



ÁTOL,NEUEL (“Respecting One Another”) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN:

WSÁNEĆ LEADERSHIP COUNCIL SOCIETY, a unified, legal governing body working to promote the interests of **WJOLELP** (Tsartlip First Nation), **STÁUTW** (Tsawout First Nation) and **WSIKEM** (Tseycum First Nation), as represented by the **WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council Society Board of Directors** with offices at 800b, Stellys Cross Road, Saanichton, BC, V8M 1J4 (the “WLC”)

AND:

The District of Saanich, a Municipality in the Province of British Columbia, as represented by its Mayor and Council, having an administrative office at 770 Vernon Avenue, Victoria, British Columbia, V8X 2W7

(the "District")

(Collectively “the Parties”)

1.0 WHEREAS:

- A. The **WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council Society’s** guiding principles are grounded in the **WSÁNEĆ** natural laws and beliefs passed down by **WSÁNEĆ** ancestors.
- B. The District is a municipality under the Community Charter of British Columbia having jurisdiction in respect of matters delegated to it by the Province of British Columbia.
- C. The WLC, acting in the interests of **WJOLELP** (Tsartlip First Nation), **STÁUTW** (Tsawout First Nation) and **WSIKEM** (Tseycum First Nation), and the District wish to establish a process in support of ongoing, positive, co-operative and mutually respectful discussions on a number of shared priorities through protocol agreements or other appropriate instruments.
- D. For the WLC, the concepts of **EN ŚWIST E TFEN S,HELI**¹, **SKÁLS**², **ĆELÁÑEN**³, **WSÁNEĆ,EL**⁴, and **NEHIMET**⁵ form an integral part of these discussions. The District commits to working with the WLC to understand these concepts and discuss how they will be reflected in future protocol agreement(s).

¹ “Where you can paddle to within your life.” This concept is used to represent **WSÁNEĆ** territory.

² “Belief or law.” The English concepts of “belief” and “law” are interchangeable in **SENĆOFEN**.

³ “Ancestor; tradition; heritage; birthright; speeches; history; what has been handed down through generations; and, something that belongs here.”

⁴ “Of the **WSÁNEĆ** People; or, of the **WSÁNEĆ** Lands.” This term refers to the ways of the **WSÁNEĆ** people.

⁵ “Ancestral, family name, birthright name.” The ancestral names that establish **WSÁNEĆ** peoples’ responsibilities to the land and water.

2.0 THEREFORE:

This Memorandum of Understanding represents a commitment by the WLC and the District to develop a strong, committed and fair government-to-government relationship based on respect (ÁTOL⁶), co-operation (ĆAINEUEL⁷), and partnership (HIWESTEL⁸) to address shared interests and WŚÁNEĆ priorities (Schedule A) through a variety of instruments including protocol agreements where appropriate. Within 120 days of the signing of this MOU, the Parties' Councils will meet and identify priorities and outline short and long-term actions from the items identified in Schedule A in a manner consistent with the intent of this MOU. Although this MOU is intended to address all issues raised in Schedule A, additional items may also be included, subject to agreement on the part of both parties.

Representatives of the WLC and the District agree to meet regularly to review work plans and progress on the development of protocol agreements.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties have executed this Memorandum of Understanding this _____ day of _____, _____.

Chief Don Tom
Tsartlip First Nation
WŚÁNEĆ Leadership Council Chair

Mayor Frederick Haynes
District of Saanich

Chief Tanya Jimmy
Tseycum First Nation
WŚÁNEĆ Leadership Council Director

Chief Harvey Underwood
Tsawout First Nation
WŚÁNEĆ Leadership Council Director

⁶ "Mutual respect for the rights of others (with life)." The WŚÁNEĆ concept of ÁTOL extends to all life, including water.

⁷ "Working together."

⁸ "To honour one another."

SCHEDULE A

W̱SÁNEĆ LEADERSHIP COUNCIL PRIORITIES FOR DISCUSSION WITH THE DISTRICT OF SAANICH

The following outlines key priority areas and outcomes identified by the W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council.

- **District of Saanich Recognition of Douglas Treaty Rights and Oral History of the Douglas Treaties**
 - Work towards authentic and meaningful recognition through orientation and education
 - Provide Council to Council learning opportunities
 - Provide education sessions to, and materials for, Saanich Council and Senior Staff
- **District of Saanich Recognition of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**
 - Work towards authentic and meaningful recognition through orientation and education
 - Provide Council to Council learning opportunities
 - Provide education sessions to, and materials for, Saanich Council and Senior Staff
- **Governance and Implementation of MOU**
 - Role in decision making at District of Saanich for W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council and/or W̱SÁNEĆ representatives, including:
 - Inclusion of W̱SÁNEĆ Representation on District of Saanich Committees
 - Development of Implementation Working Groups
 - Regular Council to Council Meeting between District of Saanich and W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council
 - Development of staff to staff Working Group that meets regularly, shares information, and tracks progress on topics identified in the WLC-DoS MOU
 - Coordination of, and Support for, educational events
 - Provide cultural training for District of Saanich leadership and staff
 - Provide educational material for the public in support of Memorandum of Understanding
 - District of Saanich to provide funding for WLC participation in MOU discussions
- **Environmental Concerns**
 - Remediation of priority environmental features identified by W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council (see numbers 10, 12, 15, and 16 from recommendations made by WLC on Cordova Bay Local Area Plan) with a recognition of the need for multi-jurisdictional collaboration
 - Development of an Integrated Marine Ecosystem Management Study (see number 16 from recommendations made by WLC on Cordova Bay Local Area Plan)
 - Development of W̱SÁNEĆ Cultural/Environmental Monitoring Program and Environment Committee (see number 36 from recommendations made by WLC on Cordova Bay Local Area Plan)

- Development of plan to increase W̱SÁNEĆ access to important cultural/harvesting places (see number 36 from recommendations made by WLC on Cordova Bay Local Area Plan), including a plan to address conflicts with public
 - Development of a plan to reduce pollution and address health of shellfish, including:
 - Involvement in Riparian Areas Protection and Conservation Zoning
 - Addressing agricultural run-off and faulty septic tanks/field
 - Development of bylaws as in other municipalities (e.g. North Saanich)
 - Development of Deer Management Protocol for both invasive and non-invasive deer, including the use of W̱SÁNEĆ hunters
- **Protection of Ancestral Sites (see numbers 23, 26, and 38 from recommendations made by WLC on Cordova Bay Local Area Plan)**
 - Creation of Cultural Heritage Committee (see number 36 from recommendations made by WLC on Cordova Bay Local Area Plan) to track progress and discuss the following items. As specific W̱SÁNEĆ people with cultural roles must be involved in this work, a separate committee is needed for Cultural Heritage.
 - Development of W̱SÁNEĆ Cultural Heritage Protocol, including:
 - How information regarding land altering works is communicated
 - Protocol for the resolution of site use conflicts
 - Protocol for the use of W̱SÁNEĆ Cultural Workers (Monitors) and other mitigation measures
 - Protocol for culturally appropriate ceremonies
 - The development of Chance Find Protocol
 - Protocol for reburials
 - Training for consultants and others conducting land altering works
 - Protection of W̱SÁNEĆ cultural knowledge
 - Discussion of Repatriation Projects and parcels of land for reburial purposes (see Goal 12 from July 19, 2019 WLC-DoS Meeting)
 - Archaeological Potential Mapping to ensure District of Saanich is aware of possible Cultural Heritage within municipality (see WLC Letter to DoS of February 8, 2021)
 - Conflicts in land use and their resolution (e.g. burial sites and playgrounds)
 - Role in decision making regarding Development Permits (see number 28 from recommendations made by WLC on Cordova Bay Local Area Plan), including the identification of priority sites.
 - Development of internal safeguards at DoS to protect W̱SÁNEĆ cultural heritage, including the use of Municipal tools (e.g. Community Heritage Register, Heritage Designation, Heritage Revitalization Agreement, and Heritage Conservation Areas)
 - **Public Art and Education Projects**
 - Pursue place name changes, including street name changes, to recognize original W̱SÁNEĆ names in SENĆOŦEN
 - Develop interpretive signage to inform public of W̱SÁNEĆ history, culture, and rights within District of Saanich, including information about W̱SÁNEĆ trails
 - Host public events to support educational initiatives
 - Place name changes and interpretive signage to be supported with commemorative events to share, in person, W̱SÁNEĆ teachings
 - Other cultural events (e.g. pit cooks) to educate the public and encourage a W̱SÁNEĆ presence in Cordova Bay

- Prioritization of W̱SÁNEĆ Art throughout District of Saanich using municipal tools (see number 28 from recommendations made by WLC on Cordova Bay Local Area Plan), including:
 - W̱SÁNEĆ Art in Municipal Hall and DoS Buildings
 - Implementation of WLC Art Protocol
- Archivists at the Saanich Archive will work with WLC to identify and share materials of interest and importance to Saanich people and culture
- **Economic Development Opportunities**
 - Discuss Social Housing in District of Saanich for W̱SÁNEĆ community members, including potential partnerships (see number 25 from recommendations made by WLC on Cordova Bay Local Area Plan)
 - Discuss Right of First Refusal for DoS and Land Acquisition opportunities (see number 52 from recommendations made by WLC on Cordova Bay Local Area Plan)
 - Discuss other economic development opportunities when available
- **Parks Management (34)**
 - Co-develop Management Plans for District of Saanich Parks, with a focus on the following:
 - Prioritizing W̱SÁNEĆ access for exercise of rights
 - Manage conflicts between Parks users and W̱SÁNEĆ community members
 - Education of Parks visitors through events, interpretive signage, and on the land activities
 - Pursue ecological restoration in District of Saanich Parks, with a focus on the following:
 - W̱SÁNEĆ food and medicine plants
 - Invasive species management
 - Monitoring programs
 - Discuss access to District of Saanich Parks infrastructure for W̱SÁNEĆ sports, including potential use agreements for sports fields