File: 39000-01

August 6, 2021

**VIA EMAIL:** tgleeson@uvic.ca

Dr. Tom Gleeson
University of Victoria, Department of Civil Engineering
Engineering and Computer Science (ECS) 304
PO Box 1700 STN CSC
Victoria, British Columbia
V8W 2Y2

Dear Dr. Gleeson:

**Re: Koksilah Connections UVic Research Project**

The BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) is pleased to support and be a partner on the University of Victoria's (UVic) Civil Engineering department's "Koksilah Connection" project. FLNRORD also recognizes and appreciates the additional project partners including Cowichan Tribes, the Cowichan Watershed Board and the Cowichan Station Area Association.

Currently, FLNRORD and Cowichan Tribes are working in partnership on a Xwulqw'selu Sto'lo (Koksilah River) Watershed Water Sustainability Plan (WSP) Scoping Project under a government-to-government Interim Letter of Agreement. The intent of a WSP would be to address the declining flows experienced in the watershed which are threatening fish populations and impacting Cowichan Tribes' rights and interests. Research outcomes from this project could provide valuable data, increased scientific understanding, and indigenous knowledge that may be beneficial to the potential long-term WSP planning process.

FLNRORD respects and appreciates that UVic is applying First Nations principles of ownership, control, access, and possession (OCAP) of data, which will be open source where acceptable and possible following Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability and Reuse (FAIR) principles. As outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding between UVic, Cowichan Tribes, the Cowichan Watershed Board and the Cowichan Station Area Association, Cowichan Tribes will be owners of all project data. FLNRORD is open to using relevant project data that Cowichan Tribes is willing to share with the Province to support future decision making in the watershed.



Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
West Coast Natural Resource Region
Water Protection
Mailing Address: 2080 Labieux Rd Nanaimo, BC V9T 6J9
Tel: 250 751-7220
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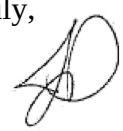
Website:www.gov.bc.ca/env/water

FLNRORD is supportive of the project's science and information gathering and are willing to share our relevant knowledge and experience. We are committed to partner on this project in a positive way, in spirit of reconciliation, and towards the shared goal for long-term sustainability of water in the Koksilah Watershed.

Yours truly,



Jessica Doyle, M.Sc. P.Geo.
Water Protection Section Head

cc: Tracy Fleming, Referrals Coordinator, Cowichan Tribes
Candace Charlie, Referrals Coordinator, Cowichan Tribes
Tom Rutherford, Executive Director, Cowichan Watershed Board
Alison Nicholson, Director, Cowichan Station Area Association