



June 08, 2017

CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT
PREFACE TO SERVICE DELIVERY AND GOVERNANCE STUDY FINAL REPORT (April
26, 2017)

On May 11, 2017, the Central Coast Regional District board of directors voted to endorse our provincially funded Governance and Service Delivery Study, researched and authored by consultants Leftside Partners Inc. with the proviso that the following statement of the CCRD Board of Directors be included as a preface to the final Report:

While members of each Nation were interviewed during the study process, it will be imperative, moving forward, that the Traditional Chiefs be respectfully engaged in any decisions that are made as a result of this study.

We note Premier Christy Clark's Ministerial Statement delivered in the Legislature apologizing to the Tsilhqot'in Nation on behalf of British Columbia "for the many wrongs inflicted by past governments" (Ministerial Statements, "Reconciliation with the Tsilhqot'in Nation", BC Hansard, Oct 23, 2014 at 4860-1). We also note her acknowledgement in the same apology that there are reliable historical accounts of smallpox being spread deliberately in the colonial period. We recognize that the Nuxalk, Heiltsuk and Wuikinuxv Nations (and other Tribes) suffered a similar devastating loss of life caused by the same or similar actions, and, in addition, from the policies of the Crown at Victoria carried out with a design to spread smallpox during that period. The smallpox genocide was just the beginning of the oppression and displacement of Wuikinuxv, Heiltsuk and Nuxalk Nations and other Indigenous Peoples that has occurred and continues to this day.

As such, the five Electoral Area Directors of CCRD wish to acknowledge the depth of the very grave effects of colonialism, genocide, and displacement of Wuikinuxv, Heiltsuk and Nuxalk Nations from their traditional lands within the jurisdictional boundaries that the BC *Local Government Act* identifies as the CCRD region. We must all embrace the BC Legislature's example of ending the implicit denial of the genocidal activity that has shaped and informed the current jurisdictional framework that impacts governance in our Region today.

To this end, it is our wish that future studies of this kind that are designed to direct policy and governance in our Region take a more honest and thorough approach to our Region's history and identity. Particularly missing from this Study is an acknowledgement that the current system of taxation (which is referred to multiple times in the Report) and the larger CCRD fiscal framework have been constructed without Wuikinuxv's, Heiltsuk's and Nuxalk's consent or input. Royalties paid exclusively to British Columbia and Canada on resources as well as the filtering of assets that traditionally belong to the Indigenous People of the Central Coast is part of a continuum of colonialism and genocide. The Wuikinuxv, Heiltsuk and Nuxalk hold a majority population within our region and have never relinquished their rightful authority over their traditional territories.