



TSESHAHT FIRST NATION



CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

COOPERATION PROTOCOL

Between

THE TSESHAHT FIRST NATION (“the TFN”)

And

THE CITY OF PORT ALBERNI (“the City”)

(“The Parties”)

WHEREAS the Tseshaht First Nation has occupied its traditional territory for thousands of years and continues to assert Aboriginal Title and Rights in and to its traditional territory; and

WHEREAS the City of Port Alberni is a duly constituted government incorporated under the laws of British Columbia; and

WHEREAS the Tseshaht First Nation is also an *Indian Act* Band, with a duly elected Chief and Council, federally recognized under the *Indian Act*; and

WHEREAS the City of Port Alberni recognizes Aboriginal rights and title, including the inherent right to self-government, as affirmed in the Constitution of Canada; and

WHEREAS both Tseshaht First Nation and the City of Port Alberni have powers, rights and obligations to act in the best interests and govern on behalf of their constituents; and

WHEREAS the leadership of the Parties wish to formalize their relationship by signing a Cooperation Protocol;

THEREFORE, the Parties agree that:

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this Cooperation Protocol is for the Parties to formally commit to the development of a long-term cooperative government-to-government working relationship; and
- 1.2 To articulate the process of how the Parties intend to establish and maintain a long-term cooperative government-to-government working relationship.

2.0 SHARED VALUES

The Parties share the following values:

- 2.1 Respect for one another;
- 2.2 Integrity, honesty and transparency in all of our interactions;
- 2.3 Support for one another and a willingness to collaborate to achieve mutual goals;
- 2.4 Protection of the Alberni Valley's scenic beauty, water and air quality;
- 2.5 Celebration of our traditional cultures, heritage and histories;
- 2.6 Stewardship of the natural resources of our forests and waters;
- 2.7 Sustainability within our communities that balances economic, social and environmental needs; and
- 2.8 Enabling a high quality of life for all the citizens of our communities.

3.0 BROAD AREAS OF MUTUAL COOPERATION

The Parties commit to:

- 3.1 Respect the jurisdiction, authority and interests asserted by one another;
- 3.2 Collaborate in the early stages of developing land use policies for our communities;
- 3.3 Explore areas of cooperation and partnership in provision of effective and efficient core services to the citizens of our communities;
- 3.4 Explore opportunities for staff exchanges or shared training to build capacity and understanding in both organizations;
- 3.5 Promote initiatives addressing social issues such as homelessness and addictions in the community;
- 3.6 Work together to find areas of mutual interest for development of partnerships, cooperative ventures and economic development in the broad areas of:
 - 3.6.1 Protection and enhancement of the Alberni Valley's natural environment, scenic beauty, water and air quality;
 - 3.6.2 Celebration and preservation of our traditional cultures, heritage and histories;

- 3.6.3 Initiatives focusing on new and value added forestry and fisheries related products and services;
- 3.6.4 Tourism attraction development reflecting the values of our communities.
- 3.6.5 Small business development and fostering entrepreneurship in our communities.

4.0 COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

The Parties commit to:

- 4.1 Open and transparent communications on matters known to be of mutual interest and concern;
- 4.2 Consultation with one another on planning processes that may impact upon the interests of the other Party. This consultation would include at minimum invitation of a representative of the other Party to participate in any meeting or planning session which may potentially affect the jurisdiction of the other Party:
 - 4.2.1 The City will invite a representative appointed by the TFN to sit on the City's Advisory Planning Commission and will request formal input from the TFN in making future policy changes to the City's Official Community Plan;
 - 4.2.2 The TFN will invite a representative appointed by the City to attend meeting and provide input regarding the development of the TFN's Comprehensive Community Plan;
 - 4.2.3 The TFN will provide cultural training to City staff to increase awareness of Tseshaht territory, interests on the land, and cultural values as they may relate to City interests and business.
- 4.3 Meaningful consultative dialogue once given notice that making a particular decision may negatively impact the interests of the other Party;
- 4.4 Confidentiality in mutual communications when appropriate, while recognizing the nature of governance and, specifically, the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* that relates to the Parties and the *Community Charter* that relates to the City;
- 4.5 Support and encourage positive communications and cooperation among advisors and staff of both Parties with staff meetings as needed and at least quarterly;

- 4.6 Joint meetings of the elected Councils of each Party to occur semi-annually or more frequently if needed.

5.0 TERMS

- 5.1 This Protocol is for a term of five (5) years upon signing by the Parties. Prior to the end of five (5) years, the Parties will review the effectiveness of the Protocol and will either:
 - 5.1.1 negotiate a revised Protocol;
 - 5.1.2 extend the term of the Protocol;
 - 5.1.3 Allow the Protocol to expire upon the completion of five (5) years;
or
 - 5.1.4 Terminate the Protocol at any time by providing sixty (60) days written notice to the other party to this effect.

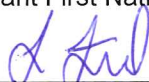
IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Parties execute this Agreement as of the 13th day of December, 2010.



Chief Les Sam,
Tseshah First Nation



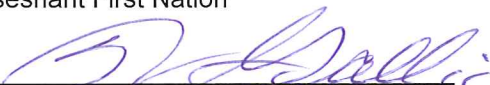
Councillor Dennis Bill
Tseshah First Nation



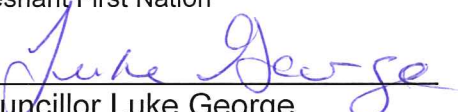
Councillor Leisa Fred
Tseshah First Nation



Councillor Boyd Gallic
Tseshah First Nation



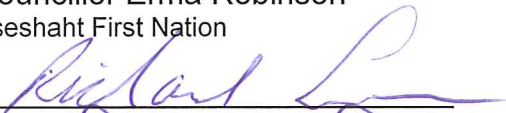
Councillor Willard Gallic Sr.
Tseshah First Nation



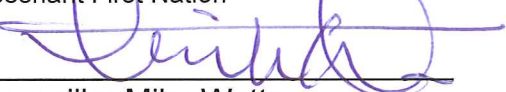
Councillor Luke George
Tseshah First Nation



Councillor Erma Robinson
Tseshah First Nation



Councillor Richard James Sam Sr.
Tseshah First Nation



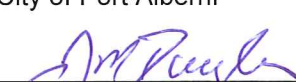
Councillor Mike Watts
Tseshah First Nation



Mayor Ken McRae,
City of Port Alberni



Councillor Hira Chopra
City of Port Alberni



Councillor John Douglas
City of Port Alberni



Councillor Jack McLeman
City of Port Alberni



Councillor Ike Patterson
City of Port Alberni



Councillor Cindy Solda
City of Port Alberni



Councillor Kenn Whiteman
City of Port Alberni

APPENDIX 1 - POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION

1. Negotiating and extending servicing agreements between the parties for provision of services such as water, sewer, solid waste collection, fire protection, recreation services, building inspection, land use planning, or other services desired by the parties.
2. Technology transfer and training opportunities between staff in areas such as emergency preparedness, water system operation, building maintenance, office systems, financial systems and general human resource training.
3. Exchanges of staff to facilitate capacity building in the areas of business, governance, finance and operations.
4. Cooperation between the Parties' Forestry Operations on technical planning, construction, harvesting, marketing, silviculture or other business aspects.
5. Cooperation between the Parties and the Port Alberni Port Authority in development of marine service oriented businesses on the former Plywood Site on Alberni Inlet.
6. Partnering in the development of the Ocean Sciences Centre in conjunction with NEPTUNE.
7. Jointly pursue development of fisheries processing or value-added seafood plant.
8. Sharing in development of a 'waterfront' planning study (from Harbour Quay to the Orange Bridge or Paper Mill Dam).
9. Cooperation in development of a network of connecting trails through the jurisdictions of both parties.
10. Development of cruise ship shore excursion opportunities.
11. Cooperation on hosting of community festivals (both existing and some yet to be developed).
12. Cooperation in development of a zero barrier housing' facility and other initiatives to address homelessness and other social ills.
13. Cooperate in promotion of our heritage values through shared initiatives at the Alberni Valley Museum including:
 - a. Seeking funding opportunities for a climate controlled addition to the museum;
 - b. Explore opportunities to mentor and train a Tseshaht curator through the museum;

- c. Explore opportunities to present Tseshaht stories/history as an introduction to the museum as part of an entrance expansion;
- d. Develop a plan to display interpretive plaques with Tseshaht stories/history at the Maritime Discovery Centre complex in cooperation with the museum and the Maritime Heritage Society;
- e. Tseshaht will participate on the museum's Curriculum Development Group review of the grade 4 First Nations program.