



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN

The Upper Nicola Band of the Okanagan (Syilx) Nation and the Lower Nicola, Coldwater, Nooaitch, and Shackan Bands of the Nlaka'pamux Nation as represented by their Chiefs and Councils;

AND

The City of Merritt;

AND

The Thompson Nicola Regional District

(Collectively the "Parties")

WHEREAS;

The Nicola Valley is the traditional territory of the Nlaka'pamux and Syilx peoples, and has never been ceded or surrendered in a Treaty;

The Parties have distinct governance authorities and responsibilities towards their members and residents, and recognize that the interests of all persons in the area are best served by working together in co-operation;

The Parties desire to create a framework to promote greater understanding and collaboration on matters of shared interest and concern.

The Parties agree:

1. To co-operate in building a government-to-government relationship based on the principles of trust, openness, and reconciliation in the spirit of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
2. To promote mutual understanding of shared and community-specific cultures and histories.
3. To establish a working group, consisting of the Band Chiefs, City of Merritt Mayor, Thompson Nicola Regional District Electoral Area "M" and "N" Directors, and up to one staff member from each government, to meet quarterly or more frequently as required.
4. To make recommendations, through the working group, on any matters which the Parties consider to be of mutual social, economic, cultural, or environmental importance.
5. To bring any applicable working group recommendations to their respective government bodies for independent consideration.
6. That this Memorandum creates and abrogates no legal rights or responsibilities, and is not a Treaty or land claim agreement.

Signed by:

Chief, Upper Nicola Indian Band

Chief, Lower Nicola Indian Band

Chief, Coldwater Indian Band

Chief, Nooaitch Indian Band

Chief, Shackan Indian Band

Mayor, City of Merritt

Chair, TNRD