

The 2012 Alert Bay Accord

Whereas the 'Namgis First Nation is an indigenous Kwakwa'wakw government that has maintained aboriginal rights and title from time immemorial over a 2,600 square kilometer territory that includes Cormorant Island;

And Whereas Alert Bay, the oldest incorporated municipal government in the North Vancouver Island region, was first settled on Cormorant Island in 1871;

And Whereas the Village of Alert Bay and the 'Namgis First Nation have historically worked together to promote a high standard of cultural, economic and environmental quality of life for the benefit of all residents of Cormorant Island.

Therefore Be It Resolved that the 'Namgis First Nation and Village of Alert Bay herewith agree to consult with and coordinate their efforts in areas of mutual interest for the long-term sustainable stewardship of Cormorant Island. The principal objectives of this agreement will be:

- To maintain close and open lines of communication related to all matters of mutual interest and concern;
- To maintain a regular schedule of formal and informal meetings where ideas and opportunities will be openly explored;
- To jointly consult with Cormorant Island residents regarding collaborative actions in a timely and transparent manner;
- To organize, promote and obtain community support as well as Regional, Provincial and Federal government assistance for the priorities and initiatives proposed under this Accord, and;
- To preserve, enhance and celebrate the multi-cultural heritage and other unique social and environmental qualities of Cormorant Island which are essential to the well-being of all of its inhabitants.

And Therefore Be It Further Resolved that the principle objectives of this agreement will be realized through the implementation of projects including:

1. Initiatives designed to maintain and enhance vital core services required to sustain Cormorant Island community life. These services include BC Ferries, Canada Post, RCMP Police, BC Ambulance, Alert Bay Elementary and T'lisalagilakw Schools, Alert Bay and 'Namgis Boat Harbours, 'Namgis Health Centre, Cormorant Island Health Centre, Alert Bay Volunteer Fire Department, Cormorant Island Community Learning Centre, and related essential services.

2. Initiatives designed to increase investment and employment in the community, particularly including efforts to harness Cormorant Island's significant tourism and regional service centre potential. Emphasis will be placed on construction and maintenance of public infrastructure projects that support successful private-sector economic activities on Cormorant Island.
3. Initiatives designed to restore, protect and enhance land and marine wilderness environments on, and adjacent to, Cormorant Island. These measures will include implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to planning and management that support, for example, restoration of wild salmon populations to historic levels, and community-based stewardship of North Vancouver Island natural resources.
4. Initiatives designed to provide Cormorant Island residents of all ages with a range of high quality cultural facilities and services including health care, education, social welfare, housing, recreation, libraries, museums, and protective services.
5. Joint operation of the 'Historic Alert Bay Development Corporation' with powers enabling it to borrow monies and enter into agreements, contracts and partnerships with public agencies and private entities to expedite construction and maintenance of key infrastructure projects that support implementation of the above initiatives.

And Be It Further Resolved that the 'Namgis First Nation and Village of Alert Bay herewith pledge to apply their best efforts to the attainment of these objectives and initiatives while acknowledging that their respective financial and other resources are limited, and that this Accord does not impose a financial commitment or liability on either party.

This affirmation of the 2012 Alert Bay Accord is hereby signed on the 31st day of March, 2012 in recognition of the vision and purpose of the Original Alert Bay Accord that was enacted January 10, 1999 by Mayor Gilbert Popovich and Chief William Cranmer. The Original Accord remains as the foundation of the evolving cooperative agreement between the 'Namgis First Nation and the Village of Alert Bay.

Chief William Cranmer
'Namgis First Nation

Mayor Michael Berry
Village of Alert Bay