

**DATE:** November 24, 2021

**FILE:** 0400-70

**TO:** Chair and Directors  
Comox Strathcona Waste Management Board

**FROM:** James Warren  
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

Supported by James Warren  
Deputy Chief Administrative  
Officer

*J. Warren*

**RE: Territorial Welcome**

### **Purpose**

To demonstrate the importance of a territorial acknowledgment and to share the planned approach for First Nations engagement in the Comox Strathcona Waste Management (CSWM) service area.

### **Recommendation from the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer:**

THAT the Comox Strathcona Waste Management Board endorses as a framework the Territorial Acknowledgements outlined in Appendix A of the report dated November 24, 2021 for each of the 10 First Nations that make up the Comox Strathcona Waste Management (CSWM) service area.

AND FURTHER THAT these Territorial Acknowledgements be used at meetings, in-person and virtual events throughout the CSWM service area, as per the usage guidelines outlined in Appendix B of the report.

AND FINALLY THAT the following written acknowledgement be utilized for all CSWM correspondence:

*The Comox Strathcona Waste Management service area is located in the Coast Salish, Kwakwaka'wakw, and Nuu-chah-nulth territories.*

### **Executive Summary**

Territorial acknowledgements are a tradition amongst Indigenous Peoples to acknowledge the land and its ancestors that they are on. Territorial acknowledgements are a statement made at the beginning of an event or meeting that shows respect to Indigenous Peoples. They are a critical part of reconciliation and the utilization of territorial acknowledgements will convey the CSWM's awareness and commitment to reconciliation.

The territorial acknowledgement has been developed by the First Nations Coordinator for the Strathcona Regional District (SRD). The First Nations Coordinator was hired by the SRD in March 2021 on part time basis to increase engagement and implement the goals of the First Nations Relations Committee.

The CSWM has been working with the SRD to explore shared approach to First Nations engagement. This collaborative approach will see a consistent point of contact for First Nations and result in efficiencies for the CSWM, as well as the First Nations it is engaging. This approach will address many of the logistical and capacity challenges of delivering a program over a large

geographical area which encompasses 10 different territories. A cost sharing arrangement has been agreed to and the First Nations Coordinator will work with CSWM staff to develop a workplan for 2022.

### Government Partners and Stakeholder Distribution (Upon Agenda Publication)

Strathcona Regional District	✓
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Prepared by:

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Manager of External Relations

### Background/Current Situation

The Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) approached the SRD to provide First Nations support from the SRD First Nations Relations Coordinator with respect to the regional solid waste program. The CSWM First Nations relationship building objectives and engagement plans complement and are similar to the SRD's First Nations Relations Committee goals and objectives. The CSWM work would be an additional service the SRD can discuss with First Nations. Many of the activities could be incorporated into the existing duties performed by the First Nations Coordinator as they involve the same First Nation communities. The First Nations Coordinator has already started establishing relationships with the First Nations through various SRD projects and has visited their communities.

There are 10 First Nations in the CSWM service area:

1. K'ómoks First Nation (Comox Valley and Sayward Valley area) – Coast Salish and Kwakwaka'wakw
2. Homalco First Nation (Bute Inlet) – Coast Salish
3. We Wai Kai First Nation (Laich wil tach Peoples) (Campbell River area) – Kwakwaka'wakw
4. Wei Wai Kum First Nation (Laich wil tach Peoples)(Campbell River area) – Kwakwaka'wakw
5. Klahoose First Nation (Cortez Island) – Coast Salish
6. Tlowitsis First Nation (Mouth of Knight Inlet) – Kwakwaka'wakw
7. Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation (Gold River and Tahsis area) – Nuu-chah-nulth
8. Ehattlesaht/Chinehkint First Nation (Zeballos area) – Nuu-chah-nulth
9. Nuchatlaht Tribe (Nootka Island area) – Nuu-chah-nulth
10. Ka:yu:'k't'h'/Che:k:tləs7et'h' First Nations (Kyuquot area) – Nuu-chah-nulth

The 10 First Nations within the service area are very different from each other in their locations and governance. Over half of the First Nations are very remote communities and have very few members living there. They have different governance systems such as, under treaty, *Indian Act* or a hereditary system.

The First Nations Coordinator has had orientation of CSWM programs and services and in fall 2021 met, or had preliminary discussions, with all 10 Nations in the CSWM area. While these meetings were focussed primarily on SRD projects, initial introduction of the CSWM service was made to pave the way for more engagement in 2022 with CSWM staff.

The First Nations Coordinator has also invited CSWM staff to joint training sessions with the SRD and other municipal staff. The cultural awareness and safety training opportunities were virtual and

in person. The **How to be an Effective Ally Virtual Workshop** was two hours and provided a good foundation for the **Building Bridges Workshop**, which was a full day and in person. This was a very impactful and interactive workshop on residential schools and their impacts and next steps will be to invite CVRD Board Members to participate with SRD Board Members in this same opportunity.

### **Intergovernmental Factors**

The CVRD and SRD have formalized a cost sharing arrangement that will set 52 days of the SRD's First Nation's Coordinator dedicated to CSWM programs. This will allow for consistency for the 10 First Nations that are already familiar with the First Nation Coordinator and their established relationship. The First Nations Coordinator will support the CSWM staff with developing a workplan for 2022.

### **Interdepartmental Involvement**

The Manager of External Relations will oversee the First Nations Coordinator's deliverables and works collaboratively with CSWM operations staff and the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer to identify goals, objectives priorities for the First Nations engagement strategies.

### **Citizen Public Relations**

The Territorial Acknowledgements and usage guidelines will be shared with CSWM staff and placed on the Director's correspondence page. The written acknowledgements will be incorporated into written and electronic materials such as emails, brochures, newsletters, posters, advertisements, and other forms of multimedia.

Attachments:           Appendix A – Outline of Territorial Acknowledgements  
                              Appendix B – Guidelines for usage of Territorial Acknowledgements

## COMOX STRATHCONA WASTE MANAGEMENT – DRAFT FIRST NATION TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

CSWM COMMUNITIES	TERRITORY	PRONUNCIATION	FIRST NATION	TYPE OF TERRITORY	PRONUNCIATION
<b>Courtenay, Comox and Cumberland</b>	Coast Salish & Kwakwaka'wakw	Coast Say-Lish & Kwah-kwah-key-walk	K'ómoks First Nation	Core Territory	Comox
<b><i>"I would like to acknowledge that we are on the Unceded traditional territory of the K'ómoks First Nation"</i></b>					
<b>CVRD Electoral Area A – Minto Road, Royston, Union Bay, Fanny Bay, Denman Island, and Hornby Island</b>	Coast Salish & Kwakwaka'wakw	Coast Say-Lish & Kwah-kwah-key-walk	K'ómoks First Nation	Core Territory	Comox
<b><i>"I would like to acknowledge that we are on the Unceded traditional territory of the K'ómoks First Nation"</i></b>					
<b>CVRD Electoral Area B – Comox Peninsula, Little River, Balmoral Beach Area, Point Homes, Bates Beach, Huband Road and Tsolum regions</b>	Coast Salish & Kwakwaka'wakw	Coast Say-Lish & Kwah-kwah-key-walk	K'ómoks First Nation	Core Territory	Comox
<b><i>"I would like to acknowledge that we are on the Unceded traditional territory of the K'ómoks First Nation"</i></b>					
<b>CVRD Electoral Area C – Merville, Black Creek, Dove Creek, Saratoga Beach, Arden (west of Powerhouse Road), Powerhouse, Lake Trail, Marsden, and Plateau Road</b>	Coast Salish & Kwakwaka'wakw	Coast Say-Lish & Kwah-Kwah-key-walk	K'ómoks First Nation	Core Territory	Comox
<b><i>"I would like to acknowledge that we are on the Unceded traditional territory of the K'ómoks First Nation"</i></b>					
<b>City of Campbell River</b>	Kwakwaka'wakw	Kwah-kwah-key-walk	Laich-Wil-Tach Peoples	Shared Territory (We Wai Kai and Wei Wai Kum First Nations)	Lack-KWIL-tach
<b><i>"I would like to acknowledge that we are on the Unceded traditional territory of the Lig'itdx' Peoples"</i></b>					
<b>Gold River</b>	Nuu-Chah-Nulth	New-cha-nulth	Mowachaht/Muchalaht	Core Territory	Mo-which-it/Much-a-lit
<b><i>"I would like to acknowledge that we are on the Unceded traditional territory of the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation"</i></b>					
<b>Village of Kyuquot</b>	Nuu-Chah-Nulth	New-cha-nulth	Ka:'yu:'K't'h'/Che:K'tles7eth' First Nations	Core Territory	Kai-you-cut/Sheh-kluh-szet
<b><i>"I would like to acknowledge that we are on the treaty lands of the Ka:'yu:'K't'h'/Che:K'tles7et'h' First Nations"</i></b>					
<b>Village of Sayward</b>	Coast Salish & Kwakwaka'wakw	Kwah-kwah-key-walk	K'ómoks First Nation	Core Territory	Comox
<b><i>"I would like to acknowledge that we are on the Unceded traditional territory of the K'ómoks First Nation"</i></b>					
<b>Village of Zeballos</b>	Nuu-Chah-Nulth	New-cha-nulth	Ehattesah Chinchkint First Nation	Core Territory	Eh-hat-a sut/Chih-neh-kint
<b><i>"I would like to acknowledge that we are on the Unceded traditional territory of the Ehattesah Chinchkint First Nation"</i></b>					
<b>Village of Tahsis</b>	Nuu-Chah-Nulth	New-cha-nulth	Mowachaht/Muchalaht	Core Territory	Mo-which-it/Much-a-lit
<b><i>"I would like to acknowledge that we are on the Unceded traditional territory of the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation"</i></b>					
<b>SRD Electoral Area A - Nootka Sound</b>	Nuu-Chah-Nulth	New-cha-nulth	Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation	Core Territory	Mo-which-it/Much-a-lit

***"I would like to acknowledge that we are on the Unceded traditional territory of the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation"***

**COMOX STRATHCONA WASTE MANAGEMENT – DRAFT FIRST NATION TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

<b>CSWM COMMUNITIES</b>	<b>TERRITORY</b>	<b>PRONUNCIATION</b>	<b>FIRST NATION</b>	<b>TYPE OF TERRITORY</b>	<b>PRONUNCIATION</b>
<b>SRD Electoral Area B – Cortes Island</b>	Coast Salish	Coast Say-lish	Klahoose First Nation	Core Territory	Clah-hoose
<b><i>"I would like to acknowledge that we are on the Unceded traditional territory of the Klahoose First Nation"</i></b>					
<b>SRD Electoral Area C – Sonora Island, Stuart Island, Bute Inlet &amp; Toba Inlet</b>	Coast Salish	Coast Say-lish	Homalco First Nation	Core Territory	Hoe-mall-coe
<b><i>"I would like to acknowledge that we are on the unceded traditional territory of the Homalco First Nation"</i></b>					
<b>SRD Electoral Area C - Quadra Island</b>	Kwakwaka'wakw	Kwah-kwah-key-walk	Laich-Wil-Tach Peoples	Shared Territory (We Wai Kai and Wei Wai Kum First Nations)	Lack-KWIL-tach
<b><i>"I would like to acknowledge that we are on the Unceded traditional territory of the Lig'itdax' Peoples"</i></b>					
<b>SRD Electoral Area C – Discovery Islands</b> Read Island, Redonda Island, Port Neville, Refuge Cove, Hardwick Island, East and West Thurlow Islands, & Loughborough Inlet, Call Inlet	Coast Salish and Kwakwaka'wakw	Kwah-kwah-key-walk	Overlapping Territory among many First Nations.		
<b><i>"I would like to acknowledge that we are on the Coast Salish and Kwakwaka'wakw Unceded traditional territories"</i></b>					
<b>SRD Electoral Area D</b> Jubilee Parkway to the Oyster River and east into the Strathcona Provincial Park	Kwakwaka'wakw	Kwah-kwah-key-walk	Laich-Wil-Tach Peoples	Shared Territory	Lack-KWIL-tach
<b><i>"I would like to acknowledge that we are on the Unceded traditional territory of the Lig'itdax' Peoples"</i></b>					

## Guidelines - Using a Territorial Acknowledgement

A Territorial Acknowledgment is a statement at the beginning of a meeting or event to show respect to the Indigenous Peoples and their ancestors for being stewards of the land, water, air and all beings since time immemorial.

Providing a Territorial Acknowledgement is a step forward with reconciliation and shows awareness that you're on the land of a Nation that has had a relationship with that land. An informed acknowledgement is authentic, accurate, respectful, and spoken with heartfelt sincerity.

It is tradition amongst First Nations to always acknowledge the core territory of the peoples, where that gathering is being held. When able, be as specific as possible by naming the First Nation and not just the territory. Sometimes when territories are overlapping all you can do is say the name of the territory(ies) (eg. Coast Salish).

Having your statement contain your personal outlook and values shows leadership. Do not be afraid to make a mistake, just say the words, it is better than not trying at all. If you say: who you are, where you are from and who your ancestors are in your land acknowledgement, you are showing respect to the Indigenous Peoples by sharing your ancestors with them. By saying a Territorial Acknowledgement, you are honoring their ancestors of the lands and by saying lands, beings, and water it shows understanding that all the things belong to each other.

A more customized Territorial Acknowledgement can include more details about your own ancestry. For example, it can include something about your parent(s) or grandparent(s) who are settlers showing respect of your own heritage. As these are customized, they can often be longer, start in an Indigenous language and then repeated in English and can also include some information of how you are familiar with that land and the Peoples. Or your Territorial Acknowledgement can be very simple, it's about giving thanks and respect to those that care for this land.

The following guidelines will assist in the creation of Territorial Acknowledgments for the organization. If you are still unsure how to start a meeting with a Territorial Acknowledgement or for further questions, please contact SRD's First Nations Coordinator.

Tina McLean  
SRD First Nations Coordinator  
250-914-9221 | [tmclean@srd.ca](mailto:tmclean@srd.ca)

## How a First Nations Territorial Acknowledgement Is Created

### Where am I located?

Determine the type of First Nations land your meeting is taking place on. Is it Treaty or Non-treaty Land?

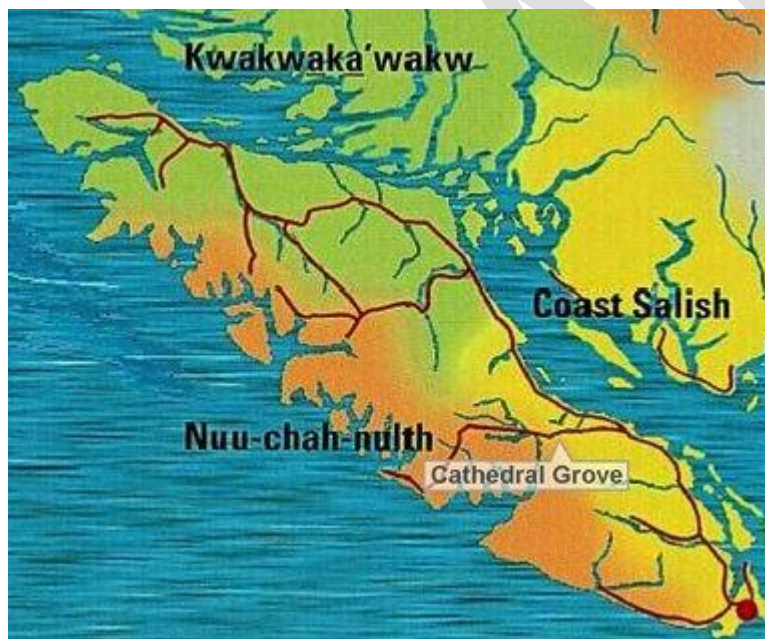
All the First Nations in the Comox Strathcona Waste Management area have Unceded Traditional Territories (Non-treaty) EXCEPT the Ka:’ya:’K’t’h’/Che:K’tles7et’h’ First Nations has Treaty Lands.

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### What traditional territory am I in?

Determine the territorial lands where your meeting is taking place, there are three located in the CSWM area:

- Kwakwaka’wakw (pronounced - kwah kwah key walk)
- Nuuchahnulth (pronounced - New chah newlth)
- Coast Salish (pronounced - Coast Say lish)



Source - <https://www.royalroads.ca/campus/about-campus/locating-our-campus-traditional-lands>

When there is a location that has many overlapping interests by First Nations, you can use the territory in the Territorial Acknowledgement instead of listing all the First Nations.

For example: in the SRD Electoral Area C there are overlapping and core areas. All of the islands EXCEPT Sonora Island, Stuart Island, Bute Inlet, Toba Inlet and Quadra Island have many First Nations with overlapping interests, so you would say:

“I would like to acknowledge that we are on Coast Salish and Kwakwaka’wakw Traditional Territories”

### Determine which First Nation’s land you will be on for the meeting or event

Determine the name(s) of the First Nation(s) that reside where the event or meeting is taking place.

To determine the appropriate First Nation to use when speaking from an CSWM Area Member Municipality, Electoral Area or First Nation, please see the map and information below.



Source - [https://www.zoology.ubc.ca/~pearsalli/sdc\\_site/wp-content/uploads/BC-Aboriginal-Group-around-Strait-of-Georgia.gif](https://www.zoology.ubc.ca/~pearsalli/sdc_site/wp-content/uploads/BC-Aboriginal-Group-around-Strait-of-Georgia.gif)

### How do I say an extended version of a Territorial Acknowledgement?

You can add wording to the beginning of your Territorial Acknowledgement that would contain:

Your name, position, and what your heritage is. You may want to say what your maternal and paternal heritage is. By the acknowledgement of your ancestry this shows a sign of you giving respect to that host nation by sharing your ancestors.

You can add your maternal side:

1. Your mother and her heritage
2. Your mother’s parents and their heritage

You can add your paternal side:

1. Your father and his heritage
2. You father’s parents and their heritage.

You can add where you were raised and that Traditional Territory.

You can add where you live now and that Traditional Territory.

You can add in a story of how you are familiar with the lands you are recognizing today.



## Verbal Territorial Acknowledgements during Virtual Meetings

When participating in virtual meetings (Zoom, MS teams etc.) you recognize the First Nation or Territory that you are on during your meeting.

Examples:

### **Virtual Meetings from Strathcona Regional District Corporate Office (Cedar Street location in Campbell River)**

During the first opportunity for you to speak, typically during introductions would be the appropriate time to say your territorial acknowledgement.

“I would like to acknowledge that I am meeting with you from the Unceded Traditional Territory of the Laich-wil-tach Peoples. **(introduce yourself)**

If someone from the same location already stated the territory acknowledgement, then you could say:

“I too would like to acknowledge that I am meeting with you from the Unceded Traditional Territory of the Laich-wil-tach Peoples. **(introduce yourself)**

### **Virtual Meetings from Comox Strathcona Waste Management Corporate Office (Harmston location in Courtenay)**

During the first opportunity for you to speak, typically during introductions would be the appropriate time to say your territorial acknowledgement.

“I would like to acknowledge that I am meeting with you from the Unceded Traditional territory of the K’ómoks First Nation, the traditional keepers of this land. **(introduce yourself)**

If someone from the same location already stated the territory acknowledgement, then you could say:

“I too would like to acknowledge that I am meeting with you from the Unceded Traditional Territory of the K’ómoks First Nation. **(introduce yourself)**

### **Virtual Meetings from another location, such as your home office**

Follow steps one to three on creating a standard land acknowledgement to determine if Treaty or Non-treaty, the Territory and First Nations land(s) your location is presently on.

As an example, if your office was located in Gold River you would say:

“I would like to acknowledge that I am meeting with you from the Unceded Traditional Territory of the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation. **(introduce yourself)**

Instead of ‘meeting with you’, it can be customized to say:

- I am calling in *from* the Unceded Traditional Territory of the Laich-wil-tach Peoples.
- I am *presently on* the Unceded Traditional Territory of the Laich-wil-tach Peoples.

## Territorial Statements for Written Communications

The CSWM can incorporate a Territorial Acknowledgement on written and electronic materials such as emails, brochures, newsletters, posters, advertisements, and other forms of multimedia.

Examples of Territorial Acknowledgements to use for written communications:

“The Comox Strathcona Waste Management area is located in the Coast Salish, Kwakwaka’wakw, and Nuu-chah-nulth Territories.”

Or

“As representatives of Comox Strathcona Waste Management, we live, work and play in the Coast Salish, Kwakwaka’wakw, and Nuu-Chah-nulth Territories.”

Or

“As a representative of Comox Strathcona Waste Management, I am grateful to be living, learning and working in the Coast Salish, Kwakwaka’wakw and Nuu-Chah-nulth traditional Territories.”