



Tsleil-Waututh Nation

səlilwətał



September 30, 2023

Re: Tsleil-Waututh Nation's public statement regarding Belcarra South Cottages

Belcarra Regional Park was first home to Tsleil-Waututh Nation's largest ancestral village site, təmtəmişwtən, or "the biggest place for all the people." As a village, təmtəmişwtən had been occupied by Tsleil-Waututh Nation since time out of mind, until colonization, and Tsleil-Waututh has strong, ongoing cultural ties to this area.

As co-managers of the park with Metro Vancouver, Tsleil-Waututh Nation jointly signed the Belcarra Regional Park Cultural Planning and Co-Operation Agreement (February 18, 2020) and renamed Belcarra Regional Park to Belcarra Regional Park/təmtəmişwtən. This work has advanced our mandate to put the face of the Nation back on the territory by educating and sharing knowledge about Tsleil-Waututh's culture and deep history with our neighbours.

In March 2023, we requested that the City of Port Moody rescind the protection of the Belcarra South Cottages under the Heritage Designation Bylaw in order to move forward with Metro Vancouver to restore the foreshore at təmtəmişwtən.

There was no consultation with our Nation when the cottages were first built nor when their heritage protection was established. The cottages' state of disrepair poses ongoing risks to the cultural, environmental, and archaeological heritage along the foreshore. Restoring this area will improve the environmental and cultural health of təmtəmişwtən and provide additional access to these areas, for the benefit of the Tsleil-Waututh community as well as all visitors to the park. Additionally, Tsleil-Waututh Nation and Metro Vancouver will redirect dollars saved on cottage maintenance towards the holistic restoration and betterment of the park.

Our request to rescind the heritage bylaw for the Belcarra South Cottages does not apply to the Bole House. Alongside Metro Vancouver, we are developing plans for restoring and revitalizing use of the Bole House as a multipurpose space that will have cultural, artistic, and educational components.

We value our relationship with the City of Port Moody and the opportunity to provide this statement to Port Moody City Council.