



Memorandum of Understanding

Woss / Wa'as Cooperative Agreement

This agreement made this 24th day of March 2012.

Between: **The Woss Residents' Association**

 The Regional District of Mount Waddington

And: **The 'Namgis First Nation**

(the parties)

Preamble:

On the 17th of March 2010, the Regional District of Mount Waddington (RDMW) and the 'Namgis First Nation were signatories to the *North Island Regional Protocol Agreement*, which established a cooperative framework that would lead to bilateral or multi-lateral agreements to address specific issues of mutual interest or concern.

Under Article 2 of the *North Island Regional Protocol Agreement* (Maintenance and Strengthening of Relationships), this agreement identifies a number of cooperative measures that the parties wish to work together on from this day forward.

The map appended, identified as *Proposed Woss/ Wa'as Cooperative Land Tenure Agreement*, illustrates the location of the lands addressed in this agreement.

Article 1 – Land Tenure Agreements

- 1.1 The parties will support the 'Namgis securing a 'nominal rent lease' for the 10-hectare parcel located across the Nimpkish River from Woss. If a 'Namgis treaty is signed, the lease would be cancelled as the parcel would be part of a larger area of proposed treaty settlement land. If a treaty is not successfully negotiated, the parcel would continue to be leased by 'Namgis for 30-years for \$1 per year. The lot would be used for 'Namgis cultural purposes.
- 1.2 The parties will support the 'Namgis First nation securing a 30-year 'nominal rent lease' to the previously sought 1.7ha commercial parcel located across from the Woss Gas Station for future economic development purposes. This tenure consists of Block A.
- 1.3 The RDMW and Woss Residents Association will receive 'Namgis First Nation support in their pursuit of Crown Grants for the recreation area, sewage plant, and new solid waste transfer

station site. These sites are already developed and are presently tenured through 10-year 'special use permits.' These tenures include Blocks L, M, Q and the transfer station site.

- 1.4 The RDMW and Woss Residents Association will receive 'Namgis First Nation support for their pursuit of tenure and later a Crown Grant for a new 'Park' to be created as a site to locate a heritage steam locomotive and other heritage and cultural displays. This tenure consists of a portion of Block P.
- 1.5 The BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations will receive 'Namgis First Nation support for the public sale of two small residential/recreation lots in Woss that have reverted to Crown ownership. These tenures include Lots 3 and 22.

Article 2 – Social and Economic Partnership

- 2.1 The parties agree to work together and engage School District 85 and the private sector on opportunities to stabilize the future of Woss Lake Elementary School, focusing on its critical role for working family recruitment and retention in the heart of the Nimpkish Valley.
- 2.2 The parties agree to meet regularly or as needed to discuss economic and social opportunities of mutual benefit as treaty negotiations and other opportunities or challenges emerge.

Article 3 – Living Document

- 3.1 This document is intended to be a living document to reflect the relationship between the parties.
- 3.2 Any changes to the preamble and articles of this document must be mutually agreed to by all parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have executed this Agreement as follows:

Woss Residents' Association

D. Rushton

**The Corporate Seal of the
Regional District of Mount Waddington**

D. Rushton

**The Corporate Seal of the
'Namgis First Nation**

W. T. Cranmer

- Proposed Woss / Wa'as Cooperative Land Tenure Agreement**
- 'Namgis First Nation
 - Regional District of Mount Waddington (RDMW)
 - Woss Residents Association (WRA)
 - B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO)

