

Reconciliation and Indigenous Relations

Regional District of Central Okanagan Board Meeting

Inclusive Regional Governance – Discussion Paper

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Purpose

To provide the Regional Board with the Regional District of Central Okanagan / Westbank First Nation Inclusive Regional Governance Initiative discussion paper prepared by JWR Business Group and inform the Board of next steps.

Executive Summary

- March 2023 the RDCO received grant funding from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.
- Funding was provided to 5 regional districts for use in research on advancing First Nation participation in regional district boards.
- The RDCO partnered with WFN on this initiative as both governments' strategic priorities and guiding principles were in alignment.
- The RDCO and WFN hired JWR Business Group to consult on this initiative.



Grant Stipulations

1. The RDCO must use the grant funding solely for the purposes outlined in the project Terms of Reference;
2. The grant funding must be used only for reasonable costs and expenses related to engagement activities incurred from the time the grant was received to March 31, 2024;
3. The RDCO must provide the Ministry with an Interim Progress Report, Final Project Report, and Account of Study Expenses as outlined in the attached Terms of Reference; and
4. Unused grant funding should be returned in the form of a cheque made payable to the Minister of Finance no later than May 1, 2024.

Discussion Paper Highlights



- Background & history on Indigenous Peoples and Regional Districts
- Relationship and consultation considerations
- Potential models for discussion
- Recommendations on next steps

Potential Models

Model One: continue WFN participation through the WFN/RDCO Local Services Agreement.

Model Two: participate as a non-voting Member through a mechanism separate and apart from the Local Services Agreement.

Model Three: WFN to become a full member of the RDCO and for this purpose be deemed a “Municipality” like a Treaty First Nation under the *Local Government Act*.

Model Four: the establishment of a separate WFN (Local) Government District as a quasi-municipal government to participate fully in the RDCO.

Model Five: WFN to become a full member of the RDCO and to participate as a “Municipality” through new arrangements to be negotiated with BC.



Next Steps

January 29, 2024

- Meeting with WFN Council and senior leadership initial review of the discussion paper as the basis for ongoing engagement and planning.

February 1, 2024

- Joint meeting between the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, RDCO, WFN, and JWR Group as a high-level review of the discussion paper and for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to provide an update from a provincial level on next steps.

Early – Mid-March 2024

- JWR Group to work with WFN and the RDCO elected officials and senior leadership teams to design and deliver a facilitated session between the WFN and the RDCO leadership. Details and agenda to be confirmed.

Mid – Late March 2024

- Document the facilitated session as part of the development of the final report for Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

March 31, 2024

- The RDCO will submit a final report to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.



Questions?