

## Memorandum

TO: Joyce Spoon-Hunter, Blackfeet Tribe/Nation  
Al \_\_\_\_\_, Blackfeet Tribe/Nation  
James Steele, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes  
Steve Lozar, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes  
Clayton Matt, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe  
Margaret Plain Eagle, Peigan  
Edwin Small Legs, Piikaini Nation  
Clarence Wolfleg, Siksika Nation  
Blair First Ride, Blood Tribe  
Warren Fisher

FROM: Matt McKinney  
Daisy Patterson

SUBJECT: Joint Meeting of Tribes and First Nations in the Crown of the  
Continent

DATE: Draft of April 9, 2009

Please accept this memorandum as a summary of the key issues, concerns, and observations that emerged during our meeting on April 6-7, 2009 in Pincher Creek, Alberta. As you know, the purpose of this gathering was to (1) explore the interests and concerns of tribes and First Nations about the region known as the Crown of the Continent; and (2) explore how, if at all, the tribes and First Nations would like to participate in the Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent.

### General Observations

- Tribes/First Nations have inhabited this landscape since time immemorial.
- They welcome the growing awareness of other “stakeholders” in the unique history, culture, and spiritual meaning of this landscape.
- The Crown of the Continent is part of a much larger aboriginal territory or homeland for tribes/First Nations. In many ways, there are many “crowns” of the continent.
- The protection of this unique landscape did not start with the creation of national parks, wilderness areas, and the like. The Tribes/First Nations have effectively sustained what is best about this place for generations.
- It is very important to connect contemporary interest and understanding of the Crown with the traditional values associated with the region.

- The Tribes/First Nations share several common issues and concerns - economic development, protection of cultural and spiritual sites, water rights, fishing and hunting rights, energy development, travel across the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel, and sovereignty.
- While the Tribes/First Nations share many common values, history, land, and so on, they also have some different priorities.
- It is important to engage, elders, council members, staff, and young people in these type of conversations.

### **Observations About the Roundtable**

- This conversation is a start. It sets the stage to move forward and explore how the Tribes and First Nations might work with other people through the Roundtable. These types of conversations build trust and unity.
- That said, the participants want to be very cautious about joining the Roundtable.
- While the participants value the opportunity to learn together and to build trust, they want to make sure that participation in the Roundtable provides some value to them.
- One potential value is the opportunity to have a more influential voice in some of the political processes shaping the future of the Crown. Participation in the Roundtable may be a useful way for the tribes to advance some of their interests - e.g., promoting economic development that respects traditional cultural and spiritual values and sites. There may be an opportunity to influence the thinking of other people and to build coalitions to get things done.
- The Roundtable may provide an opportunity to focus on a common place (the Crown), recognize differences among people coming from different perspectives, and work together on issues of common concern.
- The participants would like to have an opportunity to help shape the future of the Crown, and appreciate the interest and willingness of the people participating in the Roundtable to join them (the Tribes and First Nations) in their long-time efforts to preserve and protect the natural, cultural, and spiritual sites in and around the Crown.

### **Next Steps**

- Matt explained that the next step is entirely up to the participants. Staff (i.e., Matt and Daisy) will complete this meeting summary, share it with the participants to make sure that it is accurate, and begin to plan for the fall Roundtable.
- Participants will reflect on this conversation and visit with members of their tribes/nations to further explore their interest in participating in the Roundtable scheduled for this coming fall.
- Matt will follow-up with the participants to determine their interest in participating in the fall Roundtable.
- Matt and Daisy will consider the value of completing the following research:

- Compile existing treaties and agreements, including the Confederacy Declaration, Salish-Kootenai-Ktunaxa Protocol Agreement,
- Compile Alberta's Tribal Consultation Policy, as well as similar policies from Montana and British Columbia (if any).