

**From:** [Ted Swabey](#)  
**To:** [Allison McCarrick](#); [CAO](#)  
**Cc:** [Terri Brennan](#)  
**Subject:** RSVP Required – Reconciliation Workshop (September 16)  
**Date:** September 2, 2025 8:12:03 AM  
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North Cowichan is facilitating an in-person reconciliation workshop on Monday, September 16 running 2pm to 5pm with a focus on the following key areas:

- UNDRIP
- DRIPPA
- Calls to Action

The meeting invitation has already been extended to the City of Duncan and Cowichan Valley Regional District Councils. We have space to include the Town of Lake Cowichan and Town of Ladysmith's Council.

Legal counsel will be present to guide our discussions, including a review of the most recent legal decision related to Cowichan Tribes Decision: Aboriginal title to their traditional village of Tl'uq̓tinus. Attached is a first draft outline for the session. This may change slightly. The entire seminar will have a local government focus, and the concepts below will be applied to our jurisdiction and the ongoing challenges our level of government faces at present.

## Local Governments & Indigenous Peoples: Some Foundational Legal Principles

1. **Section 35(1) of the *Constitution Act* – An Introduction**
  - (i) Aboriginal rights
  - (ii) Aboriginal title
  - (iii) Treaty rights
2. **Aboriginal Rights and Title – Brief History and Key Cases**
  - (i) *Delgamuukw v. B.C.*
  - (ii) *Tsilhqot'in Nation v. B.C.*
  - (iii) *Cowichan Tribes v. Canada*
3. **Duty to Consult and Accommodate – What does it Mean?**
  - (i) *Haida Nation v. B.C.*
  - (ii) *Neskonlith Indian Band v. Salmon Arm*
4. **Treaties & Other Processes – An Introduction**
  - (i) Comprehensive claims/Modern Treaties
  - (ii) Specific Claims
5. **Declaration Act**
  - (i) *UNDRIP* and its relationship to *Declaration Act*
  - (ii) *Declaration Act in Detail:*
    1. *Legislative amendments*
    2. *Caselaw update*
    3. *BC Action Plan*
    4. *Decision Making Agreements*
6. **Truth & Reconciliation Calls to Action**
  - (i) Ten calls to action for local governments
  - (ii) Identified barriers
  - (iii) Suggestions for local governments
7. **Reconciliation and Collaborative Governance**

If your councils attend, there is an expectation to share costs with the other participating member municipalities.

We look forward to a productive session. If you are interested, I can have the legislative services department send out the meeting invite to your councils ASAP.

Thank you,  
Ted

### Ted Swabey

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North Cowichan is situated on the traditional territories of the Quw'utsun Nation, which includes the Cowichan Tribes, the Halalt First Nation, the Lyackson First Nation, the Penelakut Tribe, and the Stz'uminus First Nation. North Cowichan also sits on the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation.

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