

The Alert Bay Accord

Whereas The Village of Alert Bay and the 'Namgis First Nation have historically worked together to promote a better standard of living for all the residents of Cormorant Island by providing opportunities for meaningful employment, good education and skill training for our young people, adequate housing for all, assistance to the elderly to enjoy quality of life, and the best health care facilities possible:

And it is herewith resolved:

The Village of Alert Bay and the 'Namgis First Nation herewith agree to consult and coordinate their efforts in the areas of mutual interest for development of the community of Alert Bay.

The principal objectives will be:

- to revitalize the economy of Alert Bay;
- to organize, promote and obtain community support as well as provincial and Federal Government assistance for the priorities and initiatives proposed under this Accord; and
- to preserve and enhance the unique environment, heritage and other qualities of Alert Bay, which are important to the community and the well-being of its inhabitants.

These efforts will reflect the commitment of the Village of Alert Bay and the 'Namgis First Nation to consult with the community's residents and will be sensitive to such plans and processes as already exist in this connection. Priority will be given to:

1. Initiatives designed to increase investment and employment in the community, including particular efforts to harness Alert Bay's significant tourism potential, such as: expansion of the U'mista Cultural Center; improved signage; expansion of tourism marketing and visitor accommodation; restoration of cultural and historical landmarks; new marine tourism enterprise; and a new breakwater and marina.
2. Repair, preservation and reuse of the old BC Packers Cannery and other vintage buildings and wharves which are integral to the unique history and character of Alert Bay.
3. Planning for appropriate, orderly and timely development of infrastructure, land and buildings for these purposes, including provincially-owned foreshore areas, and lands within the Village of Alert Bay which are owned by the 'Namgis First Nation or claimed by it in treaty negotiations, as well as other areas or lands as agreed by the parties from time to time.
4. Incorporation of a jointly-owned Historic Alert Bay Corporation with powers enabling it to borrow monies and enter into agreements, contracts and partnerships with public agencies and private entities to manage and expedite key projects under the above purposes beginning with the old BC Packers Cannery.

The Village of Alert Bay and the 'Namgis First Nation herewith pledge to apply their best efforts to the attainment of these objectives while acknowledging that their respective financial and other resources are very limited, and that this Accord does not impose a financial commitment or liability on either party.

This Accord will be undertaken by an Alert Bay Revitalization Committee comprised of equal representation from the Village of Alert Bay and the 'Namgis First Nation together with such other persons as they agree to appoint from time to time.

Signed this ___20TH___ day of September, 1999 by

SIGNED COPY ON FILE
William Cranmer
Chief, Namgis First Nation

SIGNED COPY ON FILE
Gilbert Popovich
Mayor, Village of Alert Bay