

To: Fraser Valley Aboriginal Relations Committee  
From: Jessica Morrison, Policy Analyst – First Nations

Date: 2018-02-20

File No: 3400-01

**Subject: First Nations Relations Work Plan for 2018**

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### INTENT

This report is intended to advise the Fraser Valley Aboriginal Relations Committee of the First Nation Program Work Plan for 2018. Staff are not looking for a recommendation at this time, and has forwarded this information should members want more clarification to discuss the item further.

### STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Support Environmental Stewardship  
Foster a Strong & Diverse Economy  
Support Healthy & Sustainable Community  
Provide Responsive & Effective Public Services

### BACKGROUND

The FVRD First Nation Relations program is predicated on the core values of Relationships, Collaboration and Learning. The program framework links strategic objectives to specific goals, with progress toward goals tracked and reported to the Fraser Valley Aboriginal Relations Committee (FVARC).

### DISCUSSION

The program has progressed from planning and initial support work, to program development as per the Work Plan.

The Work Plan and programs are projected in a 3-year outlook (Attachment 1), progressively building capacity and function toward 5 Strategic Objectives. There are measurable goals tied to each Objective. Projects and Plans for 2018 are summarized by Objective below.




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## Policy

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Policy priorities for 2018 will follow the direction of the FVARC in 2017. Work will include the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Stó:lō Xwexwilmexw Treaty Association (SXTA), and continuing the work of building a Reconciliation Plan for the FVRD.

The key Policy initiative for 2018 will be engagement with First Nations organizations and the development of Terms of Reference for implementing a re-configured Regional Indigenous Relations Committee (RIRC).

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## Resources

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The key Resource initiative is CEDAR Network (Community Electronic Data and Resources). The web-based CEDAR Network has replaced the former First Nations Resource Guide publication, and Phase II development work will take place in 2018.

Building on the feedback heard from First Nations, FVRD staff and Elected Officials in 2017, Phase II work will include the development of additional features and functions, and interface enhancements. Phase II details are included in a separate report.

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## Reporting

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Regular reporting and communications in 2018 will continue through the Fraser Valley Aboriginal Relations Committee (FVARC), Metro Vancouver (MVARC) and the Metro Vancouver Treaty Advisory Committee (MVTAC). Communication out from these committees will continue through the Regional and Corporate Services Committee (RACS), the Electoral Areas Services Committee (EASC), and the FVRD Board.

The FVRD Connections eNewsletter will continue to publish on a weekly basis, with Board-In Brief publishing externally to First Nations to keep up to date with FVRD plans and news on a monthly basis.

The program will continue monitoring all regional Treaty negotiations, and active tables as appropriate:

- Stó:lō Xwexwilmexw Treaty Association (SXTA) – Active
- Katzie – Inactive
- Yale – Inactive
- In-SHUCK-ch – Inactive

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## Relationships

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Establishing and maintaining meaningful, collaborative relationships with First Nations maintains central importance in the program. The program itself is not intended to establish and maintain relationships; this work can only be done meaningfully and sustainably by all staff, management and elected officials themselves. Establishing and maintaining positive First Nation Relations should be considered a standard way of doing business as an organization, as opposed to the responsibility of select individuals.

The role of the program in relationships is support-based. As such, the services work primarily to:

- Promote awareness among staff and elected officials of their roles and responsibilities in First Nation Relations
- Provide and promote professional development for relationship building
- Provide peer-to-peer support and advising on an as-needed, as-requested basis
- Identify and support additional opportunities and efforts in relationship building

The Community to Community Forum planned with SXTA for March 1, 2018 will be a key opportunity for regional relationship building and establishing more robust communications and collaborations.

Enhancements to CEDAR Network will be the basis for a new Service Connections Program. The program will involve working more closely with First Nations and First Nation organizations to identify community needs and interests which may align with FVRD services and opportunities.

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## Learning

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Learning objectives are based on a continuous approach to relations and business functions, and are planned to be reciprocal in nature. The 2018 program will continue to offer professional development courses and other learning opportunities to local government staff and elected officials, with additional courses available this year. These include:

**FN 101 - Intro to Indigenous/Settler Relations** (Jan 16, 17, 22 and Oct 17)  
First Nations in the Fraser Valley: organizational constructs,  
historical context, Treaty negotiation framework

**FN 102 - Indigenous/Settler Relations In-depth** (Nov 13)  
Selected topics and guest presenters, may include Land

Code, Truth and Reconciliation, UNDRIP, Legal Developments, Treaty process

**FN 103 - Anti-Oppression Workshop** (Mar15)

Examining personal and institutional oppression, privilege, implicit bias and other forms of discrimination

**FN 200 – Consultation** (May 17)

Dispelling myths and building an understanding of how to get First Nation consultation 'right'

**FN 201 - Treaty, Law and the Indian Act** (Jul 19)

What's next for the FVRD? Looking at the framework for the future

**FN 202 - TRC Calls to Action** (Jun 28)

Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action for Local Governments: Looking deeper

**FN 300 - Deconstructing Headlines Workshop** (Dec 6)

Using an informed and critical lens to examine and discuss headlines and stories of interest in the public sphere

Additionally, the #IndigenousReads FVRD reading and discussion group will continue to meet quarterly in 2018, exploring Indigenous authors and topics, and the program will host an Orange Shirt Day Lunch and Learn on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

Under the *FVRD Learns* program (peer-to-peer professional development curriculum), participants will now have the opportunity to work toward a Specialization Certificate in Indigenous/Settler Relations, the details of which are provided in Attachment 2.

In 2018, the program will continue to seek out and develop Reciprocal Learning opportunities, including additional guest speakers and training, and the development of sessions taught by local government staff for First Nations. This may involve topics such as planning and development, Local Government 101, air quality and environment, emergency management, parks management, etc. Staff will seek partnerships with First Nations organizational counterparts to provide additional learning opportunities regarding archaeological artifact identification for operations staff, and cultural protocols awareness.

## **COST**

CEDAR Network Phase II is allocated in the 2018 FVARC budget. Detailed costs associated with Phase II development of CEDAR Network will be brought forward for approval once finalized.

## **CONCLUSION**

The First Nations Relations Work plan for 2018 will stay focussed on the core objectives, maintaining existing services, and building out into new support areas for the Regional District and its member municipalities.

**COMMENTS BY:**

**Alison Stewart, Manager of Strategic Planning**

Reviewed and supported

**Barclay Pitkethly, Director of Regional Programs**

Reviewed and supported

**Mike Veenbaas, Chief Financial Officer**

No further financial comments

**Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer**

Not available for comment

**Attachments**

1. 3- Year Work Plan
2. FVRD Learns outline of Indigenous/Settler courses