



NAUT' SA MAWT (WORKING TOGETHER) COMMUNITY ACCORD



This Agreement made the 25th day of May, 2012

BETWEEN: TOWN OF LADYSMITH
(hereinafter referred to as "Town of Ladysmith")

AND: STZ'UMINUS FIRST NATION
(hereinafter referred to as "Stz'uminus First Nation")

WHEREAS:

All Residents of the Town of Ladysmith and Stz'uminus First Nation (collectively hereinafter referred to as the "Communities") trace their origin to societies of different cultural traditions, beliefs and values; and

The Members of Stz'uminus First Nation and the Residents of the Town of Ladysmith have created, or have had created on their behalf, distinct local governing institutions; and

Town of Ladysmith and Stz'uminus First Nation recognize and understand the foundation of their communities. Paramount is the respect for and appreciation of each other's diverse backgrounds.

Article 1 - Mutual Recognition

- 1.1 The Communities recognize, acknowledge and respect that the Stz'uminus First Nation:
 - a) were the original inhabitants of their Traditional Territory;
 - b) have Constitutionally-protected rights, which include their asserted Aboriginal rights and title to their Traditional Territory, and their inherent right to self-government; and
 - c) are governed by the Chief and Council, which is the legitimate governing authority for the Stz'uminus First Nation and its membership.
- 1.2 The Communities recognize that nothing in this Accord shall be interpreted in a manner that extinguishes, abrogates or denies Stz'uminus First Nation's Aboriginal rights or title, within the meaning of Sections 25 and 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.
- 1.3 The Communities recognize that nothing in this Accord shall limit or diminish any existing or future legal obligations of the federal, provincial or municipal governments to consult and accommodate the Stz'uminus First Nation with regard to issues affecting their Aboriginal rights or title.
- 1.4 The Communities recognize, acknowledge and respect the Town of Ladysmith as a duly and properly constituted municipal government established under the provisions of the Community Charter and the Local Government Act and having all of the authority and responsibilities of a British Columbia municipality.
- 1.5 The Communities each have distinct authorities and responsibilities towards their members and residents and acknowledge that the interests of all persons living in the two communities are best served by working together in the spirit of co-operation.

Article 2 - Principles of Co-Operation

- 2.1 The first principle of co-operation between the Communities shall be mutual respect and recognition, as set out under Article 1.
- 2.2 The second principle of co-operation shall be the reciprocal consideration of common ground and common interests in all dealings between the Communities.

Article 3 - Strengthening Relationship

- 3.1 The Communities agree that Stz'uminus First Nation Chief and Council and Town of Ladysmith Municipal Council will meet regularly to promote and encourage open and constructive dialogue (hereinafter referred to as "Joint Meetings").
- 3.2 The Communities will have working groups to explore and initiate activities designed to facilitate economic diversification, to protect cultural heritage resources, to promote community growth and wellness, to increase investment and to generate employment.
- 3.3 The Communities will foster inter-community engagement through joint dinners, community events and youth initiatives.

Article 4 - Implementation

- 4.1 The Communities agree to joint education on topics of mutual interest, including governance and consultation.
- 4.2 The Communities agree to jointly develop external communication and messaging.
- 4.3 The Communities agree to jointly develop further agreements such as Memorandums of Understanding, Protocols for Working Committees, Service Agreements and Joint Partnerships.

Article 5 - Inclusion and Information of the Community at Large

- 5.1 The Communities will hold public meetings to inform, receive community input and feedback.
- 5.2 Such public meetings shall be co-chaired by representatives of the governments respectively.

Article 6 - Dispute Resolution

- 6.1 The Communities are committed to open, frank, honest and straightforward interaction with each other in order to communicate effectively and avoid conflict.
- 6.2 Where a dispute between the Communities arises, either party may, at any time, call a special Joint Meeting to resolve the issue. Where the parties are unable to resolve a dispute, either party may request a dispute resolution workshop.

Article 7 - Living Document

- 7.1 This document is intended to be a living document, subject to change from time to time, to reflect the relationship between the Communities.
- 7.2 Any changes to this document must be mutually agreed upon by the Communities.

Article 8 - Termination

- 8.1 This Accord may be amended by written agreement of the Communities.
- 8.2 This Accord will remain in effect until July 1, 2017 or until replaced by the Communities with a successor agreement.
- 8.3 This Accord may be terminated by either Community on six (6) months written notice to the other Community stating the reasons for termination.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have executed the within Accord as of the day and year first above written.

Town of Ladysmith

Stz'uminus First Nation
















