

Spuzzum First Nation

South Anderson Mountain Resort Engagement Plan

Draft for EAO review

1 May 2025



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Acronyms and Defined Terms

B.C.:	British Columbia
BCEAA:	<i>British Columbia Environmental Assessment Act 2018</i>
CAC:	Community Advisory Committee
CEAO:	(B.C. Environmental Assessment Office) Chief Executive Assessment Officer
CSRA:	Coquihalla Summit Recreation Area
EA:	Environmental Assessment
EAC:	Environmental Assessment Certificate
EAO:	B.C. Environmental Assessment Office
EOI:	(B.C. Mountain Resorts Branch) Expression of Interest
EPIC:	EAO Project Information Centre (https://projects.eao.gov.bc.ca)
FVRD:	Fraser Valley Regional District
DPD:	Detailed Project Description
FSR:	Forest Service Road
GBA+:	Gender-based Analysis Plus
IPD:	Initial Project Description
MLA:	Members of the Legislative Assembly
MP:	Master Plan
MRB:	B.C. Mountain Resorts Branch
MOTT:	Ministry of Transportation and Transit
MOUs:	Memorandums of understanding
NFP:	Not-for-profit organization
NGO:	Non-governmental organization
NNBC:	Nlaka'pamux Nation Band Coalition
NNTC:	Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council
NGO:	Non-governmental organization
OCP:	Official Community Plan
PCP:	EAO Public Comment Period
Preliminary Engagement:	Engagement undertaken by Spuzzum First Nation before the EA process
SAR:	The proposed South Anderson Mountain Resort
Spuzzum:	Spuzzum First Nation
TAC:	Technical Advisory Committee (EAO-led)
The Ministry:	B.C. Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
The Project:	Proposed South Anderson Mountain Resort
The proponent:	Spuzzum First Nation
The Province:	The Province of British Columbia (i.e., the provincial government)
WLRS:	B.C. Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

1 Engagement Plan Summary

Spuzzum First Nation presents this draft Engagement Plan for submission to the British Columbia (B.C.) Environmental Assessment Office (EAO), in line with the requirements of section 13 of the *British Columbia Environmental Assessment Act 2018* (BCEAA) and related EAO policies, including the Public Engagement Policy (2024) and the Early Engagement Policy (2024).

Spuzzum is making this submission in response to the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport - Mountain Resorts Branch (MRB) recommendation for an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed South Anderson Mountain Resort (the Project). *Note: it is Spuzzum's intent to adopt a culturally appropriate name, which may be reflected in the future in the final Engagement Plan and other related documents.*

The proposed Project is a contemporary mountain resort on lands in the South Anderson watershed that would provide year-round outdoor recreation opportunities and a range of accommodations and visitor amenities. Spuzzum conceptualized the Project following a community economic planning process beginning in 2021 which identified support for sustainable economic development within our territory that would provide jobs and long-term revenues for our Nation community members. In 2021, Spuzzum commenced baseline analysis, feasibility studies and engagement with our community, followed by engagement with neighbouring First Nations and other levels of government beginning in 2023. We have also successfully completed the initial engagement phase of the MRB process (see section 2.4 summary of preliminary engagement for more information).

Notwithstanding that the Project is proposed for our adjoining traditional lands to the east of our village, given the Project falls under the Reviewable Project Regulations (2019), under the criterion “any new project that is a ski resort development and has $\geq 2,000$ bed units,” it triggers an EA under the BCEAA. As provided by section 17 of the BCEAA, projects that meet certain criteria can be considered for an Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) Exemption Order. Exemption Orders are granted only after a reviewable project completes the early stages of the EA and provides a rationale for appropriate environmental protections outside of the BCEAA. After completing the Early Engagement phase of the environmental assessment process, a project can be exempted by the Minister after having consideration for the purposes noted in s.2 of the BCEAA; specifically:

- Promoting sustainability by protecting the environment and fostering a sound economy by, among other items, coordinating assessments with other ministries and agencies (s.2(2)(i))
- Supporting reconciliation with Indigenous peoples by, among other items, supporting UNDRIP, recognizing Indigenous jurisdiction and the right to participate in decision-making, and acknowledging Indigenous rights affirmed by s.35 of the Constitution Act during decision-making (s.2(2)(ii)).

Spuzzum First Nation is seeking an exemption as the Project area has been significantly disturbed by industrial logging; Spuzzum First Nation has extensive knowledge of the Project lands, which will be supplemented by existing and future studies for other required federal and provincial regulatory permitting processes to effectively further explore, understand and manage how the proposed Project will interact with environmental values; and the Project offers significant positive benefits to Indigenous Reconciliation and healthy First Nation communities in the Fraser Valley that serves to balance any potential negative impacts.

Once the EAO accepts this Engagement Plan and the accompanying Initial Project Description (IPD), the Early Engagement phase will commence (see section 5 Early Engagement for details). After 90 days, the EAO will provide a Summary Engagement Report that Spuzzum will carefully review to address all feedback through a Detailed Project Description (DPD), which will inform EAO's EAC exemption Order decision.

As described in the Early Engagement section of this document (see section 5), Spuzzum has considered activities coordinated with the EAO as well as additional Spuzzum-led activities. These were included in alignment with our engagement principles for the Project (see section 4.1) and are based on knowledge and experience gained through our lived experience and the preliminary engagement we have been conducting since 2021.

Our ongoing preliminary engagement to date has taught us that:

- **Spuzzum First Nation members**, who have participated through internal economic development questionnaires and community meetings, are interested in the numerous vocations, societal and financial opportunities the Project will generate for our Nation. Our leadership is committed to ongoing and transparent information sharing with our members and providing opportunities for further participation in engagement activities, which are further detailed in this plan.
- **Indigenous neighbours** – some of whom we have directly met or corresponded with – that share our vision for the Project have mixed views of the Project and are interested in continued engagement. Spuzzum First Nation is committed to creating opportunities for the Project design to be informed by shared Indigenous Knowledge and to mitigating potential Project interactions with the environmental values that remain after decades of industrial-scale logging in the Project area. Some Indigenous Nations have expressed an interest in economic development opportunities for their members and we look forward to advancing those together. We have received letters of preliminary support to further pursue Project feasibility from two neighbouring First Nations and two have expressed concerns about the Project; however, we believe that in both cases, there may be a misunderstanding with respect to the proposed Project location. We will continue to work with our First Nations neighbours through the regulatory process and our own Nation-to-Nation engagement with a view to resolve areas of concern through appropriate mitigation measures.
- **Government representatives** we have met and corresponded with, either directly or as part of the MRB process, have shared valuable insights that we have explored and considered while refining the Project design, including planning for relocating the access road to avoid habitat that would support reintroduction of spotted owls to the area. We understand key interests and actions for Spuzzum may pertain to environmental review of potential impacts to wildlife (in particular, spotted owl), assessment of governance models, Indigenous Nations interests, financial capacity and economic analysis. Spuzzum will continue to engage with all relevant government representatives on these and other topics that may emerge at the applicable steps of the EA and other regulatory processes.
- **Other interested parties**, based on feedback received through the MRB process, want to explore mutually beneficial land uses of the Project area for commercial and recreational uses. Spuzzum plans to continue to engage with interested parties who have participated thus far and to invite other interested parties to invite and consider their feedback. Spuzzum looks forward to confirming and learning about the interests of organizations, groups and individuals through subsequent phases of engagement.

The specific parties, feedback and considerations of our preliminary engagement are further detailed in the corresponding sections of this document. Section 2.4 contains a summary of engagement to date, with further details in sections 6.1, 7.1 and 8.1. A summary of audiences and key and anticipated interests is included in section 4.2, with further details in sections 6.2, 7.2 and 8.2.

Learning about and appropriately responding to feedback will be a key component of our resort planning process. Planned future engagement activities beyond the Early Engagement phase, including those that may align with other applicable processes, are discussed in sections 6.4, 7.3 and 8.4.

This Engagement Plan will be updated at the end of each engagement phase and/or as necessary to reflect feedback received during the Early Engagement phase, additional EAO requirements if any (pending a decision on the EAC Exemption Order), requirements for engagement under applicable provincial and federal processes, and ongoing Spuzzum-led engagement.

2 Project overview

This section provides an overview of the proposed Project including key contacts; Project components such as location, regional context, site background and activities; proximity to local communities and a summary of preliminary engagement. A more comprehensive description of the Project is provided in the IPD.

2.1 Project contacts

Spuzzum First Nation is the proponent. Key Project information and contacts relevant for the Engagement Plan and the EA process are provided below.

Table 1: Project contact information

Project Name	South Anderson Mountain Resort
Industrial Sector and Type	Tourist Destination Resort
Proponent	Spuzzum First Nation
Address	36437 Main Road Spuzzum, BC V0K 2S1
Project Leadership Team	Spuzzum First Nation Council Email: admin@spuzzumnation.com Number: 604-863-2395 Mel Woolley, Project Co-Lead Email: MountainResort@spuzzumnation.com Number: 403-852-3164
Primary Representative and Contact	Mel Woolley, Project Lead Email: MountainResort@spuzzumnation.com Number: 403-852-3164
Website	www.spuzzumnation.com

2.2 Project description

Spuzzum First Nation, of the Nlaka'pamux speaking and cultural tradition (the "Proponent"), proposes to develop, through its legal entity, the South Anderson Mountain Resort Project (the "Project"), an all-seasons Tourist Destination Resort in the upper South Anderson Valley within Spuzzum First Nation traditional territory on lands east of Highway 1 and west of Highway 5 (see Figure 1). The majority of the area has been significantly disturbed by logging activity and is experiencing regrowth. The land currently is used for a variety of backcountry activities.

The proposed Project includes a commercial village, hotels, condos, single-family townhouses, a golf course, RV campground and employee lodging. The Project will offer year-round activities, including high-quality alpine skiing, cross-country trails, camping and eco-tourism experiences, along with summer options such as mountain biking, golf, hiking and sightseeing. Project development will be guided by environmental and sustainable best practices, ensuring minimal ecological impact while using the South Anderson Valley's excellent recreational land, free from old-growth forest disturbance.

The Project is located within Spuzzum First Nation's asserted traditional territory. Several neighbouring First Nations have also expressed interest in the area. The proposed resort connection to Highway 5 and emergency access to Highway 1 will require coordination with the BC Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MOTT). Creation of the new access road to connect the new mountain resort property with Highway 5 will cross Crown land managed by BC's Ministry of Environment and Parks. The Project also requires approval of the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport - Mountain Resorts Branch (MRB), and this process is underway. Additional permits also will be required.

The development will be guided by environmental and sustainable best practices, ensuring minimal ecological impact while using the South Anderson Valley's excellent recreational land, free from old-growth forest disturbance.

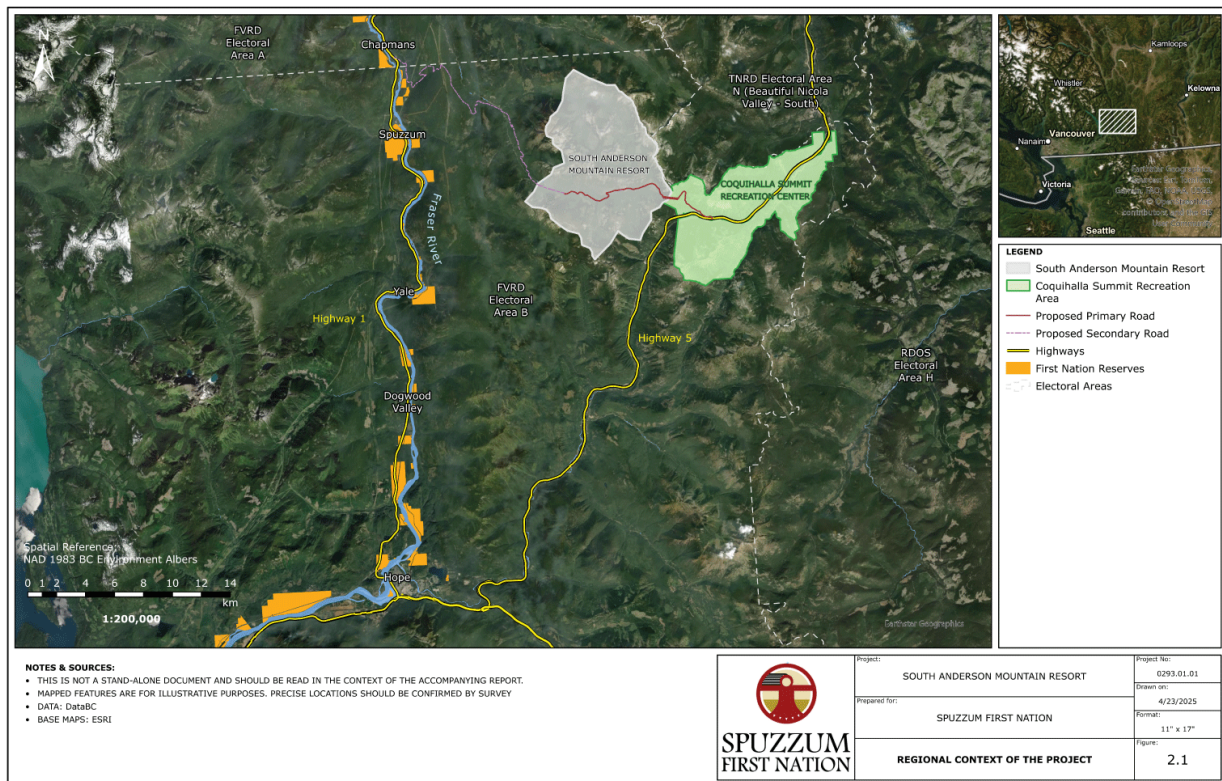


Figure 1: General proposed Resort Location

The Project will contribute significantly to BC's tourism industry by establishing a valuable and enduring asset that attracts visitors and boosts the provincial economy. The Project will service southwestern BC and northwestern Washington State, including Metro Seattle (population 4.1 million), Metro Vancouver (population 2.8 million) and the Fraser Valley (population 0.5 million), which are expected to increase in population by a minimum of 100,000 per year during the next decade.

Spuzzum First Nation believes this Project represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for meaningful Reconciliation between the Province of British Columbia and our Nation. While past colonial practices eliminated our historic way of life, which we sustained for many generations, a positive decision by the EAO and Minister responsible will support us in creating our future, numerous vocations and economic growth to sustain our Nation for generations to come.

The construction phase of the Project is expected to create around 4,400 full-time equivalent person years of employment over the 10-year phase of construction and 200 full-time equivalent jobs in the initial year of operation, building to 800+ full time employees by year 10. These jobs will benefit Indigenous Peoples and neighbouring communities such as Hope, Boston Bar and Merritt.

2.3 Proximity to communities

Located in the North Cascade Range of southwestern British Columbia, the South Anderson Mountain Resort, a proposed 7,415-hectare (ha) Controlled Recreation Area (CRA), is sited in the South Anderson River Valley and the north side of three peaks: Iago (1,730 m), Winter's End (1,700 m) and Wolverine Track (1,705 m), all within Spuzzum First Nation's traditional territory. Located northwest of the Coquihalla Summit Recreation Area, this CRA borders the proposed Juliet Creek Resort CRA to the east (see Figure 1).

The proposed Project area lies largely within the South and Central Anderson River upper watersheds portion of the traditional territory of the Spuzzum First Nation, the southernmost group of Nlaka'pamux linguistic Peoples in the lower reaches of the Fraser Canyon. Nearby Indigenous communities include the Nlaka'pamux Nation linguistic Peoples to the north, Stó:lō Nations to the south and Okanagan Nations to the east.

In addition, local non-Indigenous communities that would benefit from this intimate, accessible, affordable and culturally immersive mountain resort include:

- Hope (40 km south), Yale (15 km south) and Boston Bar (30 km north) – likely to be day trip or weekend recreational visitors, via Highway 1.
- Larger urban centers such as Chilliwack (90 km south), Abbotsford (130 km south), Merritt (160 km north) and Kamloops (180 km north) – likely to be interested in weekend and longer stay outdoor destination recreation activities like skiing/snowboarding, hiking, fishing and cultural tourism.
- Vancouver (200 km south) and the surrounding Metro Vancouver communities, including Surrey and Langley – likely to be weekend tourists and escapes or longer stays.
- Metro Seattle area residents (300 km south) seeking a multi-mountain experience who would combine a visit with other renowned and already established destinations in southwestern B.C and Washington state.

2.4 Summary of preliminary engagement

Spuzzum First Nation has been engaging with members of our community since 2021 and with other Indigenous Nations and government entities since 2023. Most recently, both through MRB-led engagement and Spuzzum-led engagement, we have enhanced our understanding of concerns and interests from these and other interested parties and have developed this Engagement Plan in consideration of that feedback.

This section outlines refinements to the Project design based on the feedback received to-date, Spuzzum-led preliminary engagement and MRB-led engagement as part of the Expression of Interest (EOI) stage of their process. Sections 6.1, 7.1 and 8.1 contain additional details on engagement to-date.

2.4.1 How engagement and feedback informed Project design

The Project design has evolved throughout the years in consideration of feedback received through Spuzzum-led and MRB-led engagement and ongoing technical studies to ensure the Project meets its

objectives while improving the environmental performance (see IPD for details). Key areas of interest that were considered during Project design relate to transportation and access to the Project site:

- Initial access plans were from Highway 1, which would have represented additional benefits for Spuzzum and other communities along this route. Following preliminary engagement and technical analysis, the proposed Project access was modified to connect with Highway 5 via a new road and tunnel connecting to Highway 5 at a new Zopkios interchange (emergency-only access from Highway 1 will be maintained). Highway 5 offers several advantages to Highway 1, including a shorter distance and the avoidance of ecological impacts (including spotted owl habitat) and geotechnical challenges.
- Understanding the proposed access route via Highway 5 intersects with the Coquihalla Summit Recreation Area (CSRA), Spuzzum is exploring how a redesign of the Zopkios interchange and current concept plan could improve access for recreational users of this area. Ongoing engagement with government agencies and other interested parties as part of permitting processes will be key to informing this process.
- A portion of the proposed emergency access road passes within 20 m of a significant First Nations cultural site east of the proposed base village. To provide greater protection for this cultural site, a portion of the emergency access road is planned to be relocated to provide a minimum separation of 200 m, and additional measures would be put in place (such as fencing and a monitored security system) if deemed advisable.

2.4.2 Spuzzum-led preliminary engagement

Spuzzum Council and the Project team presented the Project to **Spuzzum members** during community meetings on 18 September 2021, 9 April 2022, 6 April 2024, 23 November 2024 and 5 April 2025. Notice of these meetings was issued through posters, Spuzzum's Hawk mobile app and band meeting agendas. Feedback has been predominantly constructive given the Project's benefits to our Nation. Support for further pursuing Project feasibility was also reflected in the results of the economic development questionnaire, in which the proposed Project was rated in the top three in terms of community meeting rating importance.

Spuzzum has also met and corresponded with our **Indigenous neighbours** between 2023 and 2025, including meetings with leadership and community members. Meetings and correspondence of note include:

- Project introductory meetings with Coldwater Nation Chief and Council (26 April 2023, 18 January 2024) and Coldwater Nation general membership (16 May 2024)
- Letters of preliminary support from Boston Bar First Nation (28 March 2023) and Yale First Nation (3 April 2023) to further pursue Project feasibility
- Meeting with representatives from Coldwater Nation, Cooks Ferry Indian Band, Kanaka Bar First Nation and Citxw Nlaka'pamux Assembly (24 April 2025) to re-introduce the Project and Spuzzum First Nation's plans to apply for an EA exemption

Spuzzum First Nation leadership also presented the Project to **District of Hope** Mayor and Council (22 January 2024). Key themes during our presentations included Project scope and benefits and information about Spuzzum's Expression of Interest to the MRB and request for a letter of support. District of Hope Council subsequently provided a letter of support to pursue Project feasibility through the MRB (12 February 2024). Spuzzum will continue to engage with the District of Hope on their key interests as Project development continues.

2.4.3 MRB-led engagement during the EOI stage of the MRB process

In July 2023, Spuzzum First Nation submitted an EOI to the Province through the MRB. The EOI is the first step in a multi-stage major Project review process under the MRB's All-Seasons Resort Policy (2019), designed to assess Project feasibility, including but not limited to environmental, economic and land use feasibility. This step included a public engagement process, guided by the policy.

MRB referred the EOI to First Nations, government agencies and branches and key interest holders and developed a [*Public Engagement Summary*](#) (2024) outlining the details of the process, including a description of notification activities and response levels. Through this process Spuzzum learned that:

- Viable access to the Project site is key to the success of the Project, which highlights the need for our ongoing engagement with the applicable provincial ministries (as detailed in section 8)
- Access to recreation opportunities, predominantly those on the CSRA adjacent to Highway 5, is a priority for provincial ministries and recreation groups (further listed in sections 7a and 8)
- There is some Indigenous opposition to the Project on the basis of perceived environmental impacts of the Project and Highway 5 access, which we are committed to discuss and address through ongoing engagement with our Indigenous neighbours (see section 6)
- Possible impacts of the Project to wildlife habitat are a key area of interest for provincial ministries with jurisdiction in the area, which we have considered and addressed through our careful Project site and access selection and will continue to engage on (as detailed in section 8)
- The economic viability of the Project and potential economic impacts on neighbouring/regional resorts (as listed in section 8) is an area of interest we will continue to engage on with provincial ministries and with those who share the same growing customer base with Spuzzum

Spuzzum has carefully considered the feedback shared by the MRB in the development of this Engagement Plan and plans to continue to engage on these topics through not just the MRB process but also other applicable regulatory processes. For more information about the MRB process public consultation requirements, see section 3.2. For information about other possible regulatory processes, see the IPD.

3 Anticipated regulatory processes

This section outlines the BC EAO EA process and opportunities for engagement along with anticipated timelines. It also provides additional information about the MRB process and other anticipated regulatory processes, which Spuzzum will undertake regardless of whether we obtain an EAC Exemption Order.

3.1 BC EAO EA process

Spuzzum First Nation has demonstrated its commitment to engaging with our neighbours and interested parties as we endeavour to develop an all-seasons mountain resort on our traditional lands that will provide economic stability for our Nation and support B.C.'s growing eco-tourism market. This commitment will continue as we progress through Early Engagement, and if applicable, all subsequent EA phases.

The EA process requires a minimum of four public comment periods during specific phases (EAO 2025). Due to the low likelihood of causing significant adverse effects, and our commitment to environmental review as part of the MRB process, Spuzzum First Nation is seeking an EAC Exemption Order for the Project. **If an exemption is granted, Spuzzum First Nation will continue to engage with Indigenous Nations, government agencies, the public and interested parties during the MRB process, as well as all other required Project permitting (see section 5.2 of the IPD for details).**

Table 2 outlines EA phases and legislated timelines, as per the EAO User Guide version 1.01 (2021), and general opportunities for engagement. Subsequent sections of this document provide additional detail on how Spuzzum First Nation proposes to engage with all participants. EAO-led opportunities are specifically noted. Timelines to be confirmed by EAO.

Table 2: Overview of key engagement opportunities during the EA

Phases	Purpose	Opportunities for engagement	Anticipated timeline
Ongoing Spuzzum-led engagement <i>(Note: as these activities are complete, they will be moved to the preliminary engagement sections of the document)</i>	Inform about the Project, build relationships to identify key interests and concerns, and collaborate on design plans	<p>Leading up to formal acceptance of the IPD and Engagement Plan, Spuzzum will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer opportunities to meet with Indigenous Nations and discuss key aspects of the IPD and Engagement Plan prior to filing with the EAO and invite participation to a Nation-to-Nation working group. Continue sharing preliminary information with government representatives and interested parties and document their feedback. Consider new themes and incorporate as appropriate into the Detailed Project Description and Engagement Plan along with feedback collected through the EAO process. Invite government representatives as well as scientific, cultural, tourism and economic development experts to participate in a Spuzzum-led advisory panel that will help us consider multi-disciplinary matters as we refine our plans during and subsequent to the EA. 	<p>April 2025</p> <p>May 2025</p> <p>May/June 2025</p> <p>June 2025</p>

Phases	Purpose	Opportunities for engagement	Anticipated timeline
Early Engagement	Engage on the IPD to inform the future DPD and Readiness Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EAO-led 30-day online public comment period with opportunity to comment on EPIC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide opportunities to better understand the Project and establish a foundation for the rest of the EA. Identify engagement approaches, interests, issues, concerns and path for resolution. In-person open house in Hope and subsequent virtual information session hosted by the EAO during the public comment period. Spuzzum-led activities as requested, including pop-up engagement in Hope, small group meetings, Nation-to-Nation working group meetings, Spuzzum-led advisory group meetings and Spuzzum community engagement activities. Spuzzum-led drop-in hours at the Project office in Hope. 	Q3-Q4 2025 (90 legislated days)
Readiness Decision	Inform about next steps (<i>pending EAO's decision to exempt, terminate or proceed to an EA</i>)	<p>Following Spuzzum's review and consideration of comments, Spuzzum will prepare a DPD and updated Engagement Plan for EAO review and acceptance. Anticipated engagement activities in this phase are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EAO-led process order shared to EPIC confirming the EAO's readiness decision and future engagement opportunities (if applicable). Spuzzum-led community information meetings or small group meetings, as requested. Spuzzum-led drop-in hours at the Project office in Hope. 	Q4 2025
Process Planning (if required)	Engage on the draft Process Order to formalize how the EA process will be carried out for the Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EAO-led Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Community Advisory Committee (CAC) as appropriate to advise the EAO on the potential effects of the proposed Project on the community. EAO-led 30-day online public comment period with opportunity to comment on EPIC. In-person open house in Hope and virtual small group meetings hosted by the EAO during the public comment period. Spuzzum-led pop-up engagement in Hope and small group meetings, as requested. Spuzzum-led drop-in hours at the Project office in Hope. 	Q1-Q2 2026 (120 legislated days)

Phases	Purpose	Opportunities for engagement	Anticipated timeline
Application Development and Review <i>(if required)</i>	Engage on the development and review of the application	<p>Following Spuzzum's review and consideration of Process Planning inputs, Spuzzum will conduct required studies and prepare the EA application. Anticipated engagement activities in this phase are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EAO-led TAC and CAC as appropriate to advise the EAO on the potential effects of the proposed Project on the community. EAO-led 30-day online public comment period with opportunity to comment on EPIC. In-person open house in Hope and virtual small group meetings hosted by the EAO during the public comment period. Spuzzum-led pop-up engagement in Hope and small group meetings, as requested. Spuzzum-led drop-in hours at the Project office in Hope. 	Q2 2026 – Q3 2027 (180 legislated days)
Effects Assessment and Recommendation <i>(if required)</i>	Engagement on Assessment Report and draft EA Certificate (EAC)	<p>Following receipt of the proponent's final application, the EAO will complete its review of effects. Anticipated engagement activities in this phase are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EAO-led TAC CAC as appropriate. EAO-led 30-day online public comment period with opportunity to comment on EPIC. In-person open house in Hope and virtual small group meetings hosted by the EAO during the public comment period. 	Q4 2027 – Q3 2028 (150 legislated days) <i>Includes min. legislated 30-day public comment period</i>
Decision <i>(if required)</i>	Inform about next steps <i>(pending EAO's decision to issue an EAC and if so, under what conditions)</i>	<p>Anticipated engagement activities in this phase are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EAO-led process order shared to EPIC confirming EAO's decision on the EAC. Spuzzum-led Project announcements regarding procurement and construction. Spuzzum-led drop-in hours at the Project office in Hope. 	Q4 2028
Post-Certificate - includes compliance and enforcement <i>(if required)</i>	Inform about effectiveness of mitigations and compliance with EAC conditions	<p>Anticipated engagement activities in this phase are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spuzzum-led mitigation effectiveness and compliance reporting to the EAO (monitoring on EPIC website). Spuzzum-led Project regular update. 	2029 onward

Spuzzum First Nation will coordinate all aspects of engagement with the EAO for a successful engagement program. We understand our role in administering public comment periods and disseminating materials through the EAO's Project Information Centre (EPIC), submitting engagement reports to the EAO within 30 days of the close of the public comment periods, participating in TAC meetings and public engagement as required by the EAO, supporting the EAO in necessary logistics and coordination, responding to information requests, recording concerns raised by all parties and measures implemented to avoid, reduce or address them and engaging participating Indigenous Nations, as appropriate.

If an exception is granted, Spuzzum would undertake engagement in accordance with the MRB process (see section 3.2) as well as the engagement activities listed in sections 5, 6.4, 7.3 and 8.4. The Engagement Plan will be updated after the Readiness Decision and throughout MRB phases of engagement to reflect this and incorporate any additional engagement requirements from other regulatory processes, as needed.

3.2 Additional engagement under MRB process and other anticipated regulatory processes

As mentioned earlier, Spuzzum First Nation has completed the initial EOI phase of the MRB process. The public consultation process requirements as per the MRB All-Seasons Resort Policy (2019) is outlined in table 3, which Spuzzum is required to follow regardless of whether an EAC Exemption Order is granted. Timelines to be confirmed by MRB.

Table 3: Overview of MRB engagement phases and opportunities

Phase	Purpose	Opportunities for engagement / *Regulatory requirements	Anticipated timeline
Formal Proposal	Engage on the Formal Proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek feedback on proposed mitigations for issues identified in the EOI phase and details on development concepts, servicing options, market and financial capability Hold an open house 	Q4 2025 (<i>concurrent with EAO Readiness Decision</i>)
Draft Master Plan	Engage on the Draft Master Plan (MP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek feedback on concepts and environmental impacts and mitigations to update the MP* Hold an open house 	Q4 2026 (<i>concurrent with EAO Application Development and Review, if required</i>)
Final Master Plan	Inform about the updated MP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate how issues raised during the previous review have been addressed* Hold an open house 	Q1-Q2 2027 (<i>concurrent with EAO Application Development and Review, if required</i>)
Master Plan Decision	Inform about next steps (<i>pending MRB's decision</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision is posted on the Ministry's Reasons for Decision site Share information about MRB's decision and future engagement opportunities Hold community information meetings, as requested 	Q3 2027 (<i>concurrent with EAO Effects Assessment & Recommendation, if required</i>)

The Engagement Plan will continue to be updated as the Project progresses through the EA, MRB and/or other applicable regulatory processes, and should the Project receive all regulatory approvals to move into construction, management and operations.

Other applicable regulatory processes, as outlined in more detail in section 5.2 of the IPD, may include:

- Land Use Operational Policy All-Seasons Resorts
- *Fisheries Act* notification (letter of advice) or Authorization
- *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* notification
- *Environmental Management Act* Waste Discharge Authorizations
- *Forest Act* Special Use Permit
- *Heritage Conservation Act* Heritage Inspection Permit or Site Alteration Permit

- *Water Sustainability Act* Change Approval or Notification
- BC Parks impact assessment (Park Use Permit under the *Park Act*)
- *Local Government Act*
- *Health Act*
- *Transport Act*

Spuzzum First Nation will work with the EAO and MRB to develop an engagement protocol, ensuring that any concurrent engagements are aligned (including joint meetings/events where appropriate), that Spuzzum does not speak on behalf of regulators, that input and feedback are appropriately tracked and responded to, and that no process or regulatory responsibility is confused with another.

4 Engagement methods

This section of the Engagement Plan describes Spuzzum's overall strategy, process and approach for engagement, which includes completing the Early Engagement phase of the EA process according to EAO and BCEAA guidance. The Engagement Plan is a living document and will be updated to describe future engagement activities to reflect the progress of the Project through applicable EA phases and subsequent engagement, outside the EA.

Given the anticipated low potential of causing significant adverse effects or serious impacts to Indigenous interests, and minimal interests and concerns raised to-date, we designed this Engagement Plan to align with the Inform and Consult levels of the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) spectrum of public participation (2024), with the exception of activities designed to encourage consistent, deeper dialogue throughout the EA (see sections 5, 6, 7 and 8 for details).

4.1 Engagement principles, methods, goals and objectives

Spuzzum First Nation initiated engagement in 2021. Since then, our engagement has been characterized by principles and methods that align with our commitment to working with our fellow Indigenous Nations, provincial ministries and all interested parties to develop the proposed resort respectfully and responsibly and to ensure our children's children will be proud not only of the resort, but of the process that led to it.

In alignment with the EAO User Guide (2021) and Early Engagement Policy (2024), Spuzzum First Nation is committed to making best efforts to align with these principles:

- Scope-appropriateness: Spuzzum First Nation is committed to an engagement process that is reflective of level of interest and impact and is appropriately scoped.
- Transparency and responsiveness: Spuzzum First Nation will proactively and responsively share up-to-date information with interested parties and maintain detailed feedback records.
- Inclusivity: Spuzzum First Nation will demonstrate efforts to identify interested parties early and commitment to hearing and reflecting on all voices and reducing barriers to participation.
- Continuous improvement: Spuzzum First Nation will refine the engagement process based on feedback to meet the needs of participants and the requirements of all regulatory processes.

These principles have guided engagement to-date and aim to achieve a primary goal:

Participants feel informed, have an opportunity to share their views and understand how their feedback has been considered.

This overarching goal is reflected in engagement objectives and robust engagement methodologies that:

- Connect with interested parties in ways that make the most sense to them and reflect individual levels of interest and comfort (e.g., virtual, in-person, formal, informal, short-form, long-form)
- Provide a combination of synchronous and asynchronous engagement to maximize participation
- Create opportunities for small-group and/or one-on-one conversations with appropriate parties
- Maintain an ongoing, transparent presence both online and in the community (e.g., office)

Spuzzum understands there may be constraints to the planned engagement in the form of conflicting participation timeframes, Project confusion (with nearby proposals), barriers to participation (e.g., language, format) and possible low interest, as well as reach of notifications in remote areas. We have considered an array of possible engagement methods to help address these constraints and ensure an effective

engagement process (as presented in table 4). We will update our methods as we learn more, through engagement.

Table 4: Summary of engagement methods and considerations

Methods	Criteria for selection, benefits and constraint mitigations
In-person open houses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet regulatory EA requirements and enable in-person interactions with the Project team • Recreate opportunities for dialogue and information-sharing across groups • Provide flexibility of format, (e.g., workshop, presentation, drop-in) to meet all preferences • Create opportunities for the Project team to be in-community at accessible locations/times • Cater to specific needs (e.g., interpreter, childminding, catering)
Virtual information sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide accessibility for individuals who cannot attend in-person engagements • Accommodate people with travel/schedule limitations (e.g., people who work, parents, etc.) • Empower underrepresented and/or soft-spoken voices given the more impersonal format • Provide visibility of questions and concerns to all those in attendance and create records
Pop-up engagements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create in-community opportunities for information-sharing (e.g., at popular community hubs) • Provide informal opportunity to raise awareness and ask questions
Community information meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of the Project and upcoming milestones and opportunities • Provide opportunities to connect with interested parties at each community • Can be set up at the request of a specific community and focus on key issues
Small group meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage dialogue and empower underrepresented and/or soft-spoken voices • Can be structured (e.g., interview, focus group) or unstructured/conversational
Community office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creates hub for engagement and information sharing with the local community • Offers opportunities to answer questions and provide timely information to the community
Questionnaires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable knowledge gathering on specific topics (as long as they don't conflate with EAO)
Project email address	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a dedicated contact for questions, comments and general feedback • Enable differentiation of Project-specific feedback from other general email addresses
Project website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a central hub for Project information and engagement opportunities • Creates increased Project visibility and transparency in support of engagement principles
Spuzzum Hawk mobile app	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offers Spuzzum members a Nation-specific accessible channel for communications • Outlines updates, resources and a calendar of events as an extension of the Project website • Sends notifications to Spuzzum members and ensures key updates aren't missed
Nation-to-Nation working group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offers opportunities for direct engagement between Nations, additional to other processes • Creates a collaborative forum to address questions and concerns and chart a path forward

Methods	Criteria for selection, benefits and constraint mitigations
Spuzzum-led advisory group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates dialogue among cultural, scientific, tourism and economic development experts Informs the understanding of the types of Project effects mitigations that could be required
Spuzzum community advisory group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitates improved communications with members to ensure the Project meets the needs of the Spuzzum community Follows terms of reference, similar to other Spuzzum community advisory groups
Spuzzum-led delegation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprises youth, Elders and Spuzzum members to visit comparable resort projects in BC Helps build Project understanding and participation from the community

4.2 Key audiences and key anticipated interests

In alignment with the EAO Human and Community Well-Being Guidelines (2020) and Public Engagement Policy (2024), Spuzzum First Nation has identified who to engage with as we continue to plan the resort and undergo regulatory processes based on the following criteria: expressed and/or anticipated level of interest; jurisdictional authority; historic factors; and human and community well-being differential effects.

We have undertaken this audience identification analysis under the lenses of disproportionate effects on distinct human populations (based on demographic socio-cultural, economic, geography or physiological factors), as well as underrepresentation by the proposed engagement methods. Table 5 outlines the overarching categories we have considered for audience identification and that recognize additional guidelines on public engagement from the federal government (2023). More comprehensive audience lists and their interests are documented in subsequent sections of this plan (see sections 6.2, 7.2 and 8.2).

Table 5: Audiences and key and anticipated interests

Audiences	Key and anticipated interests
Spuzzum First Nation community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial feasibility, capacity and long-term Project viability Vocations, societal and financial opportunities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income to the Nation from land lease and land sale royalties Profits from equity participation and individual enterprises' jobs Procurement and business opportunities for members Employment, training and scholarship programs for members
Neighbouring Indigenous Nations and tribal councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic, vocational and investment opportunities Possible Project interactions with environmental and cultural values (and traditional practices) and proposed mitigations Opportunities to inform and/or participate in environmental studies, including sharing of Indigenous Knowledge and data
Other Indigenous Nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General interest in economic development opportunities General interest in possible Project interactions and mitigations

Audiences	Key and anticipated interests
Federal and provincial ministries and applicable branches/regulatory bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results of technical studies, including possible Project interactions and plans to mitigate those interactions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection/avoidance of spotted owl habitat Recreational opportunities and related health benefits New road access and emergency access routes Servicing needs and related agreements Economic development opportunities Tenure overlaps and opportunities for shared use or disposition Financial feasibility of the Project Governance structure and coordination with government entities Permits and licenses
Crown corporations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourism and economic development opportunities Servicing needs and related agreements Permits and licenses
Local government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic development opportunities Governance structure and coordination with government entities Servicing agreements and zoning approvals
Interest group organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection/avoidance of spotted owl habitat Impacts to existing established back country recreation Recreational land use impacts and opportunities
Non-governmental (NGO) and not-for-profit (NFP) organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential loss of wildlife habitat, particularly spotted owl habitat Long-term viability of the Project given effects of climate change Conservation of BC's natural and cultural diversity Indigenous stewardship and economic development Emergency preparedness and mitigation measures Partnership opportunities in wilderness and tourism
Businesses and industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts to current businesses and/or partnership opportunities Tenure overlaps and opportunities for shared use or disposition
General public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourism opportunities, Project timeline, environmental considerations
Cultural, scientific, tourism and economic development experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities to inform, participate in and/or review technical studies, Project reports and Project plans Possible Project interactions and mitigations
Marginalized groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design considerations that remove barriers to accessibility Partnership opportunities for program offerings Fostering a welcoming environment for persons with disabilities, neurodivergent folks, members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and minority groups

5 Early Engagement

Upon the EAO's acceptance of this Engagement Plan and the IPD, the Early Engagement phase will begin. This phase is anticipated to take place in Q2 2025 (lasting 90 days, including a minimum 30-day public comment period). This phase marks the beginning of the EA process and aims to establish meaningful conversations between Spuzzum First Nation, the Spuzzum community, Indigenous Nations, the public, all levels of government and other interested parties. A key objective of Early Engagement is to confirm the "Valued Components" (physical, biological, human, community and heritage environments) that will be studied and assessed to manage Project-related effects. Our approach to Early Engagement will:

- Provide opportunities to understand the Project, our intent and rationale for asking for an exemption, current and historic use and plans for sustainable development
- Identify key questions and issues and chart a path for potential resolution
- Identify participating Indigenous Nations, their interests, concerns, questions and needs
- Prepare for and inform the Readiness Decision for the proposed Project

The EAO and Spuzzum First Nation will jointly lead the proposed Early Engagement activities, including:

- **Notification and advertising activities as outlined in the EAO Public Engagement and Open House Plan** — To roll out as per EAO identified timeframes and across an arrange of channels, including print and digital advertising, radio, social media and direct outreach
- **30-day public comment period on the IPD through the EPIC website** — To be posted by the EAO following acceptance of the IPD and Engagement Plan. Spuzzum First Nation will provide responses to public comments and the EAO will produce a Summary of Engagement by day 90.
- **In-person open house in Hope and subsequent virtual information session** — To be hosted in the spring of 2025, avoiding any public holiday. The open house will comply with EAO guidance (e.g., universally accessible, feedback tables) and offer display boards and other materials with information about the Project. The virtual session will include a presentation and a question-and-answer period. Both opportunities will feature subject matter and technical experts for key areas of interest.

In addition to these engagement activities, Spuzzum First Nation will complete the following activities to respond to feedback received to-date, and in alignment with our engagement principles:

- **Direct outreach (mailed or emailed)** — To be timed in support of the EAO Public engagement and Open House Plan to ensure sufficient notice and increased participation levels (including from Elders and off-reserve members). Content will be written in plain language.
- **Project website and Spuzzum Hawk mobile app, linked to the EPIC website** — To share updates and information about the Project such as overview, timelines, engagement opportunities, maps, visual renderings, technical studies, etc. and be live prior to Early Engagement.
- **Pop-up engagement in Hope** — To be timed in the summer, capturing tourist traffic (timing to be confirmed), in the format of a booth with personnel and Project information at a popular location in the community.
- **Spuzzum-led community information meetings, as requested, in neighbouring First Nation communities** — Offered to Indigenous Nations who wish to have the Spuzzum Project team come to their community and organize drop-in style open houses for their members.

- **Small group meetings as requested, including meetings with Indigenous Nations** — Coordinated with EAO throughout the Early Engagement phase, as requested, to provide opportunities for Indigenous Nations and interested groups to have more personal conversations.
- **Project office** — To support Project awareness and act as a community hub where the Spuzzum community and visitors can stay informed and engaged.
- **Spuzzum-led Nation-to-Nation working group meetings** — Established with fellow Indigenous neighbours as an avenue for respectful dialogue and collaboration to chart a path forward.
- **Spuzzum-led advisory group** — Established before Early Engagement and ongoing through the EA to provide proactive opportunities for the identification of issues that may be pertinent to multiple government agencies and to discuss ways to address them with cultural, scientific, tourism and economic development experts. This group would share ideas and report to the EAO TAC and has the primary focus of finding efficiencies and integrating traditional Indigenous Knowledge, including our own, and western-scientific knowledge. This group is also in alignment with section 2.1 of the Certificate Exemption Policy (2020) as it aims to create a forum to inform the understanding of the types of Project effects mitigations that could be required by other agencies and be included in a possible exemption order.
- **Spuzzum community-specific engagement opportunities** — Coordinated with our members to help build Project understanding and support participation from our members. Opportunities, subject to Spuzzum Council approval, may include a Spuzzum community advisory group (with terms of reference), a Spuzzum-led delegation of youth, Elders and Spuzzum members to visit comparable projects in BC, and targeted meetings with Elders and/or members who do not participate in other engagement opportunities.

We will ensure any engagement activities Spuzzum leads concurrent to the EAO process do not conflate with the EAO process in any way. Spuzzum will make it clear that any feedback on the EAO-led Early Engagement phase must be directed to the EAO.

5.1 Who we propose to engage with, when and how

A detailed list of who Spuzzum First Nation proposes to engage with during Early Engagement is available in sections 5-8 of this plan. To ensure timely and consistent communication, and address any constraints to engagement, we propose the following timeline and frequency of communications, in alignment with the EAO Public Engagement and Open House Plan. Dates to be added in future iterations of this document.

Table 6: Overview of activities, timing and interested parties

Activities	Timing and frequency	Interested parties
Launch updates on Project website and Hawk mobile app	Start of Early Engagement (10 days after submission to EAO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All (for website) • Spuzzum members (for Hawk mobile app)
Upload information to EPIC (EAO to lead)	1 week after start of Early Engagement, which is also	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All interested parties

Spuzzum First Nation
South Anderson Mountain Resort Engagement Plan

Activities	Timing and frequency	Interested parties
Send/deliver tailored notification letters/emails	1 week prior to the start of the Public Comment Period (PCP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spuzzum First Nation community • Adjacent Indigenous Nations • Relevant tribal councils • Other Indigenous Nations • Federal and provincial ministries and applicable branches/regulatory bodies • Crown corporations • Local government
Send notification letters/emails		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest group organizations • Non-governmental (NGO) and not-for-profit (NFP) organizations • Business and industry
Start of PCP (EAO to lead)	2 weeks after start of Early Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All interested parties
Run advertisements across print (Hope Standard), digital (Hope Standard) and radio	Concurrent with PCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hope, Merrit, Boston Bar and nearby communities • Communities within distribution range/coverage of the advertisers
Social media posts	Concurrent with PCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select First Nation community pages
Put up posters	Concurrent with PCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boston Bar and Merrit
Host in-person open house and subsequent virtual information session	4-5 weeks after start of Early Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities near Hope (for Open House) • All (for virtual session)
Host pop-up engagement	As requested during Early Engagement. Spuzzum will lead these activities and capture the feedback (feedback can be provided to EAO if requested)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hope and nearby communities
Hold small group meetings		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spuzzum First Nation community • Adjacent Indigenous Nations • Relevant tribal councils • Other Indigenous Nations • Federal and provincial ministries and applicable branches/regulatory bodies • Crown corporations • Local government • Others, as requested (pending capacity)
Hold Nation-to-Nation working group meetings		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representatives of Spuzzum and other Indigenous Nations and tribal councils
Hold Spuzzum-led advisory group meetings		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural, scientific, tourism and economic development experts • Government representatives
Hold Spuzzum community engagement opportunities (e.g., Spuzzum community advisory group, delegation)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spuzzum youth • Spuzzum Elders • Interested Spuzzum members
Project office drop-in hours	Available throughout Early Engagement and beyond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spuzzum First Nation community • Any interested party who decides to visit

5.2 Early Engagement with Indigenous Nations

During EA Early Engagement with Indigenous Nations, we will aim to solidify our understanding of Indigenous Nations' priorities, governance mechanisms, connection to the land and interests in the Project area, in line with the Guide to Consensus-Seeking under the EA (2018) and the Early Engagement Policy (2024). We recognize that during Early Engagement, the EAO aims to:

- Identify the participating Indigenous Nations
- Identify decision-making requirements (including those that will inform the Process Order)
- Gain and refine understanding of Indigenous interests, potential adverse effects and processes or agreements for working together to share Indigenous Knowledge, including our own, and inform measures to avoid, minimize or manage adverse effects as part of Project studies, design refinements and construction/operation best practices
- Identify information needs for the DPD to support consensus seeking at the Readiness Decision, and ensure their readiness to participate in this phase
- Undertake engagement with the intent to avoid negative impacts to cultural practices and to create opportunities to share Indigenous Knowledge and cultural practices with others as a key component of the Project

We understand that given that we are seeking an exemption order, in addition to consensus-seeking on the options under s.16(2) and 18 under the BCEAA, the EAO's Chief Executive Assessment Officer (CEAO) will seek consensus with the participating Indigenous Nation, within applicable timelines, regarding the Recommendations Report prepared to inform the Minister's decision on the exemption order.

5.2.1.1 Early Engagement with Spuzzum First Nation community

The Project will be a vital undertaking for the Spuzzum First Nation that will enable our lands and rivers to continue to sustain us for many generations to come. Working on this development on our traditional lands is anticipated to generate numerous vocations, societal and financial opportunities to sustain our members, on and off reserve, as it has for generations in the past.

Our Nation has an ambitious strategy to regain and develop an economy and we have received support from the community to pursue Project feasibility as well as keen interest in responsible development to ensure we protect our land for future generations. During Early Engagement, we will offer and make best efforts to:

- Share regular updates about the Project, milestones, opportunities for engagement and EA progress via existing communication channels (e.g., Spuzzum website, Spuzzum Hawk mobile app, newsletters)
- Continue to hold community meetings (at Spuzzum and/or at the Project office in Hope) and explore avenues to reach members on and off reserve
- Include representatives from our community (comprising staff and leadership) as part of our proposed Spuzzum-led advisory group and our Nation-to-Nation working group
- Launch a Spuzzum community advisory group and delegation with youth, Elders and members (pending Council approval)

We also understand the EAO will begin working with Spuzzum First Nation leadership and staff to identify our interests in the Project area and customize consensus seeking approaches for the rest of the EA process. We will work with the EAO throughout the process as a participating Indigenous Nation and follow due process.

5.2.1.2 Early Engagement with other Indigenous Nations

The Project will be an economic driver for area First Nations and other communities in the Fraser Canyon, and will be the first Indigenous-driven comprehensive all-seasons mountain resort in B.C. During the EA, we will continue to engage directly with adjacent Indigenous Nations, relevant tribal councils and other Indigenous Nations who may self-identify as part of the EA process to aim to develop a shared understanding of the Project, our intent and rationale for asking for an exemption, and current and historic use and plans for sustainable development. Specific activities may include:

- Regularly scheduled Project updates via email or other methods favoured by each Nation
- Small group meetings to review interim sections of the DPD, email drafts of the DPD for review, and comments and email notification of submission of the DPD
- Conference calls and meetings with administrative staff, Elders, Knowledge Holders, consultants and other members as identified by each Nation
- Open houses in Indigenous communities to bring Project planning to where they are at, recognizing that many youths and Elders in our communities are unable to travel long distances
- Opportunities to participate in technical studies, as well as review and provide feedback
- Additional working groups as may be established by the EAO

Spuzzum First Nation does not acknowledge NNTC jurisdiction within Spuzzum traditional territory. However, we understand that the EAO will engage with the NNTC members as per the MOUs, protocols, NNTC Environmental Assessments and shared decision-making agreements, including the Land and Resource Decision Making Agreement between NNTC and the Province. We also look forward to working with the Province through our ongoing participation in planning for a newly forming group, the NNBC.

5.2.2 Consideration, incorporation and reporting of feedback

All feedback Spuzzum First Nation receives directly will be shared with the EAO (unless these Nations request us not to) and tracked in a comment log by individual/organization; source (e.g., email, phone call, written submission); day/time; topic (e.g., environment, wildlife, wellbeing, economy); type (e.g., request for information, complaint, general feedback); summary of comment; indication whether a response is required, and, if required, what the response was; who responded; and date of response. This format will help us ensure all input is properly addressed whether in the form of a response and/or in the incorporation of mitigations and planning/design considerations.

Specific deliverables that will be produced to respond to feedback received may include individual responses, Project fact sheets, FAQ documents and Engagement Plan updates. In addition, Spuzzum will have regular checkpoints with the planning and technical teams to present engagement results at each phase, discuss possible integrations into Project planning and design, and produce summaries outlining how feedback was incorporated (for incorporation into Engagement Summary Reports for each phase).

Information that may be factored into Project design will be defined in consultation with Indigenous Nations, interested parties and the Project/technical team, and may include:

- Indigenous Knowledge, including our own, and local knowledge
- Social, environmental and economic impact at the Project area and in nearby communities
- Concerns, desires, needs and considerations
- Priorities and requirements of regulators
- Unique attributes and constraints of the area

When sharing feedback publicly, we will protect the confidentiality of responders by removing any identifying features such as name, gender, affiliation and place of residence, as applicable. Feedback will be summarized by general group/category and into topics/themes on any public reports.

5.2.3 Updates to the Engagement Plan

Spuzzum First Nation will evaluate this Engagement Plan on an ongoing basis and modify upcoming engagement activities as needed and in consultation with the EAO to meet all regulatory requirements and engagement objectives and incorporate lessons learned. More detailed plans will also be developed for each phase of engagement.

In addition, the Engagement Plan will be revisited **at the end of each phase** of engagement to ensure alignment with our overarching goal and supporting objectives. Any updates will be shared with the EAO and with any interested parties who request to be involved in reviewing updates to the Engagement Plan.

If an exemption is granted, the Engagement Plan would be updated at the end of each phase of the MRB process, and the plan would again be shared with all those interested in reviewing the updates.

In all cases, updates made to the Engagement Plan would be reflected on the Project website and other notification materials (e.g., changes in activities/timing, additional opportunities, consideration of feedback). A table of changes, author and date would also be incorporated at the beginning of the document.

6 Engagement with Indigenous Nations

Spuzzum First Nation is committed to Indigenous-informed Project design, construction and operation. Recognizing the importance of early and meaningful engagement, we have already communicated with our community members and with our First Nations neighbours and will continue to offer and make best efforts to establish and maintain mutually respectful relationships throughout the EA process. This includes:

- Establishing collaborative relationships to help build an understanding of each Nation's preferences for communication and engagement, their interests and issues, decision-making requirements, cultural perspectives, customs and practices, etc.
- Participating in EAO-led engagement on the drafts IPD, Engagement Plan and DPD, and appropriately considering and incorporating proposed changes
- Seeking to understand any treaties, processes, agreements and government-to-government arrangements
- Using Indigenous Knowledge, including our own, in refining Project designs and proposed mitigation measures
- Track all issues raised and indicate how they will be addressed during the EA

For the purposes of the Project, we define Indigenous Knowledge as knowledge of the Project area as informed by Indigenous cultures, languages, values, histories and governance, both current and traditional, built upon our respective histories of existence as communities, neighbours, trading partners and shared language users for millennia, and use of this knowledge is to inform Project decisions.

We understand that, according to the EAO Guide to Indigenous Knowledge in EA (2022), the EA process considers our Indigenous Knowledge holders' unique ways of knowing as it pertains to the area and possible interactions with the environment and people in the region. This may include observations and experiences, governance, values and preferences. We recognize the EAO's guiding principles when it comes to the incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge are respect; relationship-based; iterative, interconnected and broad application; acknowledgement of context; transparency; and permission of use. As an Indigenous proponent, we have incorporated our Indigenous Knowledge into our proposed Project design and approach to engagement.

Our approach to Indigenous engagement is reflective of this and our overall principles of engagement as outlined in section 4.1.

In addition, our objectives for engagement with Indigenous Nations are to offer and make best efforts to:

- Engage Spuzzum First Nation members in a meaningful, proactive and ongoing way by communicating transparently and ensuring our Nation's interests are reflected into the EA.
- Create opportunities for employment and participation for the Spuzzum First Nation members.
- Engage with Knowledge Holders from our Nation as well as others in an ongoing basis, seek their permission with respect to Indigenous Knowledge, and respect confidentiality.
- Understand other Indigenous Nations preferred methods of communication and engagement to create meaningful opportunities for participation in the EA.
- Provide timely and relevant information about the Project and the EA process to all Nations.
- Document and reflect feedback from all Nations into the DPD while identifying their key interests and ways to address their concerns.
- Work with the EAO to coordinate efforts and support goals of collaboration and Reconciliation.

6.1 Summary of preliminary engagement with Indigenous Nations

Spuzzum First Nation began engagement with Indigenous Nations in 2021 with the goal of sharing early information about the Project with our community and neighbours, building relationships and identifying key interests and concerns. Feedback informed the development of the IPD and this Engagement Plan to align with Indigenous Nations interests.

This section summarizes the list of Indigenous Nations Spuzzum has received feedback from either through direct Spuzzum-led engagement, or through MRB-led engagement during the EOI step of the MRB process (which included official referrals to all First Nations with overlapping interests as defined by the Province's Consultative Areas Database). This section also summarizes potential issues or concerns raised and Spuzzum's response/action.

- Spuzzum-led Indigenous engagement to date:
 - Spuzzum member community meetings (18 September 2021, 9 April 2022, 6 April 2024, 23 November 2024 and 5 April 2025)
 - Project introductory meetings with Coldwater Nation Chief and Council (26 April 2023, 18 January 2024) and Coldwater Nation general membership (16 May 2024)
 - Letters of support from Boston Bar First Nation (28 March 2023) and Yale First Nation (3 April 2023) to further pursue Project feasibility
 - Meeting with representatives from Coldwater Nation, Cooks Ferry Indian Band, Kanaka Bar First Nation and Citxw Nlaka'pamux Assembly (24 April 2025) to re-introduce the Project and Spuzzum First Nation's plans to apply for an EA exemption
- MRB-led engagement to date:
 - Discussions with and correspondence from Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council (NNTC) and Nooaitch Indian Band

Table 7: Key interests/concerns/questions raised through engagement with Indigenous Nations

Theme	Potential Issue or Concern Raised	Response/Action
Support to explore Project feasibility	Leadership from several First Nations have expressed support for the Project feasibility, subject to community members' feedback and additional analysis.	Spuzzum will continue to engage as Project planning and environmental reviews continue.
Project opposition	One Indigenous group has expressed opposition to the Project but did not provide details as to the rationale for its opposition.	As a First Nation, Spuzzum asserts its rights to the proposed Project area lands. Without rationale for the expressed opposition, we have been unable to consider Project changes as of yet. Spuzzum is committed to continuing to engage with other Indigenous nations as Project planning continues and look forward to learning more about potential concerns with a view to identifying creative solutions.
Environmental studies	General interest in informing environmental studies, including sharing Traditional Knowledge and participating in data collection, etc.	Spuzzum will continue to engage as Project planning and environmental reviews continue.
Hunting, fishing and gathering	The Project has the potential to affect current and traditional practices.	Spuzzum will continue to engage as Project planning and environmental reviews continue, with intent to avoid these areas.

Theme	Potential Issue or Concern Raised	Response/Action
Cultural practices	The Project has the potential to affect Indigenous cultural practices.	Spuzzum will continue to engage as Project planning and environmental reviews continue, with intent to avoid negative impacts to cultural practices and to create opportunities to share Indigenous Knowledge and cultural practices with others as a key component of the Project.
Economic opportunities	General interest in employment, and participation in procurement opportunities	Spuzzum will seek preferential opportunities for employment and will invite Indigenous businesses to participate in bidding opportunities.

6.2 Interested and affected Indigenous Nations

Nearby Indigenous communities include the Nlaka'pamux Nation communities, Stó:lō Nation communities and Okanagan Nation communities, as well as independent First Nations (Ashcroft, Boston Bar, Cooks Ferry, Kanaka Bar, Lower Nicola, Lytton, Nicomen and Siska).

Table 8 outlines the Indigenous Nations we anticipate will participate in the EA based on a review of the Province's Consultative Areas Database. It also lists known treaties, agreements and/or protocols for general awareness and to be confirmed and/or expanded on during the engagement process.

Table 8: Indigenous Nations and groups for engagement, treaties and agreements

Indigenous Nation or group	Representative	Interest and rationale
Ashcroft Indian Band	Chief Greg Blain	Environmental impacts and mitigations, economic development opportunities, engagement opportunities
Boothroyd Indian Band	Chief Mike Campbell	Environmental impacts and mitigations, economic development opportunities, engagement opportunities
Boston Bar First Nation	Chief Pamela Robertson	Supportive of the Project concept if undertaken in an environmentally safe manner (provided letter of support). Interested in potential economic, vocation and investment opportunities.
Chawathil First Nation	Chief Norman Florence	Environmental impacts and mitigations, economic development opportunities, engagement opportunities
Coldwater Indian Band	Chief Terrence Lee Spahan	Environmental impacts and mitigations, economic development opportunities, engagement opportunities
Cook's Ferry Indian Band	Chief Christine Minnabarriet	Environmental impacts and mitigations, economic development opportunities, engagement opportunities
Kanaka Bar Indian Band	Chief Jordan Spinks	Environmental impacts and mitigations, economic development opportunities, engagement opportunities
Lower Nicola Indian Band	Chief Stuart Jackson	Environmental impacts and mitigations, economic development opportunities, engagement opportunities
Lytton First Nation	Chief Niakia Hanna	Environmental impacts and mitigations, economic development opportunities, engagement opportunities
Nicomen Indian Band	Chief Nora Arlene Edwards	Environmental impacts and mitigations, economic development opportunities, engagement opportunities
Nlaka'pamux Nation Band Coalition	Yet to be confirmed	This newly forming group of Nlaka'pamux linguistic Peoples interested in economic development opportunities for the member Nations

Indigenous Nation or group	Representative	Interest and rationale
Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council	Chief Matthew Pasco	Opposition to the Project based on different geography, and clarification was made. Concerns over spotted owl habitat and Highway 5 access. Project design is currently exploring alternative access routes and development will be free from old growth forest removal. Indicated preference for engagement at the technical and board levels, which was reflected in the Engagement Plan.
Nooaitch Indian Band	Chief Marcel Shackelly	Opposition to the Project based on perceived environmental impacts of the Project, lack of communication and Highway 5 access/tunnelling, which we are committed to discuss and address through ongoing engagement and Project planning. Indicated interest in participating in the EA.
Okanagan Indian Band	Chief Byron Louis	Environmental impacts and mitigations, economic development opportunities, engagement opportunities
Oregon Jack Creek Indian Band	Chief Matthew Pasco	Environmental impacts and mitigations, economic development opportunities, engagement opportunities
Peters First Nation	Chief Norma Webb	Environmental impacts and mitigations, economic development opportunities, engagement opportunities
Popkum First Nation	Chief James Murphy	Environmental impacts and mitigations, economic development opportunities, engagement opportunities
Scw'exmx Tribal Council	Vaughn "Tehoweesonte" Sunday, Executive Director	Environmental impacts and mitigations, economic development opportunities, engagement opportunities
Shackan Indian Band	Chief Lindsay Tighe	Environmental impacts and mitigations, economic development opportunities, engagement opportunities
Siska First Nation	Chief Fred Sampson	Environmental impacts and mitigations, economic development opportunities, engagement opportunities
Skuppah Indian Band	Chief Douglas McIntyre	Environmental impacts and mitigations, economic development opportunities, engagement opportunities
Spuzzum First Nation	Chief James Hobart	Environmental impacts and mitigations, economic development opportunities, engagement opportunities
Stó:lō Nation Chiefs Council	Chair Sharron Young	Environmental impacts and mitigations, economic development opportunities, engagement opportunities
Stó:lō Tribal Council	Executive Director Andy Philips	Environmental impacts and mitigations, economic development opportunities, engagement opportunities
Sts'ailes Nation	Chief Ralph James Leon	Environmental impacts and mitigations, economic development opportunities, engagement opportunities
Upper Nicola Indian Band	Chief Daniel Manuel	Environmental impacts and mitigations, economic development opportunities, engagement opportunities
Yale First Nation	Chief Troy Peters	Supportive of the Project and feasibility study. Interested in job, training and business investment opportunities.

Spuzzum will support the Province and participate in these consultations as the proponent and a First Nation. We also intend to continue our ongoing relations with Indigenous Nations with rights and shared interests in the Project area.

6.3 Relevant provincial-Indigenous agreements

Land use agreements may be necessary to formalize how the land will be used, addressing issues such as resource management, access to traditional territories and the protection of culturally significant sites. Memorandums of understanding (MOUs) would outline specific partnerships and commitments between the Spuzzum First Nation and other stakeholders, detailing shared benefits like economic opportunities, employment and cultural preservation initiatives.

Additionally, assessment protocols, including environmental and cultural impact assessments, are important to identify and mitigate potential effects on the land, waterways and cultural heritage. These assessments ensure that the development adheres to sustainable practices and minimizes disruption to the environment and traditional ways of life. By integrating these components into the planning process, Spuzzum will ensure that the resort development is not only economically viable but also culturally respectful and environmentally responsible, aligning with the values and priorities of the Spuzzum First Nation and neighbouring Indigenous communities.

The below lists summarize known agreements, protocols and/or MOUs between the Province and potentially interested First Nations, which may affect the Province's required scope of engagement.

Agreements

- Chawathil
 - [S'ólh Téméxw Stewardship Alliance](#)
- Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council
 - [Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council Land and Resource Decision Making Agreement](#)
 - [Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council Political Accord on Advancing Recognition, Reconciliation, and Implementation of Title and Rights](#)
- Boston Bar First Nation
 - [Economic and Community Development Agreement](#)
 - [Boston Bar Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreement](#)
- Nicomen Indian Band
 - [Nicomen Interim Forestry Agreement](#)
- Siska Indian Band
 - [Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreement](#)
- Upper Nicola Indian Band
 - [Upper Nicola Band Forest Tenure Opportunity Agreement](#)
 - [Upper Nicola Band Forest and Range Agreement](#)
- Yale First Nation
 - [BC C-62: Yale First Nation Final Agreement Act](#)
 - [Yale Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreement](#)

Memoranda of Understanding (MOU)

- MOU between BC Assembly of First Nations and Indigenous Tourism BC (2019) as an agreement to work together to create a prosperous Indigenous tourism Industry that benefits Indigenous People and respects the Title and Rights and Treaty Rights of Indigenous Nations.

6.4 Additional planned engagement with participating Indigenous Nations

Spuzzum First Nation understands that a key priority of the EA is to understand potential adverse effects to Indigenous Nation interests and identify ways to address them to fulfill its duty to consult and accommodate. We will coordinate with the EAO and engage in an ongoing basis with all participating Indigenous Nations to identify preferred methods and frequency of engagement, and in accordance with any treaties, processes, agreements and government-to-government arrangements.

Specific communication and engagement activities and considerations may include:

- Ongoing engagement with Spuzzum members (may include similar formats to those outlined in Early Engagement, in accordance with other regulatory processes as well as updated formats based on members' feedback)
- Regular information sharing through various channels, including email and written correspondence, presentations, in-person or virtual meetings, and information sharing on our Project website and the EAO's EPIC site
- Sharing drafts of EA deliverables for feedback and how feedback was incorporated/addressed
- Convening regular check-ins via meetings, site visits, workshops or as preferred by each Nation
- Maintaining opportunities to participate/lead in technical studies and provide feedback
- Reporting feedback in a way that honours confidentiality and accurately reflects input received in the most appropriate and respectful way, in accordance with each Nation's preferences

Should an exemption not be granted, Spuzzum First Nation will undertake Indigenous engagement in accordance with the requirements of the EA, MRB and any other applicable regulatory processes. The Engagement Plan would be updated during each phase of engagement to outline details.

7 Engagement with the public and interested parties

Spuzzum First Nation is committed to providing meaningful engagement opportunities for interested parties and the public. We believe that the Project's benefits to Reconciliation and healthy communities in the Fraser Canyon balance any potential impacts and that any such impacts can be effectively mitigated. Because of this belief, and notwithstanding that we are asking to secure an EAC Exemption Order, we are committed to focused engagement in response to concerns, public benefits, planning and design considerations and how the public wish to be engaged.

Further to the details provided in section 4, the following subsections demonstrate results of engagement completed to-date, notably including key interests and considerations for Early Engagement and subsequent EA phases, as applicable, as well as a list of interested parties we have identified for engagement during and beyond the EA.

7.1 Summary of preliminary engagement with interested parties

This section summarizes the list of interested parties Spuzzum has received feedback from, which, to-date, has been primarily through MRB-led engagement during the EOI step of the MRB process. The section also summarizes potential issues or concerns raised and Spuzzum's response/action.

List of interested parties Spuzzum has received feedback from to-date through the MRB process:

- Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC
- Western Canada Timber Products

Table 9: Key interests and concerns or questions raised through engagement with government

Theme	Potential Issue or Concern Raised	Response/Action
Back country recreation	Impacts to existing established trails	Spuzzum plans to invite representatives from backcountry organizations to discuss current uses, share information about Spuzzum's asserted interests and discuss opportunities to collaborate as planning continues.
Overlap with other tenures	Impact to existing mineral tenures	Should the Project proceed to the next phase of the MRB process, Spuzzum will engage with other tenure holders to discuss opportunities for shared use or deposition.
Opinions about the Project	Support for Project feasibility and opposition to the Project concept as proposed	Support is noted and appreciated. Opposition is noted. Spuzzum will continue to develop the Project, considering potential environmental and economic feasibility.

7.2 Interested and affected public and other parties

Table 10 outlines possible key contacts for the public and interested parties and Spuzzum's understanding of key and anticipated interests based on engagement to-date and additional research undertaken during the development of the Engagement Plan. We have included some examples of the types of organizations we plan to engage with and understand this list may expand based on feedback received at each stage of engagement.

As mentioned in section 4.2, this list accounts for interest group organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and not-for-profit organizations (NFPs), businesses and industry, as well as the public, and considers a GBA+ approach as outlined in the Human and Community Well-Being Guideline (2020) to ensure all relevant groups are represented.

Table 10: Potentially interested public and other affected parties

Category	Interested party/parties	Possible contacts	Interest and rationale
Recreational land user	Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC	As per MRB-led referral contacts	Spuzzum will continue to engage with the organization on possible impacts to existing year-round backcountry recreation opportunities (and other related concerns with the Project).
Commercial land user	Western Canada Timber Products	As per MRB-led referral contacts	Spuzzum's engagement with this commercial land user is ongoing as part of the MRB-led process.
Conservation group	Wilderness Committee	Beth Clarke, Executive Director	Spuzzum anticipates the society may have questions about impacts on spotted owl habitat given their interest in a separate proposal.
Conservation group	BC Conservation Foundation	John Shepherd, Chair	Spuzzum anticipates the foundation may have concerns around any potential loss of habitat.
Conservation group	Sierra Club BC	Kerry Baisley, Board Chair	Spuzzum anticipates the organization may have potential environmental concerns about the area.
Conservation group	Nature Trust British Columbia	Peter Armstrong, Chair	Spuzzum anticipates the organization may have concerns about Project impacts on biodiversity.
Conservation group	Ducks Unlimited Canada	Matt Christensen, Conservation Program Specialist	Spuzzum anticipates the organization may be interested in potential impacts to wildlife.
Conservation group	South Coast Conservation Program	Tamsin Baker, SCCP Coordinator	Spuzzum anticipates the organization may have concerns around possible loss of wildlife habitat.
Conservation group	Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia	Paul McNair, Executive Director	Given the group represents 40 land trust members across the province, Spuzzum anticipates they may be interested in the Project.
Conservation group	Nature United	Michael Reid, BC Program Director	Given their role in Indigenous-led conservation, Spuzzum anticipates Nature United can support Indigenous stewardship for the Project.
Conservation group	Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, BC Chapter	Tori Ball, Conservation Director	Spuzzum anticipates the organization may have concerns around any development in the area.
Conservation group	BC Wildlife Federation	Jesse Zeman, Executive Director	Spuzzum anticipates the federation can offer a connection to area anglers, hunters, outdoor recreationists and recreational shooters.
Fishing and hunting community group	Kamloops & District Fish & Game Association	Melody and Gil, Club Representatives	Spuzzum anticipates the association can be a voice for folks whose aims are to protect, enhance and promote the wise use of the environment.
Fishing and hunting community group	Chilliwack Outdoor Club	Christine Camilleri, President	Spuzzum understands the club represents nearby recreational users who may have specific interests about fishing and hunting in the area.
Fish and wildlife association	Highland Valley Outdoor Association (Merrit)	Peter Martell, President	The association may wish to be engaged on potential development impacts given their role in encouraging respect of the land, water and air, along with all the species that inhabit it.
Business that operates in the area	Interior Fly-Fishing Co.	Brett Pennington, Owner	As a local fishing guide company, Spuzzum anticipates they may be able to provide a connection to other similar land users in the area.
Business that operates in the area	Cheam Fishing Village and Campground	Cheam Enterprises Inc., Owner	As a nearby destination, Spuzzum anticipates they may be interested in impacts and opportunities relevant to their business.

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Category	Interested party/parties	Possible contacts	Interest and rationale
Business that operates in the area	Fraser River Lodge	Claudette Krahn, General Manager	As a nearby destination, Spuzzum anticipates they may be interested in impacts and opportunities relevant to their business.
Business that operates in the area	Reo Rafting Resort	Bryan Fogelman, Owner	As a nearby destination, Spuzzum anticipates they may be interested in impacts and opportunities relevant to their business.
Business that operates in the area	Kumsheen Rafting	Andrew Fandrich, General Manager	As a nearby destination, Spuzzum anticipates they may be interested in impacts and opportunities relevant to their business.
Marginalized groups	BC Adaptive Snowsports	Sandra Haziza, Executive Director	Spuzzum anticipates the group may be interested in the Project given their role in running skiing and snowboarding programs for persons with disabilities at North Vancouver's ski hills.
Marginalized groups	LET'S (Live, Educate Transform Society)	Heather McCain, Executive Director	As a society led by disabled and neurodivergent folks, most of whom are also 2SLGBTQIA+, Spuzzum anticipates this organization could provide insights for engagement with marginalized groups with interests in the Project.
Marginalized groups	BC Mobility Outdoors Society	Graeme Wyman, Executive Director	Given the society's work in promoting accessibility of the outdoors, Spuzzum anticipates this organization could provide insights to inform engagement and Project design.
Marginalized groups	Rick Hansen Foundation (Accessible Outdoors Program)	Doramy Ehling, CEO	Given the foundation's work in promoting accessibility of the outdoors, Spuzzum anticipates they could provide insights to inform engagement and Project design.
Marginalized groups	Colour the Trails	Judith Kasiama, Founder	Given their role in removing access barriers to outdoor activities for Black and Indigenous people and People of Colour, Spuzzum anticipates the organization could provide insights for the Project.
Marginalized groups	Inclusion Chilliwack Society	Mike Robinson, Board President	Given their proximity to the Project, Spuzzum anticipates the society may provide insights into how to make the resort more inclusive.
Scientific expert	Thompson Rivers University	Dr. Tom Dickinson	Given his proximity to the Project area and his area of focus in conservation biology, Spuzzum anticipates Dr. Dickinson may have scientific insights for the Project.
Scientific expert	Fraser Lab (operates in the Nicola Valley)	Dr. Lauchlan Fraser	Given his proximity to the Project area and his area of focus in ecology, restoration and climate change, Spuzzum anticipates Dr. Fraser may have scientific insights for the Project.
NGO / NFP	BC Search and Rescue Association	Chris Mushumanski, President Dave Morris, Fraser Valley Regional Director	Spuzzum anticipates that given the association's familiarity with mountainous terrains, their protocols can help inform the Project's emergency preparedness and mitigate risks. They may also wish to be engaged on the potential impact on the number of volunteers required in the area and any increased risk for resort visitors.
NGO / NFP	Avalanche Canada	Gilles Valade, Executive Director	Spuzzum anticipates the organization may wish to be engaged on avalanche mitigation measures and emergency procedures.

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Category	Interested party/parties	Possible contacts	Interest and rationale
NGO / NFP	Wilderness Tourism Association	Katherine McRae, President	Spuzzum anticipates the association can provide a connection to wilderness-based tourism operators and share insights for the Project.
NGO / NFP	Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning	Kristine Pérez de León, Executive Director	Spuzzum anticipates the organization could be interested in the proposed resort given the many outdoor recreation opportunities it provides.
NGO / NFP	Hope Golf and Country Club Society	Kent McKinnon, President	Spuzzum anticipates the organization could be interested in the proposed resort given the Project's proposed golf course.
Local business community (primary service centers)	Downtown Chilliwack Business Improvement Association	Trevor McDonald, Executive Director	Spuzzum anticipates the association could be interested in a partnership given their role as a connection point to local businesses. They may also have concerns with the potential of both positive and negative effects on local businesses.
Local business community (primary service centers)	Chilliwack Economic Partners Corporation	Brian Coombes, President	Given their responsibility for the City of Chilliwack's economic growth and marketing using a made-in-Chilliwack economic strategy, Spuzzum anticipates this organization may be interested in a partnership or could connect Spuzzum to local businesses. They may also have concerns with the potential of both positive and negative effects on local businesses.
Local business community (primary service centers)	Tourism Chilliwack	Allison Colthorp, Executive Director	Spuzzum anticipates this organization could serve as a connection point to local businesses. They may also have concerns with the potential of both positive and negative effects on local businesses.
Local business community (primary service centers)	Community Futures – South Fraser	Nicole Read, General Manager	As a business start-up aid, Spuzzum anticipates that Community Futures may offer a connection to local businesses. They could also support in making connections with local economic development opportunities.
Local business community (primary service centers)	Chilliwack Chamber of Commerce	Leanna Kemp, Executive Director	Spuzzum anticipates that the Chamber of Commerce could support in making connections to local businesses and economic development opportunities.
Local business community (primary service centers)	The Hope Business and Development Society	Richard, Executive Director	Spuzzum anticipates that the society may be interested in opportunities to increase economic development in the area.
Local business community (primary service centers)	Hope & District Chamber of Commerce	Karen Scalise, Executive Director	Spuzzum anticipates that the Chamber of Commerce could support in making connections to local businesses and economic development opportunities.
Local business community (primary service centers)	University of the Fraser Valley - Hope Centre	Hope Centre Coordinator	As a nearby research and education facility, Spuzzum anticipates the university may offer a potential connection to residents and scientific experts in Hope.
Local business community (primary service centers)	Scenic Route 7	vc@hopebc.ca	As a local tourism organization, Spuzzum anticipates this organization may be interested in the increase of regional tourism opportunities and could be interested in a marketing partnership.
Local business community (primary service centers)	Hope Cascades & Canyons	Shannon Jones, Executive Director	As a local tourism representative for the region, Spuzzum anticipates this organization could play a key role in increasing awareness of the resort.

Category	Interested party/parties	Possible contacts	Interest and rationale
Local business community (within 30 km)	Boston Bar-North Bend Enhancement Society	Nancy Carmichael, Executive Director	As a volunteer-based organization dedicated to work to make Boston Bar a great place to live, Spuzzum anticipates the society will be interested in economic development and tourism opportunities.
Local tourist attraction	Hell's Gate Airtram	William Wu, Operations Manager	As a longstanding local tourist attraction, Spuzzum anticipates they may be interested in the potential for tourism and marketing partnerships.
Nearby business community (within 180 km)	Abbotsford Arts Council	Eileen Stephens, Executive Director	Spuzzum anticipates the Council may be interested in opportunities for local artists.
Nearby business community (within 180 km)	Abbotsford Downtown Business Improvement Association	Jennifer McEwan, Executive Director	Spuzzum anticipates the association could be interested in a partnership given their role as a connection point to local businesses. They may also be interested in learning about the potential of both positive and negative effects on local businesses.
Nearby business community (within 180 km)	Abbotsford Fish and Game Club	Rob Engh, President	As a nearby fish and game club that offers recreational target shooting and fishing, Spuzzum anticipates they could provide a connection to local recreational and commercial land users.
Nearby business community (within 180 km)	Abbotsford Executives Association	John Brandt, President	Spuzzum anticipates the association could be a partner for marketing and business-related opportunities.
Nearby business community (within 180 km)	Merritt and District Chamber of Commerce	Margaret Hohner, Chairperson	Spuzzum anticipates that the Chamber of Commerce could support in making connections to local businesses and economic development opportunities.
Nearby business community (within 180 km)	Kamloops and District Chamber of Commerce	Cindy Piva, President	Spuzzum anticipates that the Chamber of Commerce could support in making connections to local businesses and economic development opportunities.
General public	Future resort guests	N/A	Spuzzum anticipates that the general public will have interest in visiting the future mountain resort and may have questions about amenities, services, access and events.

Research and engagement to date has not revealed landowners, land rights holders or industrial or agricultural land users who would be affected by the Project other than the existing forestry leaseholder with whom an agreement has been established. We anticipate the potentially interested groups identified above will help us identify other interested parties and their related interests, if any.

7.3 Additional planned engagement with the public and interested parties

Spuzzum First Nation will endeavour to provide timely, transparent notification of Project updates, milestones, engagement summaries and opportunities for engagement. We may accomplish this via an array of possible methods such as website updates, emails through a mailing list, print notifications and advertisements, depending on the nature of communication. We would select the most appropriate method based in that context.

As outlined at a high level in section 5.1, proposed Early Engagement activities with the public and interested parties may include:

- Notifications via letters (mailed and emailed) and advertisements (print and online)
- Maildrop to Hope residents
- Project website to host Project information and engagement opportunities
- 30-day public comment period on the IPD through the EPIC website
- Open house in Hope
- Virtual information session (if requested by the public or interested parties)
- Pop-up engagement in Hope (one of the two primary service centres for the resort)
- Small group meetings (as requested)
- Project office to act as a hub for information-sharing and engagement (timing TBC)

Anticipated engagement activities to support public and interest holder engagement beyond the EA Early Engagement phase may include:

- Regular notifications (e.g., print, email, online) and updates to the Project website
- Questionnaires (when seeking feedback on specific topics as long as they don't conflate with the EAO)
- Dedicated email address and/or phone number to provide feedback and ask questions ongoingly
- Opportunities for interested parties to review EA deliverables (e.g., DPD, Engagement Plan)
- Open houses and 30-day public comment periods at each subsequent phase of the EA process
- Open houses at each phase of the MRB process (would be planned and conducted concurrently with EA open houses to the completion of EAO-led engagement)
- Virtual information sessions (if requested by the public or interested and affected parties)
- Community information meetings (as requested by the communities)
- Pop-up engagements (as requested by the community)
- Small group meetings (as requested, subject to Spuzzum's availability)
- Community office (e.g., permanent information displays, events, engagement opportunities)

Should an exemption not be granted, Spuzzum First Nation will undertake engagement with the public and interested parties in accordance with the requirements of the EA, MRB and any other applicable regulatory processes, as well as our own Spuzzum-led engagement, which may include any of the above noted formats. The Engagement Plan would be updated during each phase of engagement to outline details.

8 Engagement with other governments

Spuzzum has engaged other government entities through the MRB process and independently to ensure relevant federal and provincial ministries and agencies, Crown corporations and local municipalities are aware of our proposed Project and have the information they need to support their participation and conduct of any associated responsibilities. We will continue to engage transparently and in a timely manner to understand their interests and incorporate feedback as appropriate into our Project planning.

8.1 Summary of preliminary engagement with government representatives

This section summarizes the list of government representatives Spuzzum has received feedback from to-date, as well as potential issues or concerns raised and Spuzzum's response/action (see table 11). The list includes those who Spuzzum has engaged with directly as well as those who have responded to referrals through MRB-led engagement during the EOI step of the MRB process. Although direct engagement with the EAO and MRB has also occurred, given their role as process leaders, EAO and MRB are not listed below.

- Spuzzum-led engagement to date:
 - District of Hope, presentation to Mayor and Council (22 Jan 2024) – to share the Project scope and benefits and request the District of Hope's support for the Project feasibility
 - FVRD, presentation to planning staff (31 Jan 2024) – to share the Project scope and benefits and discuss planned environmental studies
 - Ministry of Transportation and Transit (*MOTT*), Southern Interior Region (4 April 2025) – to discuss the proposed Highway 5/Zopkios interchange access
- MRB-led engagement to date:
 - BC Hydro
 - District of Hope (Council provided a letter of support for Project feasibility on 12 February 2024)
 - Environment and Climate Change Canada
 - FVRD
 - *Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, BC Parks*
 - *Ministry of Forests*
 - Ministry of Mining and Critical Materials
 - *Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MOTT), South Coast Region and Southern Interior Region*
 - *Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS), South Coast Region*

Table 11: Key interests and concerns or questions raised through engagement with government

Theme	Potential Issue or Concern Raised	Response/Action
Road access	Location of the new access road and potential impacts to existing Highway 5 traffic	Spuzzum is committed to working with MOTT (Interior and Coast regions) and MRB to further explore access.

Theme	Potential Issue or Concern Raised	Response/Action
Spotted owl habitat	Protection/avoidance of this habitat is requested	Spuzzum has adjusted access plans to incorporate Highway 5 as the main access point. Highway 1 will only be used as a temporary access route during construction and as an emergency access route only during operation.
Archaeology resources	Potential for archaeological finds	As a First Nation that has existed in this area for millennia, Spuzzum has deep knowledge of our history and culture; additionally, the Project team includes a First Nations archaeology consultant. Preliminary assessment of the proposed access road corridor is complete and additional fieldwork is planned.
Back country recreation	Impacts to existing established trails	Spuzzum plans to invite representatives from backcountry organizations to discuss current uses, share information about Spuzzum First Nations' asserted interests and discuss opportunities to collaborate as planning continues.
Powering the Project	Lack of existing electricity source	Spuzzum has initiated discussions with BC Hydro and will continue to seek alternative sources of power.
Overlap with other tenures	Impact to existing mineral tenures	Should the Project proceed to the next phase of the MRB process, Spuzzum will engage with other tenure holders to discuss opportunities for shared use or deposition.
Permits and licenses	Need to obtain all water and other licences prior to starting construction	Spuzzum will work with permitting agencies to conduct appropriate studies and analysis and secure all required permits
Coordination with local and regional governments	Governance structure, servicing agreements and zoning approvals	Spuzzum will collaborate with MRB, provincial agencies and FVRD to understand governance options, then develop a proposed preliminary model and risk assessment in the Formal Proposal stage of the MRB process. Spuzzum only supports governance options that have an Indigenous interest, to ensure our values are appropriately reflected.
Effects of climate change	Concern about the long-term viability of skiing as a recreational activity	The proposed Project is an all-seasons resort with a vertical higher than that of Whistler/Blackcomb. Should climate conditions change, the variety of recreational activities will be adjusted so that all-seasons use can continue.
Financial feasibility	Questions about the feasibility of the Project, given the amount of new infrastructure required	Spuzzum is aware of the financial risks and remains committed to ongoing planning, with a full business case to be developed as part of the Formal Proposal to MRB and subsequent Master Plan development during the MRB process.
Impact on other mountain resorts	The Project has the potential to increase or decrease use of other mountains and affect the associated financial returns for owners of these resorts	Spuzzum will work collaboratively with BC Parks to understand current use of this area and engage with interested groups that use this area. Market analysis of potential impacts to other resorts and parks will be conducted in preparing a Formal Proposal as a future step in the MRB process.

8.2 Interested and affected government agencies

Table 12 details possible key contacts for municipal, provincial and federal governments, as well as regulatory and permitting agencies, and Spuzzum's understanding of key and anticipated interests based on engagement to date and additional research undertaken during the development of the Engagement Plan. Given their role as process leaders, the EAO and MRB are not listed in the following table.

Table 12: Interested (municipal, provincial and federal) government agencies

Category	Government/agency	Possible contacts	Interest and rationale
Emergency medical service provider	BC Emergency Health Services & BC Ambulance Service	Leanne Heppel, Executive VP and Chief Ambulance Officer Jennie Helmer, Chief Operations Officer	Spuzzum anticipates the organization will be a key partner in the development of the resort given their role in providing emergency medical response across the province.
Crown Corporation	BC Hydro	As per MRB-led referral contacts	Spuzzum's engagement with BC Hydro on electrical servicing for the Project is ongoing through the MRB-led process.
Provincial agency	Ministry of Environment and Parks, BC Parks	As per MRB-led referral contacts	Spuzzum's engagement with BC Parks on possible impacts to nearby resorts and possible impact of the proposed emergency access route is ongoing through the MRB-led process.
Provincial agency	Recreational Sites and Trails BC	Contact TBD	Spuzzum anticipates the organization can enhance our understanding of current uses of this area and validate possible interest groups.
Federal department	Environment and Climate Change Canada	As per MRB-led referral contacts	Spuzzum's engagement with representatives on potential impacts to spotted owl habitat and mitigations is ongoing as part of the MRB-led process.
Local government	City of Chilliwack	Ken Popove, Mayor Council	One of the Project's primary service centres; Spuzzum will engage with Mayor and Council throughout the resort's development.
Local government	City of Merritt	Michael Goetz, Mayor Council	One of the Project's primary service centres; Spuzzum will engage with Mayor and Council throughout the resort's development.
Crown Corporation	Destination BC	Richard Porges, President and CEO Scott Fraser, Chair	Spuzzum anticipates the organization can offer a connection to local tourism operators in the area and share expertise to inform the resort's development.
Crown Corporation	Indigenous Tourism BC	Lori Simcox, Director for the Vancouver, Coast and Mountains Region	Spuzzum anticipates the organization can offer a connection to local tourism operators in the area and share expertise to inform the resort's development.
Local government	District of Hope	Victor Smith, Mayor Council	As a one of the Project's primary service centres, Spuzzum will continue to engage with Mayor and Council throughout the resort's development.
Health authority	Fraser Health Authority	Contact TBD	Spuzzum will work closely with the health authority as we plan to meet the requirements for community-based health services in the resort area.

Category	Government/agency	Possible contacts	Interest and rationale
Local government	FVRD	Jennifer Kinneman, Chief Administrative Officer	Spuzzum will continue to collaborate with the FVRD to understand governance options that have an Indigenous interest.
Provincial elected officials	Members of the Legislative Assembly	Jackie Tegart, Fraser Nicola Kelli Paddon, Chilliwack-Cultus Lake Dan Coulter, Chilliwack North	Spuzzum understands the resort touches on possible areas of responsibility for local MLAs, such as regional development, economic growth and infrastructure development.
Provincial ministry	Ministry of Forests	As per MRB-led referral contacts	Spuzzum's engagement with the Ministry on archaeology, land constraints and land tenures is ongoing through the MRB-led process.
Provincial ministry	Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation	Christine Boyle, Minister Tom McCarthy, Deputy Minister Jessica Wood (Si Sityaawks), Deputy Minister	Spuzzum anticipates the Ministry may be interested in the Project given its focus on building relationships with Indigenous communities.
Provincial ministry	Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals	As per MRB-led referral contacts	Spuzzum's engagement with the Ministry on mineral claims in the area is ongoing through the MRB-led process.
Provincial ministry	MOTT (including South Coast and Southern Interior Regions)	As per MRB-led referral contacts	Spuzzum's engagement with the Ministry on access routes to the Project site is ongoing through the MRB-led process.
Police service	Royal Canadian Mountain Police, Upper Fraser Valley Regional Detachment	Superintendent (contact TBD)	Given the detachment's coverage area, Spuzzum anticipates future engagement on law, enforcement and policing services.
Provincial ministry	WLRS, South Coast Region	As per MRB-led referral contacts	Spuzzum's engagement with the Ministry on road access and construction, environmental assessment and related topics is ongoing through the MRB-led process.

During the EA process, Spuzzum will continue to engage with these groups, in line with our understanding of their interests, rights and role in regulatory approvals, as well as the Province's Guide to Consensus-Seeking under the EA (2018) and the Early Engagement Policy (2024). We will continue to update and expand this table to account for any new/additional contacts, including Crown Corporations, local and regional community service organizations, emergency respondents and local, municipal, provincial and federal (if applicable) government representatives, as we continue to engage.

8.3 Relevant government processes or plans

Table 13 outlines policies, strategies, guidelines and agreements that the Government of Canada or BC have implemented or are party to, as well as those the Project is in alignment with either directly or indirectly (further discussed in the IPD).

Table 13: Relevant government processes or plans

Government entity	Relevant process/plan
B.C. Mountain Resorts Branch	All Seasons Resort Policy
Fraser Valley Regional District	Fraser Valley Future 2050 – Regional Growth Strategy
Government of Canada	2030 Emissions Reduction Plan A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy Plan 2016 Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Energy Growth and Climate Change
Environment and Climate Change Canada	Federal Sustainability Development Strategy (2022 – 2026)
B.C. Ministry of Environment and Parks	Environmental Mitigation Policy for BC BC Water Quality Guidelines

8.4 Additional planned engagement

In addition to considering comments to date, Spuzzum First Nation understands that several municipal plans and processes will be relevant to our ongoing planning, including any applicable OCPs, zoning bylaws, land use plans, transportation plans, water quality plans, stormwater management plans, natural resource conservation plans, etc. These will all be completed during appropriate phases of the Project, whether through the EA process, the MRB process or our own community decision-making process. We will develop and/or contribute to these plans and processes in accordance with regulatory requirements and in line with Indigenous Knowledge, including our own. See the IPD for more details on studies to be conducted.

We will continue to maintain all relevant government representatives outlined in section 8.2 informed throughout the EA, MRB and any applicable processes by sharing regular updates and information on how feedback has been incorporated into engagement and Project planning and design.

During Early Engagement, we will conduct regular meetings and correspondence as preferred by each organization and form a **Spuzzum-led advisory panel**. The panel will include members of relevant government agencies, volunteer scientists, cultural leaders and tourism and economic development experts and create opportunities for proactive collaboration on matters of mutual interests so that Project technical challenges are discussed and considered holistically, with a view to identify creative Project refinements that can be formally brought forward to the EA process when appropriate. This Project-led panel will be in addition to any EAO-led technical advisory committee (TAC) and will interface with the TAC when applicable.

Anticipated opportunities to support engagement with municipal, provincial and federal governments beyond Early Engagement may include opportunities to review and provide feedback on EA deliverables (e.g., DPD, Engagement Plan), invitation to participate in public engagement activities (e.g., open houses, virtual information session), small group meetings (in-person or virtual) and regular information-sharing via formal written and/or email correspondence, council presentations, etc.

If Spuzzum First Nation's request for exemption is not granted, we will undertake engagement with municipal, provincial and federal governments in accordance with the requirements of the EAO and MRB processes as well as any other applicable regulatory processes. The Engagement Plan would be updated during each phase of engagement to outline details.

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