

## **Aboriginal Relations Committee**

### **Terms of Reference**

The Aboriginal Relations Committee is the standing committee of the Metro Vancouver Board that provides advice and recommendations on policies, plans, programs, budgets and issues related to treaty negotiations and the broader Aboriginal Relations function.

#### **Committee Responsibilities**

Within the scope of the *Board Strategic Plan*, *First Nations Strategy*, and *Metro Vancouver Financial Plan*, the Committee provides guidance and oversight to staff on the implementation of the annual work plans and business plans that govern the Aboriginal Relations service. Among its responsibilities, the Committee is responsible for:

- Understanding and providing advice on the implications for Metro Vancouver of First Nations' land claims, interests, and rights and titles, as well as on the implications for Metro Vancouver of decisions taken by the courts, and positions or initiatives taken of other orders of government; and
- Initiating and engaging in programs and activities that strengthen relationships between Metro Vancouver and First Nations within the region, and between member municipalities and First Nations.

Over the course of its work, the Aboriginal Relations Committee may, from time to time, convene a pan-municipal discussion to address specific local issues.

#### **Committee Membership and Meetings**

The Chair, Vice Chair and members are appointed annually by the Chair of the Metro Vancouver Board. The Committee meets quarterly and holds special meetings as required. A quorum of 50% plus one of the Committee membership is required to conduct Committee business.

#### **Committee Management**

The Committee Chair, or in the absence of the Chair the Vice-Chair, is the chief spokesperson on matters of public interest within the Committee's purview. For high profile issues the role of spokesperson rests with the Metro Vancouver Board Chair or Vice Chair. On technical matters or in cases where an initiative is still at the staff proposal level, the Chief Administrative Officer or a senior staff member is the appropriate chief spokesperson. Where necessary and practical, the Board Chair, Committee Chair and Chief Administrative Officer confer to determine the most appropriate representative to speak.

The Chief Administrative Officer assigns a Committee Manager for the Committee. The Committee Manager is responsible for coordinating agendas and serves as the principal point of contact for Committee members.