


FIRST NATIONS RELATIONS MANDATE REFRESHER

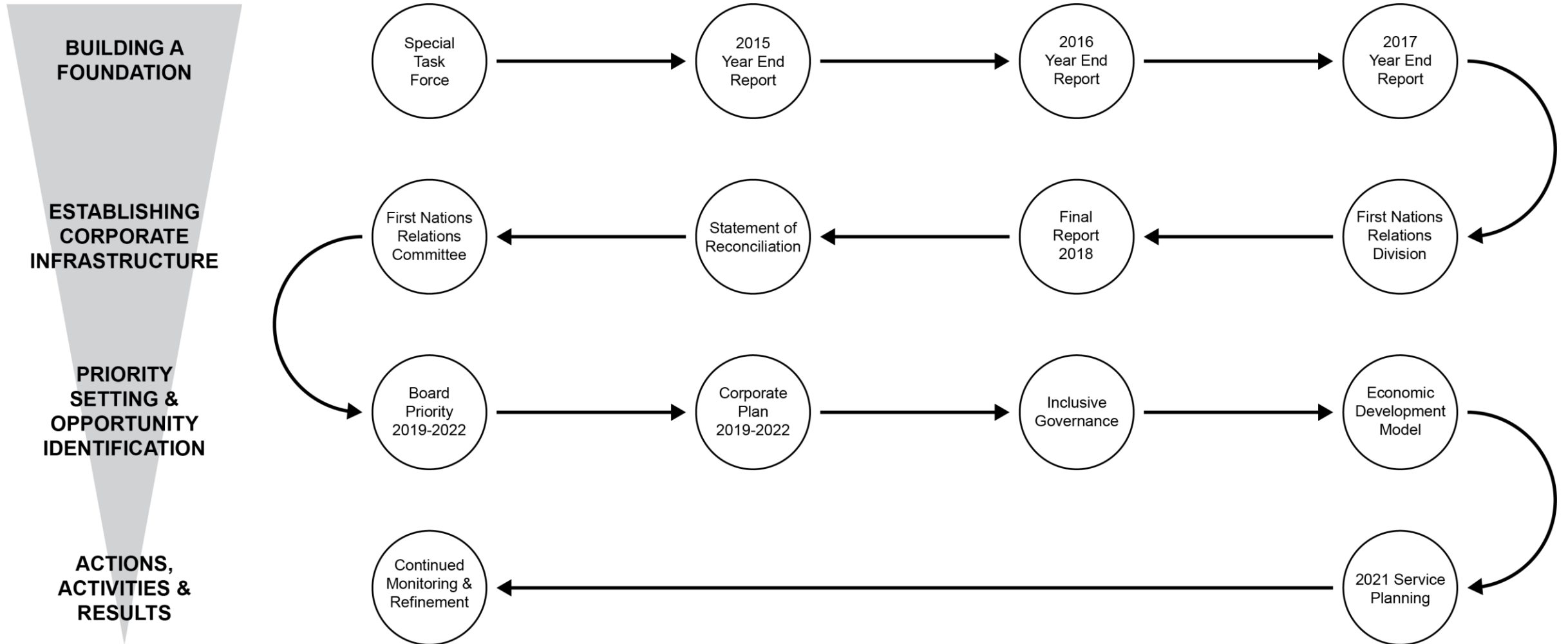
September 30, 2020

To provide an overview of past CRD efforts to support better First Nations relations and outline how these efforts have helped to shape the current and planned activities related to First Nations Reconciliation.

Focus on:

- Special Task Force on First Nations Relations
 - 2015 Year End Report
 - 2016 Year End Report
 - 2017 Year End Report
 - Final Report (2018)
 - Statement of Reconciliation (2018)
 - CRD 2019-2022 Board Priorities
 - CRD 2019-2022 Corporate Plan
- 

FIRST NATIONS RELATIONS TIMELINE



SPECIAL TASK FORCE (2015 – 2017)

Established in January 2015, initially with a one-year time-frame and the purpose to:

- Meet with the Chiefs and Councils of each First Nation with Reserve Lands in the CRD to hold discussions about how First Nations might want to participate in the CRD governance framework;
- Report out on these conversations with recommendations to the CRD Board through the Governance Committee; and,
- Have conversations about governance and does not extend to other CRD programs or services.

2015	Met with seven First Nations to establish foundational relationships and explore matters of interest including: participation in regional discussions and decision-making, economic development, ecological restoration to allow for a renewed connection to the land and water for food, medicine and culture.
2016	Extended the term of the Task Force, hosted indigenous cultural training and made a number of key recommendations including committee and commissions membership, advocating for changes to the LGA, sharing of information, include First Nations in a COW meeting, and identify resources to accommodate greater participation, engagement and Reconciliation
2017	Worked in support of the WWTP with First Nation Liaisons, Crown consultation, archaeological protocols, completed the Sea to Sea Traditional Use Access Agreement with T'Sou-ke Nation and the E&N Rail Trail Agreement with Esquimalt Nation and developed service agreement templates for water, sewer and fire protection.

SPECIAL TASK FORCE FINAL REPORT (2018)

The Final Report summarized the Task Force's governance and Reconciliation findings and recommendations, documented successes and some of the lessons learned and proposed a CRD Board committee structure to guide future relationship building.

Importantly, the Report introduced “Reconciliation through Economic Development” as a mutually beneficial framework for building partnerships with First Nations governments.


“Indigenomics is a process of claiming our place at the economic table of this country. This modern claim to our existence, is facilitated as a right to an economy, a right to our modernity, a right to be consulted and is further interwoven with the establishment of legal pressure points for higher standards of stewardship and reciprocal prosperity.”

- Carol Anne Hilton, CEO and Founder of the Indigenomics Institute



STATEMENT OF RECONCILIATION

This Statement, approved in 2018, was intended to guide decision-making for years to come. It expressed an understanding that Reconciliation is a long-term goal with no defined end point. The UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is the reference framework for the CRD's commitment to Reconciliation, which aims to address activities within the scope of the CRD's authority.

- 1. Self-Determination** - The CRD acknowledges the fundamental right of self-determination to Indigenous peoples. In the spirit and intent of inclusivity, the CRD is committed to working with First Nations through the governance systems they choose. When First Nations wish to participate in our decision-making process then we will support them. The CRD will look to First Nations for leadership in understanding how to create new decision-making systems together on their Traditional Territories.
 - 2. Shared Prosperity** - The CRD recognizes the gap in wealth between First Nations and settler governments. The CRD will work towards a prosperous economic future for all of its residents and believes that improving the lives of the most vulnerable citizens creates a stronger and more resilient region for everyone. The CRD will seek partnerships, share information and deliver fair and equitable services in working with First Nations on achieving their economic goals.
 - 3. Relationship with the Land and Water** - The CRD recognizes the integral relationship First Nations have with the land; often the names for the people of the land and the land itself were one and the same. The CRD will work with First Nations on taking care of the land while providing space for cultural and ceremonial use, food and medicine harvesting, traditional management practices and reclaiming Indigenous place names.
- 

2019 – 2022 CRD BOARD PRIORITIES

While all issues are important, limited resources require the Board to make strategic decisions. The Board carefully selected strategic priorities and associated initiatives that can be addressed within the CRD's legislative mandate, that are new, or that require more intense or urgent effort than has previously been applied.

FIRST NATIONS RECONCILIATION


The CRD Board will take measurable steps toward developing respectful government-to-government relationships and partnerships with First nations to foster shared prosperity for all.

WHY?


It is important to acknowledge historic harms, overcome current inequities and respect local indigenous laws and culture.

DESIRED OUTCOME

We envision strong relationships with First Nations based on trust and mutual respect, partnerships and working together on shared goals.




RECONCILIATION STATEMENT - The CRD believes that a positive working relationship with First Nations is good for the whole region. For the CRD to have a positive relationship with First Nations we need to acknowledge, respect and complement their Indigenous laws, customs and systems of governance.

- Look to First Nations for leadership in understanding how to create new regional planning and decision-making systems together on their Traditional Territories.
 - Seek partnerships, share information and deliver fair and equitable services in working with First Nations on achieving their economic goals.
 - Work with First Nations on taking care of the land and water while providing space for cultural and ceremonial use, food and medicine harvesting, traditional management practices and reclaiming Indigenous place names.
 - Prepare an ecological asset management plan that includes natural infrastructure, First Nations guiding principles, First Nations language and place names, historical uses and invasive species management.
 - Develop, monitor and report out on a First Nations Relations Strategic Plan.
 - Present an amended First Nations Relations division service plan & budget to the Board in consideration of Task Force recommendations with financial and resource implications.
- 

Activities related to First Nations Reconciliation are planned in two ways:

1. Annually, the First Nations Relations Division prepares its Service Plan highlighting critical new initiatives that are intended to be undertaken that either require new resources or may impact the capacity of other CRD divisions. This process provides for an important opportunity to collaborate across the organization and is critical to advance potentially transformative initiatives, such as:
 - Developing a Cultural Confidence Program;
 - Establishing an Indigenous Internship Program; and,
 - Building a First Nations Economic Opportunities Portal
2. In addition to those projects contained within the annual service planning process, CRD staff continue to advance the recommendations contained within the Special Task Force on First Nations Relations Final Report.

As priority projects are identified, planned, and implemented, all efforts are made to work collaboratively with First Nations to **take measurable steps toward developing respectful government-to-government relationships and partnerships with First nations to foster shared prosperity for all.**



THANK YOU



First Nations Relations

a division of the Capital Regional District

