

Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group and Archaeology Branch to sign new Agreement concerning Archaeological Sites

For immediate release
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(Ladysmith) - On Monday June 4th (10am) the leadership from the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group (HTG) and BC Minister Stan Hagen (Sport, Tourism and the Arts) will sign a new Memorandum of Understanding between HTG, the Hul'qumi'num member First Nations, and the Province of British Columbia.

The agreement seizes upon the shared interests that our member First Nations have with the Province in protecting and conserving heritage properties in Hul'qumi'num Territory.

"Our First Nations views and values will be integrated into provincial heritage site management decisions," says HTG Chief Negotiator Robert Morales "providing an opportunity to honour and support our cultural teachings of respect for these ancestral places."

Through this new approach, there will be new opportunities for public education and an increased level of technical information sharing around the potential location of heritage sites which have not been documented in the provincial inventory.

Perhaps most importantly, the agreement provides for improved communications between the province, the HTG, the Hul'qumi'num member First Nations, local government, potential developers, and professional archaeologists regarding heritage sites and heritage permit applications.

Copies of the agreement will be available at www.hulquminum.bc.ca.

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For quotes or an interview, please contact HTG Chief Negotiator Robert Morales (250-710-2241) or Justine Batten, Director, Archaeology Branch (250-952-4305). For background for more information, please contact HTG Negotiator Brian Thom (250-245-4660).