



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN
PRESS RELEASE
June 17, 2013**

**Signing of Protocol Agreement scheduled
for National Aboriginal Day ceremony**

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen has found a special way to mark National Aboriginal Day June 21.

It will join three First Nations neighbours and add its signature to a Protocol Agreement that will establish a working relationship that respects the governance structure of each organization and a framework for future agreements on social, economic and environmental goals.

A signing ceremony will take place at the Penticton Art Gallery beginning at 10:30 am.

“We’ve taken many steps together, but this agreement will solidify our friendship and commitment to working together as well,” said acting Board Chairman Mark Pendergraft. “I’m grateful for the opportunity to begin to build a renewed relationship with our First Nations neighbours.”

The Penticton, Osoyoos and Lower Similkameen Indian Bands have all signed the agreement. The Regional Board agreed April 4 to enter into the Protocol agreement with the three First Nations. The agreement commits the parties to, among other things, a shared stewardship of regional resources for the benefit of future generations.

The signing follows a Community to Community Forum organized by the Regional District and held at NK’MIP Resort near Osoyoos in March. Reigniting discussion about the protocol agreement was the focus of discussion during a good portion of the forum.

The agreement reflects the Regional District’s commitment to building and sustaining the South Okanagan and Similkameen community and continually improving its relationship with its partners.

For more information, please contact Christy Malden, Deputy Corporate Officer at cmalden@rdos.bc.ca or 250-490-4146.

M. Pendergraft
RDOS Board Vice Chair

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