



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Dated, for reference, July 10, 2026

BETWEEN:

WJOLELP (Tsartlip First Nation) and WSIKEM (Tseycum First Nation) via the WSÁNEĆ LEADERSHIP COUNCIL SOCIETY (WLC), a unified, administrative body working to promote the interests of WJOLELP (Tsartlip First Nation) and WSIKEM (Tseycum First Nation), as represented by the WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council Society Board of Directors, having an administrative office at 800b, Stelly's Cross Road, Saanichton, BC, V8M 1J4

(the “**First Nations**”)

AND:

The **District of Central Saanich**, located entirely within the WSÁNEĆ territory, having an administrative office at 1903 Mount Newton Cross Road, Saanichton BC, V8M 2A9

(the “**District**”)

(collectively, the “**Parties**”)

WHEREAS:

- A. The WSÁNEĆ peoples have stewarded the lands and waters within their territories since time immemorial.
- B. WJOLELP’s South Saanich Indian Reserve is entirely within the municipal boundaries of the District and enters into other agreements for the delivery of some services.
- C. The WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council Society’s guiding principles are grounded in the WSÁNEĆ natural laws and beliefs passed down by WSÁNEĆ ancestors, including For WSÁNEĆ, the concepts of EN ŚWIST E TFEN S, HELI¹, SKÁLS², ĆELÁNEN³, WSÁNEĆ, EŁ⁴, and NEHIMET⁵.
- D. The District is a municipal government under legislation, including the *Local Government Act* and *Community Charter*, having jurisdiction in respect of matters delegated to it by the Province of BC.

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

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

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.



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- E. British Columbia has enacted the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, which establishes a legislative framework that guides local governments in advancing reconciliation and supporting the implementation of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)*.
- F. The District commits to upholding the spirit and aspirations of UNDRIP, in a manner that does not fetter the District's authority as delegated to it by the Province of British Columbia.
- G. WJOLÉLP and WSIKEM through its recognized Indigenous government authority, exercises inherent rights and jurisdiction to advance the Aboriginal and treaty rights and title of its members.
- H. The District's Official Community Plan affirms a commitment to reconciliation, cultural recognition, and collaborative planning with First Nations governments on matters such as land use, environmental stewardship, and community well-being.
- I. The Parties have identified shared priorities through previous engagements and initiatives, and seek to formalize these through this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- J. The Parties acknowledge the value of regular dialogue, shared planning processes, and mutual support in achieving sustainable, inclusive, and culturally respectful outcomes for their communities.

1. Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) affirms the commitment of the Parties to build a respectful, cooperative, and enduring government-to-government relationship. It reflects shared values of reconciliation, mutual respect, and collaboration on matters of common interest.

2. Guiding Principles

The relationship will be guided by the WŚÁNEĆ SKÁLS (laws, teachings, and beliefs) of:

- ÁTOL⁶ – Respect

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



- ĆAINEUEL⁷ – Cooperation
- HIWESTEL⁸ – Partnership

These principles are foundational to the WŚÁNEĆ worldview and are embraced by the District as part of its relationship with WJOŁŁP (Tsartlip First Nation) and WŚIKEM (Tseycum First Nation).

The relationship will also be guided by the District's Vision, as contained in the Official Community Plan (OCP).

3. Shared Commitments

The Parties agree to work together, further guided by these shared commitments:

- A. Recognize and respect the Parties' authority, rights, title, and governance.
- B. Engage in open, transparent, and timely communication.
- C. Collaborate on initiatives that support community well-being, environmental stewardship, and cultural revitalization.
- D. Work together to identify and pursue funding opportunities for joint projects.
- E. Collaboratively develop and implement a workplan to address the Priority Topics Listed below

4. Priority Topics

The Parties agree to collaborate on the following:

- a. Governance
- b. Economic & Employment Opportunities
- c. Protection of Ancestral Sites
- d. Park Management
- e. Environmental Protection
- f. Land Acquisition
- g. Art, Place Names & Public Education
- h. Harvesting Opportunities
- i. Emergency Preparedness
- j. Cultural Learning Opportunities for Council & Staff
- k. Any other topics identified and agreed to by the Parties.

⁷ "Working together."

⁸ "To honour one another."



5. Engagement Protocol

In order to establish clear timelines and methods for referrals and communication, an engagement protocol will be co-developed as a priority and appended to this agreement.

The engagement protocol will identify which topics will be referred directly to WJOLELP (Tsartlip First Nation) versus to the WLC.

6. Implementation and Governance

This Memorandum represents a commitment by the Parties to collaboratively develop and implement workplans to address the Priority Topics listed below, including annual government-to-government meetings.

A joint working group will be established to oversee implementation. The group will meet at least every other month or as needed on an ad-hoc basis to review progress and set the next terms' priorities and tasks. Each party will designate a liaison to coordinate communication and activities both at the group and in the interceding times to continue momentum.

For specific Priority Topics, the Parties may establish a working group or working groups composed of designates of the First Nations, and staff from the District.

6. Non-Binding Nature

This MOU is not legally binding but reflects the goodwill and shared intentions of both parties.

7. Review and Renewal

The Parties will review and renew the terms of this Memorandum once every two years.

Either party may ask to revisit the terms of this agreement. The agreement remains in place unless ended by mutual agreement, or by either party providing 45 days' written notice.

8. Funding

To begin discussions and develop an initial work plan, the District commits to funding of \$40,000 in 2026 to be considered in the Financial Plan.



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For the ongoing pursuit of the joint priorities and work plan identified through this, the District will contribute annual funding to the WLC, to be considered in each of the District's Financial Plan, subject to annual approval.

In 2026 the WLC will share with the District its Local Government Funding Framework, including a proposed level of ongoing annual funding for this MOU, for consideration by the District.

Additional funding and resources may be available, for priority joint initiatives and specific projects, subject to annual approval in the District's Financial Plan. **Signatories**

The Parties hereby execute this agreement as of the date first written above.

Signed on behalf of the District of Central Saanich

[original signed by]

Mayor Ryan Windsor

Signed on behalf of the Tsartlip First Nation

[original signed by]

Chief Curtis Olsen

Signed on behalf of the Tseycum First Nation

[original signed by]

Chief Tanya Jimmy

