

Koksilah Website Update

August 2022

For a reminder of recent milestones, please visit the [Resources page on Koksilahwater.ca](#). Here you'll find background information – past recommendations, watershed analysis, a summary of past community outreach, previous Ministerial orders, past press releases, and more.

Water Sustainability Plan: Status Update

Cowichan Tribes and the Province have continued to meet monthly following the Ministerial Order in 2022 that designated a Water Sustainability Plan (WSP) for the Xwulqw'selu - Koksilah Watershed. Cowichan Tribes and BC are finalizing a government to government agreement that will guide their relationship and the planning process. At the same time, an independent facilitator, Compass Resource Management, with support from Alderhill Planning Inc., has been hired to support the next stages of the scoping process. This includes developing the terms of reference for the proposed water sustainability plan, as described in Section 68 of the *Water Sustainability Act (WSA)*. The terms of reference and supporting documents will address key questions, for example:

- What is the purpose and scope of the proposed WSP?
- What are the issues to be addressed in the proposed WSP?
- Who will be involved in developing the proposed WSP?
- How will the G2G partners work together to develop the proposed WSP?
- What resources are required to develop the proposed WSP?
- How will communications and consultation be undertaken for the proposed WSP?
- What's the roadmap for the multi-year planning process, and when will the proposed WSP be complete?

Creation of new provincial Ministry

In April 2022 the natural resource ministries were reorganized, which resulted in the creation of a new ministry – the Ministry of Lands, Water and Resource Stewardship (LWRS). LWRS works with other natural resource sector ministries to achieve British Columbia's goals of reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, economic recovery, and environmental sustainability. LWRS is responsible for certain sections of the WSA, including Water Sustainability Plans (Sections 64-85).

The previous Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is now named the Ministry of Forests (FOR). FOR remains home to water management staff, including regional operations.

Over the past few months, FOR has been updating and including LWRS staff on the Xwulqw'selu-Koksilah Watershed scoping work so that they can play a greater role in the development of the proposed WSP.

Please stay tuned for a fulsome update – including opportunities for community and stakeholder involvement – anticipated in fall 2022.