



About the Communities: Katzie First Nation and Pitt Meadows

BRITISH COLUMBIA

FCM First Nations-Municipal Community Infrastructure Partnership Program

Katzie First Nation and Pitt Meadows are two adjacent communities located in the Metro Vancouver region in the Fraser Valley of British Columbia. Prior to CIPP, the two communities had a good working relationship, one community participant said, “I would say [the relationship] was polite, we invited each other to events such as swearing in of council or we were invited to witness ceremonies but we didn’t ever collaborate on anything. There were never any negative experiences, we just didn’t know much about each other.”

The two communities shared service agreements for fire protection, as well

as water and sewer services, both of which have been expired since 2010 despite attempts to upgrade the agreements.

As such, an application was submitted to participate in CIPP expressing interest in reconnecting their existing community-to-community relationships and developing a plan to move forward with the shared service agreements. In particular, the objectives were to address uncertainty around the provision of fire and water services to Katzie First Nation, and to update the service agreements based on current developments.

FCM would like to thank:

Susan Miller

Chief, Katzie First Nation

Peter James

Councillor for Housing,
Katzie First Nation

Debbie Miller

Chief Negotiator, Katzie First Nation

Dennis Vaillancourt

Technical person, Katzie First Nation

John Becker

Mayor, Pitt Meadows

Kate Zanon

Director of Operations & Development
Services, Pitt Meadows



Chief Susan Miller and Mayor John Becker sign three agreements on behalf of their communities. January 21, 2016

Highlights of the Process

The launch workshop was held in Pitt Meadows, and a social event was held the evening before. Katzie drummers opened the social event and workshop with a welcome song. The participants of the workshop shared their specific objectives for their work, some of which included:

- To see more Katzie culture reflected around Pitt Meadows;
- To build continuity from council to council;
- To network, build and renew relationships.

The launch workshop focused on discussions around their shared history, community relationship self-assessments, and self-assessments of the communities' service agreement knowledge. The workshop also clarified responsibilities of each community (e.g., permits, water/sewage, emergency responses). This was the first opportunity for the councils to get together with some staff. Comments around the relationship building and understandings of shared histories were enlightening. One participant noted:

The independent creation of community timelines was telling ... Katzie history ... theirs was one of historical celebration and pride in the relationships they have, there was a vibrant community with different bands, different cultures living in reasonable harmony and then the Europeans came and it all went into the dumper, the last 400 years have been a history of loss and cultural dilution and dissipation ... there was that complete cultural break ... It struck home that we could occupy the small amount of land but have a difference in perspective in how we got here and what we now have.

The remainder of the workshop was spent developing a work plan for relationship-building and drafting joint service agreements. Community champions, two representatives from each community—one staff and one elected official—were

identified. At the end of the first workshop, the two communities agreed to work towards revising their outdated water, sewage, and fire agreements.

The community pair reconvened for a second and third workshop where they continued work on the service agreements, planned and carried out the signing ceremony, discussed next steps for sustainable relationships, and reflected on the CIPP process. One participant commented:

To facilitate their progress, members from both communities met together two to three times outside of the workshops, and scheduled follow up meetings. There was a lot of staff-to-staff communication to keep things moving along. The communities made, "huge progress between the workshops, I give credit to Chief and Mayor who built their relationship and they set the importance of that relationship."



Participants of the second CIPP workshop at the Katzie Health Centre.

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Results

Many important outcomes resulted from the CIPP process. The communities of Katzie and Pitt Meadows have signed renewed water and sewer agreement and fire agreements, as well as a communications protocol. Participants were satisfied with the results and the process, noting that it was cost-effective and meaningful. In addition to having agreements in place, the communities have maintained regular communication, and each respective community has learned about the other's governance and legislative frameworks. Pitt Meadows staff reports now require a response to the question: What is the impact on Katzie First Nation? The community is now embedding an ongoing awareness of the relationship into their systems. One participant noted, "The service agreement was the tail of the dog, not the dog itself." Ultimately, the relationship building was a significant outcome of this process.

Our communications were contained within the CIPP program, but blossomed beyond the parameters of the program. It was clever on the part of [the people] who designed the program. We renamed our meeting rooms at city hall, and had Katzie culture day. When the politicians come and go the legacy will be a fully integrated relationship that will survive.

The two communities have since taken their reconnected relationship and collaboratively opposed a development at the provincial level with each other's intentions in mind, "the relationship has grown into a friendship, it is critical to deal with prickly issues, we can now sit down and put it on the table and talk about it to work on solutions."

Lessons learned

Moving forward, the communities are continuing to collaborate. One participant shared, "We are planning an event for the fall that we are kind of calling—a celebration to celebrate the joint future. We have always had separate histories, but this will mark our joint history. When we both tell our stories in 20 years, this became a significant point where our histories connected."

This relationship remains at the forefront as the two communities work to tackle bigger challenges and issues facing both communities. The communities learned many lessons through this process, including:

- **Do not be afraid to ask questions if you do not understand;**
- **Build the relationships; take time to laugh, talk and share stories, it is critical for success.**



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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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