



PRESS RELEASE

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Splatsin and Shuswap bands formalize collaboration

Revelstoke, BC, Secwepemc Nation Territory

A historic memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed today at the Hillcrest Hotel, Revelstoke to formalize a modern working relationship between Splitsin and Shuswap Indian Band on territorial issues of common interest.

Revelstoke was chosen as the location for signing as it was a culturally-important place for both Bands. A Secwepemc village site lies close by, the Trans Canada and Highway 23 follow traditional trails and the area was historically used for fishing, hunting and gathering of food and medicinal plants – activities to continue to the present day.

“We already have strong and ancient kinship ties and by working together, we will strengthen the social and economic fabric of our communities,” says Splitsin Chief Wayne Christian.

Through a formal collaboration the two communities aim to be a catalyst for unity and prosperity within Secwepemc Nation and exemplify our interests in the Columbia Basin.

“Our formal arrangement will include annual work plans and a resource sharing model for projects of mutual interest in our shared area of caretaker responsibility,” explains Shuswap Chief Barb Cote. “As a leader of my community, what is most important about this day is that our communities are taking a first, decisive step toward restoring long-standing relationships that can be carried forward by our children to those yet to be born.”

Chief Wayne Christian adds: “Today, we move forward in collaboration toward a future where our communities are healthy, economically independent and culturally vibrant.”

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