

9. REGIONAL COLLABORATION



GOAL: *Coordinate and collaborate with residents, PRRD member municipalities, rural communities, other levels of government and First Nations to achieve shared goals and address common issues.*

Ongoing coordination, collaboration and communication with PRRD member municipalities, rural communities, other levels of government and First Nations are critical to RGS implementation and more effective region-wide planning. This includes Working together on shared issues and challenges will improve outcomes at a regional level.

As identified in the 2023-2026 Board Strategic Plan, the PRRD will strive to meet the following commitments to fulfill our obligations and responsibilities as a regional government:

- **Communicate and engage** with our residents and stakeholders.
- **Collaborate and cooperate** with our partners.
- **Be consistent** in the application of our policies and decisions.

Furthermore, collaboration and cooperation with First Nations was specifically identified as a strategic focus area in the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan, including pursuing opportunities for partnerships and governance participation.

The PRRD is situated on the traditional territory of the Dane-zaa (Beaver), signatories of Treaty 8, and the Métis Nation BC Region 7. There are nine First Nations communities within the PRRD. They include Doig River First Nation, Blueberry River First Nation, Halfway River First Nation, West Moberly First Nation, McLeod Lake Indian Band, Saulteau First Nation, Tsay Keh Dene Nation, Kwadacha Nation and Kelly Lake Cree Nation.

First Nations in the PRRD are continuing to expand their land management authorities, capacities and opportunities. Some First Nations are also expanding

their land through the B.C. Treaty process or have purchased properties intending to add these newly acquired lands to their reserve lands. While these Nations are not represented on the PRRD Board, the regional district values the significant contributions of Indigenous peoples who have lived and worked on the land for time immemorial.

The PRRD also follows a cultural safety mission statement that is based on the concept of cultural safety and seeks to understand other cultures and worldviews to enhance inclusion, trust and relationships.

1. Enhance regional-local government partnerships.

- a) Facilitate dialogue between electoral areas, PRRD member municipalities and other organizations for cost sharing, delivery of services, capacity building and development.
- b) Continue to foster dialogue between communities around shared goals while recognizing and supporting unique community goals.
- c) Advocate to ensure that when the province transfers responsibilities to local governments that the transfers are matched with adequate resources for local governments to manage the additional responsibility.
- d) Encourage the development of a formalized framework to support smaller PRRD member municipalities in joint planning efforts, particularly for shared infrastructure and services.

2. Continue relationship-building with regional First Nations and Métis.

- a) Develop protocol agreements with First Nations and Métis communities in the PRRD regarding service delivery, joint services and joint capacity-building initiatives.
- b) Support the development of a cultural awareness program for the PRRD and PRRD member municipalities.
- c) Further PRRD relationships with First Nations in the PRRD and pursue opportunities for partnerships and governance participation.

3. Facilitate public participation and engagement in PRRD projects and governance.

- a) Facilitate community engagement by providing enhanced public information on local governance, including opportunities for involvement on committees and community planning meetings and events.
- b) Continue to enhance regional governance transparency and accessibility.
- c) Measure progress toward achieving RGS goals and implementation of policies through an annual report on RGS indicators and a more comprehensive five-year evaluation.



MAP 9: Peace River Regional District – First Nations



