



Regional Board Report

Information

Approved for Board Consideration

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Corie Griffiths".

Corie Griffiths, Deputy CAO

To: Regional Board
From: Director of Communication and Information Services
Date: August 22, 2022
Subject: Land Acknowledgement

Voting Entitlement: All Directors – Unweighted Corporate Vote – Simple Majority (LGA s.208)

Purpose: To inform the Regional Board of the updated Land Acknowledgement to be shared by the RDCO.

Executive Summary:

Acknowledging the land is a formal recognition used to express gratitude to the Indigenous people who reside here, and to honour the syilx / Okanagan people who have lived, worked, and protected this land since time immemorial.

A Land Acknowledgement must hold meaning to the organization that puts it forward as it is a demonstration of commitment and a single act toward Truth and Reconciliation.

RDCO staff have collaborated with senior staff and/or members at Okanagan National Alliance, Westbank First Nation and Okanagan Indian Band to update the Land Acknowledgement to be shared by the RDCO.

Recommendation(s):

THAT the Regional Board receives the updated Land Acknowledgement as outlined in the report from the Indigenous Advisor, dated August 22, 2022, for information.

Respectfully Submitted by: Lisa Pastro, Indigenous Advisor

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jodie Foster".

Jodie Foster, Director of Communication and Information Services

Attachment(s): Land Acknowledgement presentation

Strategic Plan Alignment:

Priorities: Sustainable Communities

Values: Collaboration

Background:

A Land Acknowledgement is a single act of Truth and Reconciliation. Recent versions have been inspired by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation's 94 Calls to Action. Land Acknowledgements are about acknowledging the local Indigenous people that have been on this land since time immemorial in a meaningful way. They are a way of reminding all of us of our responsibility to the *tr̥xwúla?xw* (land) upon which we have the privilege to live, work, and play.

A Land Acknowledgement must hold meaning to the organization that puts it forward as a demonstration of commitment. As mentioned above, it is one step toward bridging the gap between Local Governments, and the local Indigenous communities and people, within the RDCO boundaries.

The RDCO must ensure the actions it takes toward Truth and Reconciliation are in alignment with the Land Acknowledgement.

By updating the Land Acknowledgement to be shared by the RDCO, the organization begins to address Calls to Action, #47 and #14:

Call to Action #47: We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous peoples and lands, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius, and to reform those laws, government policies, and litigation strategies that continue to rely on such concepts.

Call to Action #14: We call upon the federal government to enact an Aboriginal Languages Act that incorporates the following principles:

- I. Aboriginal languages are a fundamental and valued element of Canadian culture and society, and there is an urgency to preserve them.
- II. Aboriginal language rights are reinforced by the Treaties.
- III. The federal government has a responsibility to provide sufficient funds for Aboriginal-language revitalization and preservation.
- IV. The preservation, revitalization, and strengthening of Aboriginal languages and cultures are best managed by Aboriginal people and communities.
- V. Funding for Aboriginal language initiatives must reflect the diversity of Aboriginal languages.

Land Acknowledgment

The RDCO/I acknowledge(s) our/my presence on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded tṛxʷúlaʔxʷ (land) of the syilx / Okanagan people who have resided here since time immemorial. We/I recognize, honour, and respect the syilx / Okanagan lands upon which we live, work, and play.

Considerations:

Organizational/External:

This Land Acknowledgement has been reviewed by key members and senior staff from the Okanagan National Alliance, Westbank First Nation and Okanagan Indian Band.

This Land Acknowledgement has been created for consistent use across the RDCO by staff and elected officials in situations and on RDCO platforms including but not limited to meetings, social media channels, websites, email, and publications.

Considerations not applicable:

- Financial:
 - Legal/Statutory Authority:
 - Alternate Recommendation:
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