

NEWS RELEASE

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Chawathil First Nation and Fraser Valley Regional District Formalize Government-to-Government Relationship

Chawathil (Chowéthel) First Nation and the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formalize and strengthen their government-to-government relationship. The agreement was signed by Chief Aaron Pete on behalf of Chawathil and FVRD Board Chair Patricia Ross on behalf of the regional district.

The MOU establishes a shared framework for respectful communication, regular leadership and staff-level meetings, appropriate information sharing and collaboration on regional priorities. Those priorities include land-use planning, transit, active transportation, environmental stewardship, geohazard awareness, and emergency management.

This agreement builds on relationships developed through direct dialogue and practical cooperation. Chawathil and the FVRD have worked together on transit initiatives and coordinated responses to atmospheric rivers, wildfires and other regional emergencies. The MOU is intended to formalize that existing cooperation and ensure it can continue through future changes in leadership.

"This MOU reflects an existing relationship that Chawathil is proud to have with the Fraser Valley Regional District," said Chief Aaron Pete. "Our Council, including Vice-Chief Kelsey John and Councillors Norm Florence, Monica Florence, Sarah Ewen, Audrey George and Tim Peters, is focused on building strong relationships and working together with our neighbours. This agreement ensures that this relationship can endure beyond one term or one generation. By formalizing our commitment, we are creating a foundation that can be passed on to future generations so that we can continue collaborating in ways that strengthen our region, benefit citizens and support responsible growth throughout our beautiful territory."

"Building on our valued relationship with Chawathil First Nation will further strengthen communication, coordination and collaboration across the region," said Patricia Ross, FVRD Board Chair. "This MOU provides a meaningful framework for continued work on shared priorities, helping both governments build stronger, more resilient communities," she said.

During the first year of the MOU, Chawathil and FVRD leadership will meet twice, with more frequent staff-to-staff meetings to advance shared priorities and support implementation. The parties may also establish working groups and jointly invite other governments or agencies to participate where appropriate.

The MOU recognizes the distinct governing authorities and responsibilities of both parties and is guided by mutual respect, openness, trust and a shared commitment to stronger communities for current and future generations.

About Chawathil (Chowéthel) First Nation

Chawathil is a Stó:lō First Nation in the Upper Fraser Valley. Chawathil people have lived in their territory for thousands of years and maintain a deep relationship with the Fraser River, the land and the resources that have sustained their community and way of life. Learn more at chawathil.org.

About the Fraser Valley Regional District

The Fraser Valley Regional District is one of twenty-seven regional districts in British Columbia. It delivers more than 100 services to approximately 340,000 residents across a land base of 13,361 square kilometres, including eight electoral areas and six member municipalities. Learn more at fvrd.ca.

Image: [Chawathil First Nation Chief Aaron Pete and Fraser Valley Regional District Board Chair Patricia Ross sign the Memorandum of Understanding](#)



Media Contacts:

FVRD Communications
604-702-5000
communications@fvrd.ca

Cheyenne Charters
Executive Assistant, Chawathil First Nation
604-869-9994