



**Saik'uz First Nation and
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Saik'uz First Nation and Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Sign Protocol Agreement

VANDERHOOF, B.C. - On May 29, 2026, Elders and elected officials of Saik'uz First Nation and representatives from the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) gathered on the traditional territory of Saik'uz First Nation to sign a protocol agreement that supports collaboration in the spirit of mutual respect, recognition, and cooperation.

Through collaborative emergency management efforts, Saik'uz First Nation and the RDBN have built a strong foundation of communication and cooperation. As a result of these joint efforts, both parties recognized the importance of formalizing relationships through a protocol agreement.

This agreement reflects a shared commitment to continue strengthening the relationship between Saik'uz First Nation and the RDBN. The agreement affirms the importance of learning from one another and building greater cross-cultural awareness to support strong relationships and informed decision-making. The agreement also emphasizes the necessity of collaboration to advance the region's environmental, social, cultural, and economic well-being.

The protocol agreement outlines shared commitments to:

- Develop and maintain a cooperative government-to-government relationship built on trust and respect;
- Seek opportunities that advance the interests of both Parties and generate mutual benefits;
- Explore joint service agreements for the provision of services to our communities;
- Promote cross-cultural awareness and understanding of local cultures, values, economies, and communities; and
- Meet formally at least once per year at staff and leadership levels.

The agreement is intended to be a living document that may be revised or expanded by mutual consent. It has an initial term of five years, with a commitment by both governments to review progress and consider renewal before the end of the term. The agreement provides a practical framework for ongoing dialogue, collaboration, and relationship-building.

"Through collaboration grounded in respect, trust, and shared responsibility, we are building stronger relationships that recognize Saik'uz First Nation as an equal partner in emergency management and regional planning. This agreement reflects our shared commitment to working together in ways that uphold Indigenous knowledge, strengthen communication during times of crisis, and support the long-term well-being of our lands, waters, and communities for future generations."

- Chief Priscilla Mueller, Saik'uz First Nation

"Strengthening relationships with First Nations in the region is a priority for the RDBN Board. This protocol agreement builds on the good work our organizations have been doing together and reflects a commitment to continue collaborating respectfully on a government-to-government basis. We value the partnership that is developing and look forward to continuing this work in support of our communities."

- Chair Mark Parker, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

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