC V9Y 8X9

ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT (the "ACRD")  
3008 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Port Alberni BC, V9Y 2E3

**IN WITNESS THEREOF** The Parties have hereunto affixed their signatures as of the day and year first written above.



Chief Councillor Ken Watts  
Tseshaht First Nation



John Jack, Board Chair  
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District