

Leaders in Action Forum

May 11, 2006

Gibraltar Room, Cariboo Memorial Complex, Williams Lake



Executive Summary

This second regional visioning workshop was hosted to follow the initial workshop held in October, 2005. Donnella Sellars of the Northern Shuswap Treaty Society was the lead organizer, and Gail Wallin of the Fraser Basin Council facilitated again. Regional visioning sessions are held to find opportunities for using local power and resources to make positive differences in the community. Reports from past workshops are available at www.nstq.org/treaty/regionalvisioning.htm.

This workshop hosted 28 participants from three levels of local government—First Nations, the City of Williams Lake and the Cariboo Regional District. Participants introduced themselves in the morning and talked about their backgrounds and their hopes for the future. Then an update report from the first workshop outlined steps taken to date from the October, 2005 action items.

Specific actions proposed by participants at this workshop were:

1. Co-sponsor the North Central Municipal Association 2007 meeting to include First Nations.
2. Establish a new meeting place in Williams Lake.
3. Share tools and human resources.
4. Get high-speed Internet throughout the Cariboo-Chilcotin.
5. Hold more forums: leaders meet, show success stories, organize department head meetings.
6. Install billboards and joint welcome signs to the Cariboo and communities.

Potential joint themes and topics proposed by participants, in decreasing order of priority, are:

1. Economic development
2. Mountain pine beetle
3. Capacity building
4. Youth support and activities
5. Government to government consultations
6. Education for youth
7. Racism
8. Cattle/ranching
9. Crime and violence
10. Improve policing
11. Treaty process
12. Preventions
13. Ensure that Memoranda of Understanding become action

Participants discussed draft terms of reference for the Intergovernmental Relations Governance Committee and provided recommendations on the presentation and wording. They recommended:

1. Investigate expanding collaboration with other groups and invite them to join at a later date.
2. Draft an action plan from today's meeting in the next month or six weeks by a team of three representatives from the City of Williams Lake, Cariboo Regional District and Northern Shuswap Treaty Society.

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Welcome

Gail Wallin opened the meeting at 9:50 am. She introduced Donnella Sellars and requested some minor changes to the agenda, including a shorter lunch hour to adjourn earlier. She asked people to sit in new groups to mix better for fulfilling the day's objectives.

Drummers Fran Supernault, Virginia Gilbert, Edna Boston and Cheryl Chapman sang and drummed three songs. Fran then said an opening prayer for the group.



Introduction of Community Leaders

Scott Nelson, mayor of Williams Lake, thanked everyone for coming today. He added that participating through the lines of communication can help us develop as a region as a strong, vibrant, healthy environment.

"This workshop creates opportunities to cement the foundation for a stronger region as a whole."
Scott Nelson, City of Williams Lake

Jon Wolbers, chair of the Cariboo Regional District, welcomed everyone to this Leaders in Action forum. He added that we have all believed that working in partnership will benefit all the residents of the Cariboo Chilcotin. Partnership is about joining efforts to provide the best possible community for everyone.

"We've all traveled a long road to get to where we are today."
Jon Wolbers, Cariboo Regional District

Chief **Willie Alphonse** of the Williams Lake Indian Band began by saying he appreciated the honour of being part of the welcome. The title "Leaders in Action" says a lot. He had quoted Chief Willyum from 1879 in Quesnel yesterday. He is thankful to learn about his people's history and for how he was raised and can live off the land. Natives have nowhere to go back to; they've been here for a very long time. "Working together for a better tomorrow" is his main message.

"Working together will benefit the entire Cariboo."
Chief Willie Alphonse, Williams Lake

Gail pointed out that all three leaders had said that working together is the way for a better future. She asked for each to provide their most important idea to implement in the next year.

Introductions

Meeting participants introduced themselves and gave one idea to pursue in the next 6 to 12 months. These suggestions are listed below and summarized under **Specific Actions**.

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- Everyone should go to Vegas to get ideas for economic development.
- Increase learning across the community so that everyone can thrive.
- Continue with, and expand, this process.
- Share tools and human resources.
- Promote learning and cross-participation.
- Get senior government to fund high-speed Internet in the Cariboo.
- Hold workshops about racism in Williams Lake.
- Continue developing our relationships to work as a cohesive unit.
- First Nations and regional planning groups should work together from early planning stages to create something in natural resources or economic development.
- Work on preventions (addictions) to get people to take care of themselves.
- Share capacity
- Promote unity and teamwork.
- The North Central Municipal Association meeting will be in Williams Lake next year and we want full participation from First Nations.
- Develop the region for major economic activity in any sector (tourism, etc.).
- Improve overall respect across cultures.
- Agreements in understanding need more substance.
- Establish a new meeting place in town.
- Improve capacity building and employ youth better.
- Support native teachers of language, and promote our traditional ways in tourism.
- Increase visibility of the government's New Relationship, including at career fairs and other venues.
- Find as many win-win scenarios as possible.
- Include city staff (department heads) and keep the momentum from the meeting.
- Promote work in policing about racism.
- Increase interaction as a more effective way than simple memorandum of understanding. Expand the communication beyond protocol agreements.
- Help to understand the treaty process better through more workshops.
- Build trust and open lines of communication.
- Be serious about action items and what each of us can do in our communities.
- Develop a government-to-government process on consultation.

Gail summarized that everyone has a vision for better collaboration, which is powerful. We're all leaders among leaders. She added that maybe the difficulties of the past years were comparable to teenagers talking to teenagers. Now we're adults and we can communicate better.

NStQ Treaty Negotiations Progress Update

Robert Phillips described how the four bands work together as the Northern Shuswap Treaty Society within the Northern Shuswap Treaty Council.

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- Issues in treaty negotiations include certainty, self-government agreement, fee simple lands, land quantum, ultimate jurisdiction, law-making authority and mining.
- Negotiating aboriginal title to land—it's a burden to Crown title.
- First Nations have done well in court, but courts have said to negotiate.
- Treaty rights and title.
- There are issues in negotiating with government, but now getting close to Agreement in Principle (stage 4), with stage 5 next year for final agreement negotiation.
- Rights included in the treaty are constitutionally protected. For example, self-government must be protected in the treaty to be protected by the Canadian constitution. Where two laws conflict, there should be paramountcy.
- He covered current and future issues around fishing and hunting, land (5.6 million ha) and cash (provided numbers for other agreements).
- The NStQ will have self-government with delegation, law-making authority and paramountcy.
- There are many outstanding issues to be negotiated in this fiscal year. The NStQ are still looking towards an Agreement in Principle.
- The BC government has developed the New Relationship which includes consultation and accommodation based on court cases for a government-to-government process. The New Relationship is good for British Columbia.
- Wants a win-win solution, not a win-lose one.
- Shelving the Kelowna Accord is a serious mistake for the new federal government. One factor is that the money would be spent locally to benefit all the region, not only First Nations.
- We're all people of the Cariboo.
- A treaty takes about 20 years, on average, to negotiate. This one began in 1993 and is almost at the Agreement in Principle stage.

Questions and Answers

Q: About the Westbank Indian Band and self-government

A: Regarding issues at the treaty table ... Westbank cannot make a certain land status change because of their economic development to date.

- Scott Nelson said he agrees with the principles of the Kelowna Accord. It's a significant document. Robert added that the Kelowna Accord has the support of the premiers, Prime Minister and many aboriginal leaders.

After lunch, Gail reviewed progress in covering the agenda and updated it based on how the morning had proceeded.

- She provided some background about the Fraser Basin Council, and gave examples of her projects. One project is "Strengthening Communities" which is about bringing people together to find joint solutions. All her projects include all levels of government: First Nations, and local, provincial and federal governments.
- Regional visioning workshops are for the community and by the community.

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“Building a Better Tomorrow” Update

Gail reviewed the eight action items from the October 13, 2005 Leaders In Action workshop, then turned over the update to **Alberto DeFeo**.

- The October 13, 2005 Leaders in Action summary is on the NStQ website. It was distributed to all city councilors and used to help new councilors understand the relationships and goals.
- The Union of BC Municipalities supported a process, beginning in 1993, by providing funds.
- Some actions require more meetings and work to accomplish enough to report back to the group.
- Documents produced by this group can be ratified by the respective boards. This should continue to be publicized through the media to show the building momentum and its importance for the Cariboo Chilcotin.

Oct. 13, 2005 Action	Components	May 11, 2006 Update
Use general principles to guide joint governance and communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share common goals, and find common solutions and successes. • Recognize people first. • Avoid boundaries, build bridges. • Involve all parties early and upfront. 	Ongoing through today’s meeting and new recommendations
Build Joint Cariboo Governments Strategic Plan. Establish the Intergovernmental Relations Technical Working Group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build a joint Cariboo Governments strategic plan. • Meet quarterly on joint government planning issues to find common areas of interest for (1) community services and (2) economic development. Review and build on existing plans. • Bring all people together annually. Organize community forums and report back to communities. • Establish the Intergovernmental Relations Technical Working Group, as defined in the NStQ Agreement in Principle. 	Draft Terms of Reference presented later in today’s meeting for review and comment
Develop, enhance and monitor protocols and MOUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all perspectives are involved upfront. • Have joint meetings around the protocol to review progress, share plans. • Check that protocols involve all perspectives. • Measure effectiveness in both internal and external cultures. • Hold annual joint meetings. • Include FN representation on CRD/City aboriginal committees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 MOUs in place now • Regular joint meetings • Will come back to this group
Support NStQ to expand capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for job shadowing and cooperative work arrangements. E.g., water and sewage treatment, other municipal activities. • Share organization charts, job descriptions and qualifications. • Review current partnerships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheryl Chapman doing with Brian Carruthers and John Halfnights • Ann Burrill addressing • Agreements in place
Collaborate on the Williams Lake Stampede	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration required for VIP booth and parade. • Also for Aboriginal Day celebrations, unity ride • Joint input 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheryl Chapman and Jill Z. doing. • VIP passes by Cheryl and Fred Thomas (stampede assn.)

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Oct. 13, 2005 Action	Components	May 11, 2006 Update
Expand shared services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address joint initiatives such as transit, library and recreation. Additionally, explore shared services for solid waste, fire protection, 911 service, OCPs, invasive plant control, sewer and water, emergency planning, economic development, tourism, heritage, NDI and CCBAC initiatives and health. 	City signed fire protection service agreement with WLIB, and is looking for other opportunities
Include FN in the Williams Lake Fringe Area OCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimize land use conflicts by engaging FN participation throughout development of the Williams Lake Fringe Area Official Community Plan. 	Have to report before process. Planning to do when draft OCP ready.
Include FN in the Tourism Development Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add an arts and culture display and a gathering place to the Tourism Discovery Centre. Ask seniors and elders to serve as volunteer hosts. 	Virginia Gilbert is the Sepweculucw rep. TDC opening June 27—will showcase central Cariboo and Chilcotin.

Leaders Working Together for Tomorrow

Scott Nelson, Hank Adams and Jon Wolbers sat at the front in a “campfire circle” facing the audience. Each of them answered questions from other meeting participants.

Q: We’re missing the Tsilhqot’in National Government here—how do we bring them in?

Hank: Initial steps are important, we can expand from here. Political differences could cause some differences in opinion in how we move forward, such as consultation. Need to prove we can move ahead, such as through the memorandum of understanding among the City, CRD and NStQ.

Jon: The Cariboo Chilcotin Beetle Advisory Committee was formed by local governments, municipalities and the CRD. Representation from First Nations now has Erwin Charleyboy from TNG as a member. That’s a big step forward.

Scott: There’s strength in numbers, and we need to celebrate our successes more.



Q: Environmental impacts on water sources is a concern, including the recent permitting of Gibraltar Mines for discharge. How can we back up First Nations’ efforts to protect the Fraser River and local water quality?

Jon: There is federal and provincial legislation. The CRD has been proactive and a leader to other regional districts on lakeshore development, and is protecting watercourses and lakes in the Cariboo. Must keep our local environment clean.

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Scott: Supports mining industry but only in an environmentally sensitive manner. Opportunities for development must protect waterways and land. Alberto DeFeo added that the city is working on a water conservation business plan, also working with Department of Fisheries and Oceans on an outflow plan, and purchasing hybrid vehicles as much as possible for city staff.

Hank: Processes like this can find common concerns and interests.

Q: What can we do as a group to ensure that the mountain pine beetle situation is resolved? Jon Wolbers is a member of the Cariboo Chilcotin Beetle Action Committee (CCBAC)—where's that going and where are we headed? How can First Nations, the CRD and the city be more effective in addressing the impacts of mountain pine beetle within and outside of CCBAC?

Scott: CCBAC is part of the process. It's the first time we've had such a dynamic group that will impact the region as a whole. Chiefs Willie Alphonse and Erwin Charleyboy are bringing in First Nations. Need to be able to "locally determine capital projects".

Jon: The upturn in the economy is good now, and we can get some value-added products (pellets, denim pine), but CCBAC is helping to prepare for the downturn which affects everyone. Could develop "beef cluster" to enhance beef industry, along with mining, tourism and all forms of agriculture. We're doing this together.

Hank: Can't manage mountain pine beetle after it's gone, so we must try to profit from what is profitable now. Canoe Creek signed a forest range agreement. Need partnerships between First Nations with the city, CRD and forest licensees for marketing and community capacity.

Q: With new regulations for approved slaughter facilities, we still need rendering plants. What can we do to support the cattle industry?

Scott: The feasibility analysis of a beef cluster area investigated opportunities for the region to protect and enhance the industry. It is now at a blueprint stage for a business plan to achieve this. From an economic standpoint, we want to enhance the industry; we have one of the busiest stockyards in the province. Elected officials must ensure that a project like this includes a participatory level outside of municipalities, which includes First Nations.

Jon: The CRD and city are working on a higher level of certification to sell local products directly to local food stores.

Q: What are the future implications of successive mountain pine beetle attack and climate change?

Jon: Higher average temperatures and fire suppression have led to the outbreak.

Scott: CCBAC wants to diversify the economy, so it won't be investing back solely into pine. Spend the \$1 billion from the federal and provincial governments to invest in economic diversification.

Q: Concern about crime and violence. We don't have the solution yet.

Hank: This forum is helping by building understanding. CCBAC is helping to build the economy and create jobs. Issues around racism need to be addressed in our community.

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Trust must be developed to avoid discrimination against First Nations. A Community Tripartite Agreement was signed three years ago. We need resources for community policing section to prevent crime. The RCMP answers calls, but they don't come to schools and within the community to talk with children and people. Health and culture are other factors to consider.

Scott: We have a crime problem in our community (and other communities) and we're looking for solutions. Sharing ideas and suggestions will help get us in the right direction. The common thread is youth and finding things for them to do, wherever they live. We shouldn't be embarrassed to ask our neighbours for ideas and information.

Jon: Aboriginal Days and Sikh community events are important. Getting kids involved in sports and activities helps the situation.

Specific Actions

The specific actions proposed by participants were:

1. Co-sponsor the North Central Municipal Association 2007 meeting to include First Nations.
2. Establish a new meeting place in Williams Lake.
3. Share tools and human resources.
4. Get high-speed Internet throughout the Cariboo-Chilcotin.
5. Hold more forums: leaders meet, show success stories, department head meetings.
6. Install billboards and joint welcome signs to the Cariboo and communities.

Potential Joint Themes and Topics

Potential joint themes and topics proposed by participants, and the number of high-priority votes for each, are:

Theme or Topic	No. of Votes
Economic development	9
Mountain pine beetle	6
Capacity building	6
Youth support and activities	6
Government to government consultations	4
Education for youth	2
Racism	2
Cattle/ranching	3
Crime and violence	3
Improve policing	1
Treaty process	1
Preventions	
Ensure MOUs become action	



Terms of Reference for Intergovernmental Relations Governance Committee

Participants discussed the proposed terms of reference for the Intergovernmental Relations Governance Committee and recommended the following changes:

- Remove MLAs because they are not included yet. Invite other groups once some action has been completed.
- Recognize powwows and Aboriginal Days.
- The signing page should include the Northern Shuswap Treaty Council, not the Treaty Society. The chair of the chiefs committee could sign on behalf of the four chiefs. Similarly, the mayors could sign for their respective cities and the CRD chair could sign for the directors.
- Could appoint a designate to sit for the chief or administrator to avoid more committee work.
- The terms of reference should include as wide a group as possible and encourage involvement to build a joint Cariboo joint government strategic process.
- The terms of reference will need to evolve as required, and not preclude any groups from participating with others as they wish to do.
- Remove actions from the terms of reference and replace with a statement that actions will be agreed to by all signatories.
- Staff support will be supplied through a representative for each signing authority.
- The purpose of terms of reference is for the Northern Shuswap Treaty Council, City of Williams Lake and the CRD. Establish now for these groups. The long-term vision is to expand and be more inclusive.

ACTION #1: Investigate expanding collaboration with other groups and invite them to join at a later date.

ACTION #2: A team of three representatives from the City of Williams Lake, Cariboo Regional District and Northern Shuswap Treaty Council will draft an action plan from today's meeting in the next month or six weeks.

Gail Wallin closed the session by briefly talking about related projects of the Fraser Basin Council.

- One project will inventory aboriginal forestry workers and their skills so that companies have this information for hiring and contracting.
- Under "Strengthening Communities," resources are available for communities, tools and information regarding the mountain pine beetle. The Fraser Basin Council will be hosting a forum on available resources.

Feedback and Input

Donnella told the group that a draft of the meeting summary would be circulated next week for comment. The final meeting report would be available in about three weeks.

Suggestions and comments about the meeting included:

- We lose people for an all-day session – how about half a day?
- Introductions this morning were important – they help people know who to contact and build relationships.
- Next meeting should start into business; introductions not needed.
- Tighter timeline needed for introductions.
- Spread the word to get more people to regional visioning workshops.
- The room temperature today was too low.
- A smaller room would be better for hearing everyone speak.
- The introductions were good.
- The three representatives need support to continue the group's work.
- A shorter agenda often helps increase attendance.
- More formal recommendations serve as a springboard for action.
- Hold a future meeting in another community.
- The regional visioning group needs to be more inclusive and invite past participants with adequate notice.

Closing Remarks and Prayer

Donnella closed by saying that the next regional visioning workshop would focus on planning and how to work together in the whole area. She added that it's good to see leaders working together and hearing people's comments and ideas.

The four drummers closed the meeting with a song about the grizzly bear.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm.

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Attendees and Contact Information

Name	Community	Phone/fax	E-mail
Hank Adams	NSTS/ Stswecem'c/Xgat'tem	440-5645	handa@midbc.com
Tom Alphonse	Sugar Cane	392-0074	bclmanager@williamslakeband.ca
Willie Alphonse	Williams Lake Indian Band	296-3507	chief@williamslakeband.ca
Ted Armstrong	Cariboo Regional District	991-0926	tedarmst@goldcity.net
Duncan Barnett	Cariboo Regional District	296-3400	dbarnett@wlake.com
Janis Bell	Cariboo Regional District	392-3351	jbelle@cariboord.bc.ca
Edna Boston	NSTS/ Stswecem'c/Xgat'tem	392-7361	e.boston@nstq.org
Shelly Burich	Cariboo Regional District	392-3351	sburich@cariboord.bc.ca
Cheryl Chapman	NSTS Board of Directors	989-2323	cheryl@xatsull.com
Alberto DeFeo	City of Williams Lake	392-1775	adefeo@williamslake.ca
Art Dumaresq	Canim Lake	397-2541	ajd@bcinternet.net
Paul French	City of Williams Lake	392-1318	ptfrench@telus.net
Virginia Gilbert	WLIB/ T'exelc	267-6588	
Charlene Hays	100 Mile House	706-3474	char_hays@hotmail.com
Cary Morin	Canoe Creek	392-2361	c.morin@nstq.org
Ron Murphy	Stswecem'c/Xgat'tem	440-5645	r_murphy@midbc.com
Ed Mead	City of Williams Lake	392-7070	emead@shaw.ca
Gordon Keener	Xats'ull	989-2323	selfgov@xatsull.com
Scott Nelson	City of Williams Lake	392-1776	scott@delspropane.com
Jane Perry	J. Perry Resource Comm'ns	392-3475	jperry@wlake.com
Dorothy Phillips	Soda Creek	989-1433	chiefdphil@xatsull.com
Robert Phillips	NSTS/Canim	392-7361	r.phillips@nstq.org
Surinderpal Rathor	City of Williams Lake	392-0909	spsrathor@hotmail.com
Valerie Thiessen	NSTS	392-7361	v.thiessen@nstq.org
Donnella Sellars	NSTS/Soda Creek	392-7361	d.sellars@nstq.org
Frances Supernault	WLIB/ T'exelc	296-4731	francesupernault@hotmail.com
Jon Wolbers	Cariboo Regional District	392-3351	jonwolbers@yahoo.ca
Gail Wallin	Fraser Basin Council	392-1400	gwallin@wlake.com