



## Principles for Cooperation Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound Community Forum

To provide an overview of the need, purpose and structure for cooperative efforts by interested local governments and First Nations operating on the unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples in the Átl'ka7tsem Howe Sound region.

### 1. Statement of Purpose

To provide a forum for elected representatives of local governments, Regional Districts and First Nations as well as federal and provincial elected members to have discussions focused on how to maintain and enhance the economic, environmental, cultural and social well-being of the Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound (the Region) for the benefit of present and future generations.

### 2. Rationale (The Need)

The Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound Community Forum (the Forum) will enhance collective action among local governments, regional districts and First Nations by:

- Providing a common forum for dialogue
- Sharing knowledge and information to avoid duplication of effort and to enhance any single organization's capacity for action
- Promoting the use of transparent processes that encourage awareness and involvement
- Providing a forum for gaining a better understanding of and from First Nations peoples in the Region.

### 3. Scope

The Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound region includes the marine waters and all the lands that drain into these waters, the surrounding airshed on the east side of the Salish Sea (Strait of Georgia) between Point Atkinson and Gower Point and interested adjacent communities.

### 4. Common Vision

The Forum envisions that communities within the Region can be healthy, productive, and sustainable by:

- understanding the use and occupancy of the region by the Squamish Nation/Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw, who have occupied and managed Átl'ka7tsem for many thousands of years;
- building appreciation for the spiritual and cultural values of the region;
- understanding, promoting and implementing best practices, including traditional practices;
- promoting compact and complete communities;
- encouraging safe and livable communities;
- encouraging an integrated transportation system;

- preserving a healthy and natural environment;
- nurturing cultural heritage;
- supporting sustainable use of resources;
- fostering a vibrant and dynamic economy;
- raising awareness about land use; and
- ensuring the public is informed and encouraged to be active.

## 5. Shared Values

The Forum will involve the collective efforts of First Nations and a wide variety of governments, non-government organizations, the private sector, educational institutions and individuals to pursue the following values and objectives. The Forum shares the following values and objectives.

### Value...Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Titles

Objective – Respect and support of Aboriginal Rights and Title, traditional knowledge and sacred places....

### Value...Spirit of Sharing

Objective - The many interests and organizations in the Region can strengthen the effectiveness of programs by openly sharing information and knowledge.

### Value... Action Orientation

Objective - The Forum will encourage groups to take actions that produce positive observable results and public benefit to communities.

### Value...Efforts towards Sustainability

Objective – The Forum members recognize the need to effectively manage and maintain a balanced relationship between community development and the protection of First Nations sacred places and cultural qualities, and the unique biophysical and environmental qualities of the Region.

### Value.. The need for Cooperation and observing protocol

Objective -Governments, First Nations and organizations will be encouraged to work together.

### Value...Stewardship

Objective - Voluntary action of individuals and organizations as a powerful and effective tool for achieving positive results.

### Value... Transcending Jurisdictions

Objective - The Forum will encourage communities to work together for the greater good because jurisdictional lines on a map mean nothing in terms of sustainability.

### Value...Focus and Transparency

Objective - Forum member programs will encourage clear objectives and use accountable processes that are available to Forum members and the public.

### Value... Respect for Diversity

Objective - It is recognized that while every member of the Forum may have a different focus or interest, they are encouraged to acknowledge a shared interest in the sustainability of the Region.

## 6. Structure (The Members)

A hosting community from the membership will work cooperatively with the Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society (HSBRIS) as the convening organization.

The hosting community will rotate among the Forum members, and meetings will be held bi-annually, or more frequently, as requested by any member or as predicated by local issues.

Task forces or subforums may be established to focus on specific projects.

Charter members of the Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound Community Forum include elected representatives of the following communities:

Bowen Island Municipality	Squamish Nation/Skw̓xwú7mesh Úxwumixw
Gambier Island Local Trust Committee	Sunshine Coast Regional District
Town of Gibsons	Village of Lions Bay
Metro Vancouver Regional District	District of West Vancouver
District of Squamish	Resort Municipality of Whistler
Squamish-Lillooet Regional District	
West Vancouver/Sunshine Coast/Sea to Sky Member of Parliament	
Powell River/Sunshine Coast Member of the Legislative Assembly	
West Vancouver/Sea to Sky Member of the Legislative Assembly	

## 6. Other Participants

Neighbouring communities, First Nations, organizations and members of society who have a shared interest in the region and support these Principles for Cooperation are welcome to participate in the forums as observers and/or presenters.

## 7. Activities (Action and Results)

The Forum members are not expected to make decisions as a body and will achieve its objectives through activities that build on the talents, knowledge, and actions of its individual members by:

- Facilitating information exchange about local or regional projects.
- Supporting members by sharing information, research, and best practices.
- Apprise the public of topical and important matters that affect us all.
- Identifying areas of public policy that require attention and projects that deserve the attention or support of the Forum members.
- Assessing progress through the benchmark, monitoring, and program assessments; and
- Promoting transparency and accessibility by the Forum members.

## 8. Logistics (Convening, organizing and facilitating)

The role of the Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society as the convening organization is to:

- Maintain and make publicly available a historical record of the past forums
- Work with future hosts and appointed host representative(s) to plan and organize future forums
- Maintain contact records of invitees and appointed representatives of the members
- Recommend topics and themes of relevant interest to the Forum members.
- Develop and maintain respectful interactions and communications
- Plan, organize and coordinate the logistics and technology for successful engagement and attendance
- Initiate, manage and maintain invitations, attendance and respond to requests
- M/C the event to ensure members and observers are participating respectfully
- Manage the recording of the event and items for follow-up.
- Negotiate costs, manage budget, bookkeeping, and prompt payments.

The role of the host community is to:

- Budget and fund the costs of hosting a forum which includes costs of:
  - Venue for up to 70 people
  - A/V equipment needs
  - Catering
  - HSBRRIS convening costs
  - Negotiable extras such as transportation, post tour, honorariums
  - Appoint representatives to be the point of contact for planning and support before, during and after the event.

**Therefore, unless explicitly expressed, all the Howe Sound Community Forum members commit to respecting the Principles for Cooperation.**

It is understood the Principles for Cooperation may be amended from time to time and will be circulated to members and participants in advance of each Forum.

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