



NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation
Coastal First Nations

NUXALK NATION JOINS COASTAL RECONCILIATION PROTOCOL

VANCOUVER – One year after the signing of the Coastal Reconciliation Protocol, the Nuxalk Nation has become the sixth First Nation to join the groundbreaking agreement, said Barry Penner, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.

“The request from the Nuxalk Nation to join the agreement is a clear sign of the momentum that has been generated by the Coastal Reconciliation Protocol,” said Penner. “The goal is to respond to the needs of coastal First Nations, by giving them a direct say in decisions that impact their people. To have a sixth coastal First Nation join on the eve of the first anniversary shows that this approach is working.”

The Nuxalk Nation, based in Bella Coola, requested participation earlier this year and formally signed the Protocol at a meeting today in Vancouver.

“Becoming part of the Coastal Reconciliation Protocol will provide the Nuxalk people with an additional venue to implement Nuxalk decisions within our Territory,” said Nuxalk Elected Chief Councillor Spencer Siwallace, RPF. “By signing this Agreement, the Nuxalk Nation is taking a positive step to manage our lands and resources within Nuxalk Ancestral Territory to accommodate shared cultural, social, environmental and economic interests.”

Nuxalk joins five other First Nations from the Central and North Coast, who participate in the community-based Protocol, which enhances local economies by focusing on areas of shared and strategic economic interest.

Other participating First Nations include the Gitga’at First Nation, Heiltsuk Nation, Kitasoo Indian Band, Metlakatla First Nation and Wuikinuxv Nation. These five First Nations and Premier Gordon Campbell originally signed the Coastal Reconciliation Protocol on Dec. 10, 2009.

Since then, the participating First Nations and the B.C. government have worked together to:

- Initiate construction on a ferry terminal at Klemtu.
- Create recommendations for a regional clean energy action plan.
- Develop a model for estimating carbon offsets related to coastal forests.

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- Explore new tourism, forestry and conservancy economic opportunities.
- Implement a governance forum to co-ordinate project work-plans.
- Develop a guidebook for implementing a consultation framework for land and natural resources.

The Coastal Reconciliation Protocol features shared decision-making related to resource and land use, revenue-sharing including the sharing of carbon offsets, as well as \$25 million in provincial-federal funding for the new Klemtu ferry terminal.

This Protocol is one important way that the B.C. government is working with First Nations to realize the New Relationship at the community level.

To learn more about the Coastal Reconciliation Protocol and the government's New Relationship with Aboriginal people, visit: <http://www.newrelationship.gov.bc.ca>

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