

Comments on the draft CP re Reconciliation from a community Gabriola Talks event September 17, 2026

Attendance: 25

A. Integration of Indigenous knowledge and perspectives into planning process

Objectives

1. Integrate Indigenous knowledge, values, and perspectives into land use planning, policy development, and decision-making processes
2. Ensure early, ongoing and respectful engagement with Indigenous Governing Bodies on development applications and amendments to the Plan and LUB
3. Use Indigenous cultural knowledge alongside ecological, climate, freshwater data and community insights to guide planning decisions
4. Align land use planning with related plans and initiatives of Indigenous Governing Bodies

Question 1

Do you like the draft OCP wording regarding integration of Indigenous knowledge, values, and perspectives into land use planning, policy development and decision making?

Responses – 19 likes of draft OCP objectives

	What participants liked	Add. likes for point
1	○ Bringing back into balance - incorporating different world view. ○ Working together ○ Greatly enhances work towards IT preserve & protect objectives	6
2	Has the effect of slowing down development potential.	2
3	This is about issues and relationships and needs to be a considered process	2
4	With more respect for land we'll see less garbage (litter)	3
5	This provides the basis for sharing knowledge and wisdom	4
6	This provides the basis for addressing historic wrongs	2
7	○ Our current OCP does not include this so it has not been considered in deliberations to date. ○ This is a step towards Reconciliation	2
8	This is Reconciliation	2

9	OCP objectives are a strong indication of leadership in BC and Canada	1
10	Like the 4 th Objective: ○ Things can move faster towards land claims ○ Governments need to work together quickly	
11	Welcome dialogue on stewardship	
12	It is written in government policy and now needs to be acted on.	
13	○ Proud of our trustees re: OCP ○ These objectives follow and reflect the visions and goals of Islands Trust	
14	In Mainstream we haven't done well stewarding historically. Indigenous peoples have demonstrated they have good stewardship through millennia. Let's listen.	1
15	Geraldine Manson from Snuneymuxw: Grateful to be here. ○ How can Snuneymuxw give input? ○ How do we let our young people know what we've come through ○ Snuneymuxw is currently discussing and determining governance.	
16	Happy to see the strong presence of working with First Nation's Elders, Knowledge Keepers in the OCP objectives. We need to build relationships and commitments.	
17	Proactively engaging is justice	
18	○ These objectives set the background for specifics. ○ Good platform for certainty	
19	Like 'early' statement in objective 2	
20	Snuneymuxw has made amazing inroads to relationships with Gabriolans	

Question 2:

Do you have any concerns or questions and, if so, suggestions for addressing those concerns?

	Concerns
1	What does Indigenous Governing Bodies mean and how often do they get together?
2	Obj. #4: Alignment plans are wishy-washy. Needs to be strengthened.
3	Obj. #4: Is it possible to make that real – there is a way to go re: relationship building
4	○ These objectives need to have other subpoints to define broader policies. ○ Needs to be more definitions
5	Lack of definition of what success is. Requires measures of success
6	Vagueness – makes sense as objectives. More explanation needed
7	○ The indigenous process of listening needs to be incorporated into processes. ○ Description required in objectives.
8	This puts a lot of work on FN for helping us, more more is required, a big workload for Snuneymuxw.
9	Add “Snuneymuxw language” to objective #1.
10	Islands Trust needs to provide education re all listed in #1. See map of Snuneymuxw names in a very visible place.
11	No transparency about costs. Need policies for clarity. What is the cost of implementing these objectives and policies.
12	Concerns about unknowns. What will happen with land transfers.
13	Obj. #2: Openness is not included and needs to be.
14	Objective #4 could be merged with #1 and make it simpler.
15	Reconciliation is much broader than bureaucratic processes.
16	Objective #1 and #3 could be combined.
17	OCP process of moving forward with stops along the way. It is a plan – more specific wrap around support to allay concerns as the process unfolds.
19	Indigenous government bodies include Cowichan. What other First Nations?

Geraldine Manson responded that other nations only came for gathering but did not live on Gabriola. Snuneymuxw is the only First Nations who lived on Gabriola and thus negotiating with the government over treaty entitlements.

B. Protection of Cultural Heritage

Objectives:

1. Minimize ground disturbance in areas of known or potential archaeological significance
2. Protect archaeological sites and culturally significant areas through Heritage Conservation Areas, covenants and other regulatory tools.
3. Use Indigenous cultural knowledge alongside ecological, climate, freshwater data and community insights to guide planning decisions
4. Collaborate with First Nations to identify, protect and steward areas, species and landscapes of cultural significance
5. Support the continued stewardship and sustainable use of land, water and natural resources by First Nations by recognizing and supporting Indigenous cultural knowledge, cultural values, and traditional resource use in land use planning and decision making
6. Properties zoned for Flexible Housing should exclude areas...containing any portion of recorded archaeological and cultural heritage sites.

Question 3

Do you like the draft OCP wording regarding protection of Indigenous cultural heritage?

Responses: 16 Likes of Draft OCP Objectives

	What participants liked	Add. likes for point
1	We have learned a lot from Snuneymuxw Elders. When you know better you do better.	12
2	Geraldine Manson: Easy to be overwhelmed. ○ need to go one site at a time and understand site significance ○ communication is key ○ only need to collaborate with Snuneymuxw on Gabriola ○ how we begin each topic is important ○ there is a need for increased awareness of cultural heritage on Gabriola	12
3	This is about issues and relationships and needs to be a considered process	2
4	With more respect for land we'll see less garbage (litter)	3
5	This provides the basis for sharing knowledge and wisdom	4
6	This provides the basis for addressing historic wrongs	2
7	○ Our current OCP does not include this so it has not been considered in deliberations to date. ○ This is a step towards Reconciliation	2

8	If overwhelming, take it back to the basics and work on that	7
9	Make language easy to understand in OCP – make it succinct.	7
10	We’re trying to address 150 years of not doing it.	1
11	Protection is specific – no cherry-picking.	
12	Two statements all merged	

Question 4

Do you have any concerns or questions?

	Concerns
1	If I am building on my land there is a representative to go to for the RDN. If someone wants Snuneymuxw to assess we don’t have representative from Snuneymuxw to go to. ○ couldn’t get fee schedule ○ we acknowledge in OCP that we are in progress. Snuneymuxw has the authority to say yay or nay now.* ○ Unjust that landowner needs to pay because they have something of cultural importance *Trustee response -LTC must respond to province. Requires specific reports. Snuneymuxw does not have ultimate say. LTC has final say after looking at all reports. LTC cannot be compelled.
2	Money – how are we going to find the money for heritage protection. Costs are challenges for individual families.
3	Obj. #3 Is a repeat.
4	Condense the writing. Too much repetition.
5	How is this different than BC Heritage Conservation Act, which is being changed as we speak?
6	In flexible housing section repetition is specific.
7	Geraldine Manson: When we are dealing with the land that was a cultural site or burial site we need a lot of work to make it work – one option is to build up don’t dig down.
8	Why do we have to talk about this? If it was a European burial or cultural site it would not be controversial.
9	I want to understand how I can leave my land so it honours history.
10	The word ‘support’ is too wishy-washy.
11	Lack of support from the province re cultural sites and payments to those affected.

	Advocate to province for the work to be paid for.
12	'Minimize' ground disturbance and also the word 'potential – language is not concise.
13	Is there going to be another fee on top of provincial fee? Concern there is duplication.
14	Concern about Aboriginal title on Gabriola and whether the whole island will belong to Snuneymuxw. ○ Wants to see what happens on Haida Gwaii after they finish their process. Doesn't accept the treaty principle that private land won't be taken. ○ Wants acknowledgement of uncertainty, context put into OCP.

One fear statement: I fear that we will complicate ourselves into effective paralysis.