



For Immediate Release
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PARTNERSHIP FOR SUCCESS: Terasen Utility Services, Khowutzun Mustimuhw Contractors & Ma-Mook Development Corporation to sign Memorandum of Understanding

Tofino, BC. – On April 15, 2003 Terasen Utility Services, Khowutzun Mustimuhw Contractors of the Cowichan Tribes and the Ma-Mook Development Corporation will mark the beginning of a working relationship by signing a memorandum of understanding that outlines shared values, principles and areas of cooperation and collaboration.

A total of 100 people will gather together, from the Cowichan Tribes and Terasen Utility Services and Ma-Mook Development Corporation's 5 central region First Nations communities to recognize the success of a 13-year working relationship. What started in 1990 as an employment-motivated agreement between Westcoast's Pacific Coast Energy Corp. and the Cowichan Tribes of Duncan, BC has developed into an independently-run company that employs approximately 100 people.

"Our relationship with Terasen Gas has produced long-term social and economic benefits for the Cowichan Tribes community. Through the formation of KMC, we have been in a position to offer more employment opportunities for our Tribes members and contribute meaningfully to the local economy," says Chief Harvey Alphonse of the Cowichan Tribes. "We anticipate that the agreement that was signed today with Terasen Utilities and Ma-Mook Development Corporation will provide us with a new opportunity to enhance a very successful relationship.

The celebration will begin at 10:00am where the guests will take a tour of the Cowichan Tribes community which will focus on community and economic development initiatives. The formal ceremony begins at 12:00 noon and will include welcoming by the Cowichan Elders and traditional recognition ceremonies.

The event will conclude at 3pm with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding by Cowichan Tribes and Terasen Gas Vancouver Island executive.

“We are most proud of our long-standing partnership with the Cowichan Tribes and we will continue to work with Aboriginal peoples toward our shared vision of mutual respect and economic opportunity” says Jac Kreut, President and CEO of Terasen Gas Vancouver Island.

The pipeline division of the Khowutzun Mustimuhw Contractors (KMC), wholly-owned and operated by the Cowichan Tribes has been installing distribution mains and services for Terasen Gas in the greater Victoria area for the last 8 years. KMC has also completed work for Terasen Gas elsewhere on Vancouver Island, the Sunshine Coast and the Resort Municipality of Whistler.

Terasen Gas is a leading provider of energy to communities across Vancouver Island, the Sunshine Coast and Whistler. The company's natural gas pipelines and distribution systems cross the lands of many Aboriginal nations. Terasen Gas has worked with Aboriginal communities and organizations over the years to further mutual interests on many fronts.

The five Central Region First Nations created Ma-Mook Development Corporation. Ma-Mook is a not-for-profit organization established in 1997 to address the collective economic interests of the five Central Region First Nations. Ma-Mook Development Corporation group of companies includes **Ma-Mook Transportation** (Long Beach Link and Clayoquot Spirit Tours), **Iisaak Forest Resources**, **Eco-Industrial Park**, **Non Timber Forest Products**, and **Clayoquot Sound Wildfoods**.

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Background Information

Partnership for Success: Cowichan Tribes & Terasen Gas V.I.

The original letter of agreement was formed by Art Willms of Westcoast's Pacific Coast Energy Corp. and Dennis Alphonse of Cowichan Tribes in 1990. The agreement addressed the rights-of-way for the installation of a natural gas pipeline through Cowichan traditional territory. Discussions led to the concept of having Cowichan Tribes members help construct natural gas distribution pipelines. Cowichan Tribes found a suitable joint venture partner (Northern Pipeline) who provided the necessary financial backing and industry expertise.

Cowichan Tribes and Northern Pipeline formed Khowutzun Pipeline Constructors, which won its first contract with Centra Gas B.C. (a division of Westcoast's Pacific Coast Energy Corp.) The economic Development Corporation of the Cowichan Tribes (Khowutzun Development Corporation) later bought out Northern Pipeline and reorganized the company into the 100% Cowichan owned Khowutzun Mustimuhw Contractors, which is now involved with a major portion of Terasen's work on Vancouver Island.

In 1996 the Cowichan Tribes signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Centra Gas B.C. that outlined mutual social and economic benefits for both parties. On October 28, 2003 the Memorandum of Understanding will be signed between Cowichan Tribes and Terasen Gas Vancouver Island (formerly Centra Gas B.C.), reaffirming the commitment to work together.

In its service areas, Terasen Gas has involved itself directly with all local Aboriginal communities, including band administrations, tribal councils, businesses and community organizations. The company's involvement with Aboriginal peoples is based on the principle of an acknowledgment of rights, and respect of environmental, cultural and economic concerns.

Khowutzun Mustimuhw Contractors have been installing gas pipelines for the last 13 years and have recently diversified its operation to include a Structural Division (residential & commercial construction) and a Civil Division (water and sewer infrastructure).

The Partnership for Success Memorandum of Understanding will be signed by the Chief of Cowichan Tribes, Harvey Alphonse and the President and CEO of Terasen Gas Vancouver Island, Jac Kreut. The celebration of the 13 year partnership will be celebrated on October 28, 2003 at the Quw'utsun' Cultural Centre in Duncan.

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