



MEDIA RELEASE

April 4, 2019

CSR D, RDNO, SPLATSIN MAKE PROGRESS ON RAIL TRAIL INITIATIVE

The opening words from Kukpi7 Wayne Christian of Splatsin accurately summed up the spirit of the entire Sicamous-to-Armstrong Rail Trail Corridor Interjurisdictional Governance Advisory Committee at a meeting held March 15 at the Splatsin Community Centre.

Kukpi7 Christian, who was elected Committee Chair, spoke of the value of advancing the project for the entire region, likening it to a team of horses.

"We need to pull together in the same direction. Now let's harness up and get going."

Clearly in agreement with Kukpi7 Christian's sentiment, the committee approved a series of recommendations to assist in advancing the project. These recommendations will be taken back to the Boards of both the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSR D) and the Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO), as well as the Splatsin Band Council for approval. The CSR D approved the recommendations at the March 21, 2019 Board meeting and the RDNO Board approved the recommendations at their April 3, 2019, Board meeting. The recommendations will be part of the next Splatsin Council agenda.

Some of the recommendations set the foundation of the working relationship between the three partners, as well as the priorities and processes involved with the project. This includes a Memorandum of Understanding and Terms of Reference for the committees involved. The Committee endorsed the Terms of Reference and immediate establishment of a Technical Operational Committee to be comprised of staff from Splatsin, CSR D and RDNO. The Committee also endorsed appointing the Shuswap Trail Alliance to serve as Secretariat to the Governance and Technical Operational Committees.

To assist in addressing property and access issues in the CSR D and RDNO, the committee recommended empowering the Chief Administrative Officers (CAO) of both regional districts to make land tenure agreements under specific conditions.



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There are already more than 200 known agreements dealing with land leases, crossings, access and easements to be addressed.

In order to fund the trail, grant applications totalling approximately \$13.4 million have been made to Provincial and Federal programs, with the outcomes pending.

The timeline of work on the project rests heavily on obtaining grant funding for project planning and development. As such, Kukpi7 Christian, along with CSR D Board Chair Rhona Martin and RDNO Board Chair Kevin Acton intend to arrange meetings with Federal ministers to lobby for funding approval.

The undeveloped Rail Trail Corridor remains closed to public use at this time.

The next meeting of the committee will be May 17, 2019.

Photo captions: Members of the Sicamous-to-Armstrong Rail Trail Corridor Interjurisdictional Governance Advisory Committee in discussions at a meeting held March 15, 2019 at the Splatsin Community Centre. (Tracy Hughes/CSR D photo)

Kukpi7 Wayne Christian show his enthusiasm during his opening remarks of the Sicamous-to-Armstrong Rail Trail Corridor Interjurisdictional Governance Advisory Committee, while District of Sicamous Chief Administrative Officer Evan Parliament looks on. (Tracy Hughes/CSR D photo)

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