



News Release

Kamloops and the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc win national municipal collaboration award for Building Relationships Towards Reconciliation

Fredericton, NB (May 18, 2022) – The City of Kamloops, BC and the First Nation of Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc have received national recognition for their Building Relationships Towards Reconciliation partnership from the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA). The communities were presented with the first-ever 2022 CAMA Collaboration Award for a partnership between municipalities and external partners during a Virtual Awards of Excellence Ceremony held today.

“CAMA is pleased to recognize Kamloops and the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc for the excellence demonstrated through their collaboration to reconciliation,” said Jack Benzaquen, CAMA president, CAMA representative for Quebec and City Manager for the City of Dollard-des-Ormeaux, QC. “The efforts of both communities put towards relationship building, collaboration and reconciliation is immense.”

Kamloops and Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc (TteS) share a vision and commitment toward reconciliation through relationship building that spans multiple fronts and has become a recognized example for others to follow.

These efforts have been demonstrated through collaborative initiatives in areas of: protocols and communication, community-to-community meetings, cultural heritage, recreation, celebrations, and shared messaging during climate change events and the COVID-19 pandemic. The City and TteS also have shared service agreements including fire protection, transit, and sanitary sewer management. The City has hired an External Relations Manager and Project Archeologist to assist in the work between the two parties.

This commitment has been shown during one of the most important times in our recent shared history. The City supported TteS following the tragic discovery of 215 unmarked graves at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School.

As the world's eyes were focused on our communities, TteS showed vision and strength in sharing their collective grief and in encouraging Canadians to better understand the harmful history and legacy of the residential school system. The City stood alongside TteS in the weeks and months that followed.

The City and TteS have recognized the value of community-to-community and knowledge-sharing meetings for more than a decade. In the past five years, following the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, the relationship has evolved in a way that has built trust and placed a greater focus on moving forward collaboratively.

“A ‘thinking-like-partners’ approach has allowed both organizations to move toward reconciliation, including economic reconciliation, and repeatable successes at the community level by being open and responsive, recognizing that challenges along the way are opportunities to learn, and through building trust and shared understanding,” said Kukpi7 (Chief) Rosanne Casimir.

“Both the City of Kamloops and Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc believe local government administrators and teams could learn from this relationship-building process toward stronger, more trusting partnership, which has positively impacted both organizations over the past several years,” said Mayor Ken Christian. “The City

acknowledges there have been learnings along the way in building and stewarding the relationship, but also recognizes that because of the enhanced level of trust between the two governments, the opportunities to chart new paths and a new future is unlimited.”

“The CAMA Awards of Excellence recognize the achievements of local governments and their senior staff in the development and implementation of successful programs, projects or services,” said Gary Kent, Chair of the 2022 CAMA Awards, CAMA Member-At-Large for Municipalities with a Population Over 100,000, and Chief Financial Officer and Commissioner of Corporate Services for the Region of Peel, ON. “Thirty-five submissions from across the country were received for this year’s awards. Congratulations to the winners and all those who took time to enter the awards program.”

To find out more about the award won by the City of Kamloops, BC and the First Nation of Tk’emlúps te Secwépemc, as well as the other 2022 CAMA Awards of Excellence winners, visit www.camacam.ca/awards and look for the award recipients link.

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About the CAMA Collaboration Award:

The Collaboration Award of Excellence recognizes an exemplary partnership of an innovative, collaborative initiative where the outcome has demonstrated mutual benefits to all partners. This collaboration must result in one or more of the following outcomes: a significant improvement in service to both partners; developed new or improved processes and improved the quality of life for residents.

This award recognizes the contribution among a CAMA member municipality with other municipalities / communities or with external organizations, and is not based on population. This team effort may have been through an informal agreement or a more formal legal structure. Nominations from both urban and rural municipalities are encouraged and should focus on the project and its implementation, not on individual's qualities.

About CAMA:

The Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators is a national, non-profit association open to all Chief Administrative Officers / City Managers and any person employed in a senior management position that reports directly to the CAO. CAMA has a membership of approximately 650 City Managers, Chief Administrative Officers and senior appointed officials from all parts of Canada. www.camacam.ca