



**Penticton Indian Band**  
Natural Resources Department  
841 Westhills Drive | Penticton, B.C.  
V2A 0E8  
Referrals@pib.ca | www.pib.ca  
Telephone: 250-492-0411 Fax: 250-493-2882

CAO (i)

**November 15, 2022**

*Board e-mail*

**Regional District of South Okanagan Similkameen**  
101 Martin St  
V2A 5J9  
Penticton, BC  
Canada

Via email: [mpendergraft@rdos.bc.ca](mailto:mpendergraft@rdos.bc.ca)

**Attention:** Chair, Mark Pendergraft

**Re: Vista Naramata 41 lot Subdivision Development in Naramata, BC**

The Penticton Indian Band (PIB) has learned of a 41 multi-family residential development located in *citx<sup>w</sup>s paqəlqyn* (Naramata), BC. The RDOS has been directly advised that the Penticton Indian Band, *syilx* Nation, holds unextinguished aboriginal title and rights to the lands and resources within our territory. Our lands and our jurisdiction over our lands have never been ceded. The RDOS is well aware of PIB's substantial interest in any and all developments within the Naramata benchlands; all activities on the land including lot subdivisions and proposed developments are exclusively subject to *syilx* (Okanagan) title, jurisdiction, rights, interests, and *Syilx* (Okanagan) decision making and responsibility.

We write to advise that the Penticton Indian Band does not approve, consent or in any other manner agree to the Naramata Vista development (or any other large-scale development along the Naramata benchlands) for the following reasons:

1. The proposed development is located within *citx<sup>w</sup>s paqəlqyn*, a critically important area for the Penticton Indian Band. Current and past use of this area have been identified by PIB and *syilx* legends and Knowledge indicate that the area is highly significant. We have identified numerous cultural use areas, FSC areas and Title areas that have already been directly impacted by the development due to a complete lack of consultation.
2. The province of BC does not have the right or jurisdiction to dispose of our lands without free, prior and informed consent from the Penticton Indian Band, *syilx* Nation. Consideration of the disposition of lands within *syilx* Territory requires deep, lasting and high-level consultation. The *syilx* Nation/PIB have not consented to the deposition of any lands or resources within the *citx<sup>w</sup>s paqəlqyn* subject area nor to any proposed developments.
3. The development has already had a substantial impact on sensitive *syilx* waters, plants and animals and has left a scar over our sacred lands.

4. Consultation on this file has been woefully inadequate. Although the regional district was well aware of this development, we have had no engagement from Federal, provincial, regional or municipal governments with respect to a development which has and will have a lasting and significant impact to syilx Title, Rights and Interests. Our people are being systematically and purposefully excluded from our sacred lands. Our hunting areas, gathering areas and our places of ceremony are being destroyed.

Your government has made a commitment to implement the BC Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act). This thoughtless disregard for PIB/syilx Nation rights, responsibilities and interests is inexcusable and will not be tolerated. Our Natural Resource Department director, James Pepper, will assist with arranging a meeting between myself and our Council; you can contact James by email: [jpepper@pib.ca](mailto:jpepper@pib.ca) or by phone at 250-469-3183.

Thank you,



Chief Greg Gabriel  
**Penticton Indian Band**

CC

Penticton Indian Band Chief and Council

Okanagan Nation Chief's Executive Council

Honourable Nathan Cullen Ministry of Municipal Affairs  
[MUNI.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:MUNI.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Honorable Katrine Conroy Ministry of Forests  
[FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Honourable Josie Osborn Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship  
[LWRS.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:LWRS.Minister@gov.bc.ca)