

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

Date: 2018-06-19
File No: 3400-01

Subject: First Nations Engagement for FVARC Visioning

INTENT

This report is intended to advise the Fraser Valley Aboriginal Relations Committee (FVARC) of the intent to begin engagement with First Nations regarding visioning and re-drafting of the Terms of Reference of the committee. Staff are not looking for a recommendation and have forwarded this information should members want more clarification, or to discuss the item further.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

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

BACKGROUND

The FVRD Board held a visioning session in October 2017 to discuss the possibilities in revising the Term of Reference for FVARC regarding function, membership and structure.

In December 2017, the Board directed staff to begin engagement with First Nation organizations in the region and to invite them to participate in the process.

DISCUSSION

The FVRD is now prepared to reach out to First Nation organizations in the region and to begin this engagement. Among the questions to explore include:

1. What could such a Committee look like in terms of form and function?
2. What topics would interest First Nations communities?
3. What would be of value for First Nations in participating in such a committee?
4. What needs could such a committee fill?
5. Which First Nation organizations would like to participate in the committee?
6. How would those interested First Nation organizations prefer to be represented?

This information will frame an updated terms of reference.

The engagement will be initiated as a personal invitation by phone, email, or in-person, extended from FVRD senior staff, to senior staff from the First Nations organizations in the region. These organizations include bands, tribes, tribal councils and treaty associations as follows:

- Stó:lō Nation and its member bands
- Stó:lō Tribal Council and its member bands
- In-SHUCK-ch Nation and its member bands
- Stó:lō Xwexwilmexw Treaty Association
- Ts'elxwéyeqw Tribe
- Sts'ailes Band
- Katzie First Nation
- Yale First Nation
- Spuzzum First Nation
- Boston Bar First Nation
- Boothroyd Indian Band

Initial personal contact will be followed by a formal letter of invitation, as appropriate, or necessary. The intention will be to host a staff-level discussion with interested parties in the late summer or early fall of 2018.

COST

There are no costs anticipated for these discussions.

CONCLUSION

FVRD senior staff will undertake initial invitations in July 2018, with the intention of hosting a discussion with interested parties in late summer or early fall of 2018.

COMMENTS BY:

Alison Stewart, Manager of Strategic Planning:	Not available for comment.
Barclay Pitkethly, Director of Regional Programs:	Reviewed and supported.
Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services:	No further financial comments.
Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer:	Reviewed and supported