

Professional archaeologists of the Kamloops area

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kúkpi7 Fred Seymour and Councillors of Tk'emlups te Secwepemc
Mayor Peter Milobar and Councillors of the City of Kamloops
Kamloops, BC

08 November 2016

Re: Protection of archaeological resources in the City of Kamloops

Dear kúkpi7 Seymour and Council and Mayor Milobar and Council,

Recent discussions between Kamloops and Tk'emlups te Secwepemc (TteS) governments around heritage concerns have shed some much-needed light on the risks to, and responsibilities for, archaeological resources in our city. As professionals who work daily to protect and promote heritage values, we fully support our two local governments' work toward planning around archaeology.

We respect Tk'emlups' position as inheritors and stewards of their cultural heritage, but caution against compartmentalizing this solely as an Aboriginal issue. Archaeological heritage is protected in BC as a public trust, and each of us have responsibilities to uphold this trust. As an approving body for land-altering developments with the potential to impact sites, the City has a regulatory responsibility to exercise due diligence around heritage. *All* archaeological sites—not just the ones that are recorded already—are protected from damage by the *Heritage Conservation Act (HCA)*, which applies to public and private land and is binding on government. Commercial and residential developers look to the City for leadership and guidance on legal and environmental conduct, and should reasonably expect to be informed of potential contraventions of provincial statutes like the *HCA*.

Effective and proactive heritage planning is a great fit with the City's existing commitments to sustainable development and environmental responsibility. The City's substantial investment in GIS capacity to support planning and information sharing has immediate utility for the management of archaeological and heritage resources. We're confident that a responsive archaeological notification system is a realistic and responsible goal for the City.

There are a number of professional consulting archaeologists residing in the Kamloops area who are committed to working collaboratively with First Nations communities, development proponents, and regulators (provincial and local) to reduce cost and scheduling implications to projects, while supporting First Nations heritage policies. We take seriously our role in educating members of the public, corporate entities, and local government agencies about archaeological processes, legislation, and best practices.

As professionals with directly relevant experience in resource management and planning, we would like to help move this important work forward. We offer Kamloops and Tk'emlups governments our support and our collective expertise to explore, and if possible, develop, various tools that can be used to incorporate heritage concerns into sustainable city development. Our experience has shown that decision-making around heritage is most effective when it's culturally appropriate, technically robust, and cooperatively crafted.

We have an opportunity now, as our city grows, to collaboratively create a process that is respectful of the Secwepemc histories that preceded modern Kamloops while making space for development needed today. This is how we lay a more equitable foundation for the future.

We look forward to hearing from you about how we might best be able to help in this work.

Yours respectfully,

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