



# Aboriginal Relations Committee

## Terms of Reference

The Aboriginal Relations Committee is a standing committee of the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) Board which provides advice and recommendations to the GVRD, GVSDD and GVWD Boards on issues connected to aboriginal relations.

The Aboriginal Relations Committee's scope of work includes issues affecting the corporate interests of the GVRD, GVSDD and/or GVWD which are affected or potentially affected in turn by the claims, interests or rights and titles of aboriginal groups; to make an assessment of the seriousness of those impacts and the urgency of finding a resolution to those issues; and to recommend specific strategies and actions to the respective Boards, bearing in mind already adopted Board policies, the actions already undertaken by the Board(s), committees and staff on specific issues, and the context of positions taken by the Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee, specific member municipalities, senior governments, aboriginal groups and the courts.

The Aboriginal Relations Committee will:

- Review and monitor the work program assigned to the committee and make recommendations to the GVRD Board, as necessary, on any changes in program scope and priorities;
- To consider staff reports on policies, projects and programs and make recommendations to the GVRD, GVSDD and GVWD Board on the appropriate actions;
- To hear and consider public delegations on matters within the scope of the committee's purview and, where appropriate, make recommendations to the appropriate Board arising out of such delegations;
- To pursue matters referred to the committee by the GVRD, GVSDD or GVWD Board and report back to that Board expeditiously, as required.

In carrying out these responsibilities, the committee may provide advice, guidance or direction to staff as to the scope and priority of work to be carried out, including new tasks to be undertaken. However, where such direction represents a sufficiently significant change in the previously approved work program, or a significant expenditure of funds, or runs contrary to the advice of professional staff, the committee shall refer the matter to the Board, with appropriate recommendations, for decision by the Board.

The Committee Chair, or in the absence of the Committee Chair, the Committee Vice-Chair will usually be the chief spokesperson on matters of public interest within the Committee's purview. Some issues may be of such public profile that it will be appropriate for the Board Chair or Vice Chair to be the chief spokesperson; on technical matters or where the status is still at the staff proposal level, the CAO/Commissioner or senior staff may be the appropriate chief spokesperson. Where necessary and practical, the Board Chair, the Committee Chair and the CAO/Commissioner (or vice-chairs and deputy) will confer to determine the most appropriate course of action.

The CAO will assign a 'duty manager' to the committee. The duty manager will be responsible for coordinating agendas and be the principal point of contact for committee members.

### **Committee Meetings**

The committee will meet at intervals it determines to be appropriate, in consultation with the duty manager and Corporate Secretary. A quorum of 50% plus one of the Committee membership is required to conduct Committee business.

### **Relationship with Other Board Committees**

Matters considered by the Aboriginal Relations Committee will invariably involve projects or programs which are to be considered by other committees. Similarly matters considered by other committees may have relevance for the Aboriginal Relations Committee.

The duty manager will attempt to keep the committee apprised of reports or initiatives with such implications. Every effort should be made to maintain a streamlined and efficient process, but where it is appropriate for the Committee and a committee to make joint or parallel recommendations to Boards, the duty managers, in consultation with the two chairs, will so arrange.

### **Committee Membership**

The Chair, Vice Chair, and members are appointed by the Chair of the GVRD Board of Directors and membership will be reviewed annually as long as the committee continues. The GVRD Board's representative to the Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee (LMTAC) is automatically a member of Aboriginal Relations Committee.

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