



**Memorandum of Understanding  
between  
The British Columbia Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN)  
and  
The Business Council of British Columbia (BCBC)**

*“Recognizing and Accelerating the Opportunities and Economic Reconciliation  
between First Nations and the Business Community in British Columbia”*

**Preamble**

**Whereas:**

The BCAFN represents 203 First Nations in BC and works to advance the Aboriginal Title and Rights, including Treaty Rights and other interests of Nations in BC. In addition, the BCAFN works to restore and enhance the relationship among Nations in BC, the Crown and the people of Canada, and to ensure that the interests of Nations are advocated nationally through the AFN Executive.

The BCBC represents a membership of BC’s top employers and leading companies in every sector of the provincial economy, including our post-secondary institutions. Through diligent, evidence-based research and input from members and policy leaders, the Council offers public policy advice to BC and Canada’s elected and unelected government decision makers, with the objective to create a prosperous, sustainable and competitive economy for all British Columbians.

**Whereas the Parties:**

Recognize the imperative and significant opportunities inherent in economic reconciliation between First Nations and business interests that advance our collective society;

Respect the Title and Rights, and Treaty Rights of First Nations and the role of business and sustainable economic development in creating prosperity with First Nations;

Appreciate the critical need for all parties to continue, and to accelerate, the transition of First Nation Title and Rights in BC into shared economic prosperity for First Nations

communities, based on trusted relations, clarity of decision making, mutual respect and shared knowledge;

Understand that there exists a clear, evidence-based acknowledgement of the mutual benefits from economic reconciliation across BC through the hundreds of current agreements between First Nations and businesses; and that the pathway to reconciliation, social, health and educational equality and collective prosperity can be expedited through sustainable, respectful and equitable development;

Affirm a desire to increase the overall prosperity of the province through greater decision making and operating certainty. This can be achieved by building a climate that attracts global capital and supports best practices through new economic relationships between First Nations and businesses that are a key foundation of improved wealth distribution and economic reconciliation;

**And Whereas:**

Both parties are committed to reconciliation and recognize a vast array of Provincial and Federal Court decisions furthering and affirming a legal understanding of First Nations Title and Rights, and Treaty Rights and a growing body of academic and technical literature all of which provide a strong moral, legal, and business imperative for sustainable economic reconciliation;

**Purpose and Commitments**

**The Parties hereby agree to:**

Respectfully engage to create a formal ongoing dialogue between First Nation leaders and business leaders to discuss the facets needed for sustainable economic reconciliation. This will include building greater understanding and capacity, clarity and certainty of decision making, stronger relationships, and putting forward tangible solutions for First Nations, governments and business to act upon;

Establish and define a collaborative and constructive relationship to achieve outcomes that are mutually beneficial to all Parties. This will support the aspirations of First Nations in British Columbia, through establishing a formal dialogue process regarding sustainable economic development and the development of BC First Nations economic development strategies;

Collaborate and advance an agenda that supports the delivery of shared prosperity in BC, that supports health, educational and social equality;

Commit to developing a set of guiding principles and other initiatives deemed of interest by the parties for mutually beneficial economic reconciliation between First Nations and BC businesses;

Discuss and seek to advance a framework for understanding economic reconciliation in a clear, mutually agreeable manner;

Recognize and respect the Constitutional relationship between First Nations and the governments of Canada and British Columbia and the legal context within which businesses must operate; and

Seek new opportunities to jointly advance the shared interests of sustainable economic development in BC through improved communications and increased public engagement and understanding.

Original signed on behalf of the BC Assembly of First Nations and the Business Council of British Columbia by:

- Regional Chief Shane Gottfriedson, BC Assembly of First Nations
- Marcia Smith, Chair, Business Council of British Columbia
- Chief Maureen Chapman, Skawhalook First Nation, Board Director, BC Assembly of First Nations
- Fiona Macfarlane, Governor, Business Council of British Columbia, Managing Partner, EY
- Chief James Delorme, Klahoose First Nation, Board Director, BC Assembly of First Nations
- Susannah Pierce, Governor, Business Council of British Columbia, Director, External Relations, LNG Canada
- Chief Rebecca Harris, Pauquachin First Nation, Board Director, BC Assembly of First Nations
- Tamara Vrooman, Governor, Business Council of British Columbia, President and CEO, Vancity
- Chief Liz Logan, Fort Nelson First Nation, Board Director, BC Assembly of First Nations
- Susan Yurkovich, Governor, Business Council of British Columbia, President and CEO, Council of Forest Industries
- Chief Susan Miller, Katzie First Nation, Board Director, BC Assembly of First Nations  
Jonathan Whitworth, Past Chair, Business Council of British Columbia, Chief Executive Officer, Seaspan ULC
- Melanie Debassige, Chief of Staff, BC Assembly of First Nations
- Greg D'Avignon, President and Chief Executive Officer, Business Council of British Columbia

Vancouver, British Columbia  
September 6, 2016