
Yaqit ʔa·knuqłiʔit First Nation and City of Fernie to Sign Memorandum of Understanding

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FERNIE, BC – Yaqit ʔa·knuqłiʔit First Nation (YQT) and the City of Fernie will formally sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) during a ceremony on September 30 as part of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, marking an important milestone in the ongoing relationship between the two governments.

The signing represents the culmination of sustained efforts by both Councils and Administrations to strengthen collaboration, build mutual understanding, and advance a meaningful government-to-government relationship. The MOU was approved by both YQT Council and Fernie City Council at their respective meetings in August.

The MOU establishes a framework for ongoing communication, collaboration, and partnership between YQT and the City of Fernie, with a shared commitment to mutual respect, reconciliation, and the recognition of Yaqit ʔa·knuqłiʔit's relationship with and stewardship of its Traditional Territory.

"This MOU is an important step in strengthening the relationship between Yaqit ʔa·knuqłiʔit and the City of Fernie," says Nasukin Heidi Gravelle. "Meaningful relationships are built over time through respect, communication, and a willingness to work together. The MOU provides a foundation for our governments to continue building trust and identifying opportunities to work together in ways that benefit our Nation, the City, and the broader community."

For Yaq̓it ʔa·knuq̓i'it, the agreement represents an opportunity to continue strengthening relationships with neighbouring governments and communities while supporting greater recognition and understanding of the Nation's voice, rights, interests, and connection to its Traditional Territory.

“This agreement is the result of ongoing dialogue, relationship-building, and the commitment of both Councils and Administrations to work together in a meaningful way,” says City of Fernie Mayor Nic Milligan. “While the MOU establishes a framework for collaboration, it is the relationship behind the agreement that is most important. We value our partnership with Yaq̓it ʔa·knuq̓i'it and look forward to continuing this work together.”

The signing will take place during the annual National Day for Truth and Reconciliation ceremony and Reconciliation Walk co-hosted by Yaq̓it ʔa·knuq̓i'it and the City of Fernie.

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