



Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc

(Kamloops Indian Band)

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

PRESS RELEASE – Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc, Oct 29, 2020

Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc completes historic project opening lands for development

Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc (TteS) creates history as the first First Nations Community in Canada to fund a major capital infrastructure project utilizing Development Cost Charges (DCC's).

Upgrades to the TteS water distribution system are now complete at the North Reservoir site on the hillside above Chief Louis Way. This 6 million litre water storage project allows TteS to expand opportunities for economic development on reserve by providing 365 hectares (900 acres) of underserved and un-serviced reserve lands with increased access to water. The reservoir will also provide water flows to industrial fire protection standards.

Kamloops, BC, is situated strategically in the middle of the province at a transportation hub for both CN and CP Railway main lines, and No. 1 and No. 5 major provincial highways. Development enabled by expansion of Tk'emlúps water network will ultimately support the expansion of trade corridors to and from the Lower Mainland, and a one-day trip by train to the Port of Vancouver.

TteS financed construction of the North Reservoir without having to borrow from an external lender, by utilizing \$1.2 Million (25% of the project cost) secured through Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), and contributing reserve funds collected under TteS DCC Law through the *First Nations Fiscal Management Act*.

Chief Rosanne Casimir states that, "This project showcases a step for TteS's vision of self-reliance as well as opens up significant development opportunities for our community. Thanks to previous TteS leadership, Councillor Justin Gottfriedson, Indigenous Services Canada, and our Planning and Engineering Manager, John ter Borg for all the hard work in getting this important project completed."

As TteS Portfolio holder for Planning and Engineering, Councillor Justin Gottfriedson added "One of the highlights in my time on Council, has been the North Reservoir

Project. Despite the pandemic and the challenges that come with it, the project was completed by an awesome team. This has been a community priority for so many years and it is good to see this through. Kukwstsétselp”.

"The City of Kamloops congratulates Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc on the completion of upgrades at their North Reservoir water distribution system. The additional capacity allows for much needed new serviced industrial land in our region, which is an important economic driver for both TteS and City," says Mayor Ken Christian. "Being the first Band to fund infrastructure through Development Cost Charges, the TteS once again demonstrates its leadership regionally, provincially, and nationally."

"First Nation fiscal powers, like development cost charge laws, are game changers in fostering First Nation economic growth and self-sufficiency. Today's announcement by Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc demonstrates that First Nations are finding innovative solutions to address their need for economic capital infrastructure" commented Manny Jules, Chief Commissioner for the First Nations Taxation Commission.

"Congratulations to the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc on completing upgrades to the water distribution system. Community-driven projects, like this one, will contribute to the growth of TteS and create jobs and build healthy and sustainable communities. Thanks to the hard work and leadership in TteS, this important project paves the way for even more community-led successes in the future" stated the Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Indigenous Services Canada.

For more information on development opportunities, please contact Councillor Sonny Leonard at sonny.leonard@kib.ca, and Councillor Justin Gottfriedson at justin.gottfriedson@kib.ca.

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