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For Immediate Release

News Release

Local Governments and First Nations Working Together

Central Cariboo, B.C. – On Friday, February 19th representatives from the Williams Lake Indian Band (T'exelc), Cariboo Regional District (CRD) and City of Williams Lake were on hand to sign a tripartite protocol agreement. The purpose of the agreement is to establish a long-term cooperative relationship that encourages discussion on areas of common interest and to identify opportunities where a collaborative approach may be particularly beneficial. The Protocol encourages open and constructive dialogue based on mutual trust, honesty and respect. The parties will work together to explore and develop strategies around economic development, land use planning, cultural heritage, and other key interests that may arise.

QUOTES

Chief Ann Louie, Williams Lake Indian Band (T'exelc):

“Williams Lake Indian Band is extremely pleased to conclude this Protocol Agreement with the City and the Cariboo Regional District. There is considerable overlap in the interests of the three governments, and significant possibilities for collaboration and cooperation. We look forward to improved communication and more regular engagement under the Protocol Agreement, and to working on some projects and initiatives that will benefit constituents of all three communities.”

Chair Al Richmond, Cariboo Regional District:

“This meeting was yet another step towards developing a solid working relationship with the Williams Lake Indian Band based on mutual trust and respect,” said CRD Chair Al Richmond. “We will continue working together to identify areas of common interest and opportunities to work collaboratively, while gaining a better understanding of our respective cultures and governance models - that is what *building communities together* is all about.”

Mayor Walt Cobb, City of Williams Lake

“The signing of this protocol agreement is another example of our communities working towards common goals and objectives, coming together for the betterment of our communities and building upon our collaborative efforts. City Council is very optimistic of our future as a region, our partnership strengthens the foundation of our collective efforts.”

-30-

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