Remembering where we came from

BCR No. 004-2019/2020

BAND COUNCIL RESOLUTION
LOWER SIMILKAMEEN

NOTE: The words "from our Band Funds" "capital" or "revenue", whichever is the case, must appear in all resolutions requesting expenditures from Band Funds

THE COUNCIL OF THE LOWER SIMILKAMEEN

DISTRICT	BRITISH COLUMBIA REGION
PLACE	LSIB ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
DATE:	May 8, 2019
PROGRAM:	Indigenous Protected Conservation Area (IPCA)

WHEREAS: At a duly convened Band Council meeting the Lower Similkameen Chief and Council do recognize and accept their duties and responsibilities in relation to effective governance of all affairs for the Lower Similkameen

WHEREAS:

A. The Lower Similkameen Leadership and Community members are committed to Principles of Environmental Protection, and Sustainability, for this and all future generations AND;

B. The Elders of the Lower Similkameen Indian Band Community have expressed the urgent need to protect the *siwɬkʷ* (water), *tmxʷulaxʷ* (land) and the *tmixʷ* (all living things on the earth) through the establishment of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas governed and managed using traditional *səlqmix* /syilx Laws and Traditional Ecological Knowledge AND;

C. The Lower Similkameen Indian Band Chief and Council support the 1992 United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, in particular Article 8 on In-situ Conservation which states:

Each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate:

(a) Establish a system of protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity;

(b) Develop, where necessary, guidelines for the selection, establishment and management of protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity AND;

D. Whereas the Lower Similkameen Indian Band Chief and Council support the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, in particular:

Article 24 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices, including the conservation of their vital medicinal plants, animals and minerals.

Article 25 Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.

Article 29 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Lower Similkameen Indian Band Chief and Council hereby support and provide the mandate to the working group for the development of governing documents and preliminary work required for the establishment of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas in the areas known as the Olalla Highlands, the Ashnola River Corridor, the Similkameen River Corridor, Tulameen River Systems, and the Skagit Bluffs. These areas are components of the broader protection/conservation strategy in the Similkameen, that includes the National Park Reserve Initiative AND THAT;

2. The Governance and management plans for these protected areas will be directed by *smәlqmix*/syilx Laws and Traditional Ecological Knowledge contained within the *captik*^{w}*ɬ*, and the *nsyilxcen* Language under the guidance of *smәlqmix* Elders AND THAT;

3. The establishment of these protected areas will include consultation with the appropriate neighboring communities and/or their governments in a spirit of cooperation and respect AND THAT;

4. The preliminary work toward establishment of these protected areas will include development of TRUST documents, and raising appropriate funds and establishment of funds in TRUST, the interest of which will be utilized to support tenure buyouts, environmental conservation, protection and restoration culturally appropriate methods and practise, as well as environmentally sustainable business models and practises AND THAT;

5. The working group will report regularly to Chief and Council or as requested on the status of the initiative and on matters of strategic significance.

Quorum THREE (3)

KEITH CROW
Chief

Theresa Snow
Councillor

Alexander Terbasket
Councillor

Janet Terbasket
Councillor