# Reconciliation and Indigenous Relations

Regional District of Central Okanagan Board Meeting

Inclusive Regional Governance – Discussion Paper

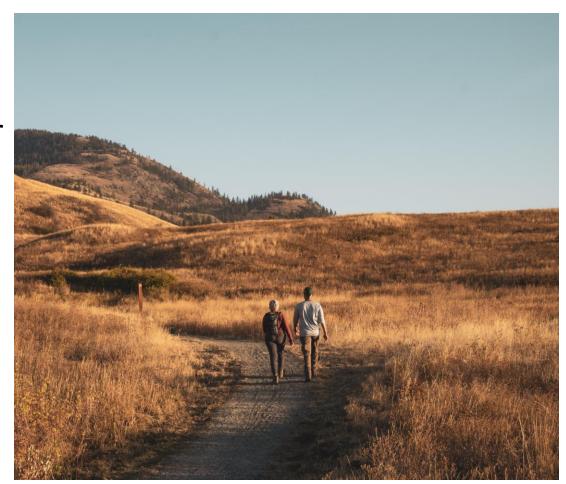


### Purpose

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?