

# NEWS RELEASE

March 23, 2025

## SPLATSIN TE SECWPEMCÚL'ECW FLAG RAISED AT ENDERBY RCMP DETACHMENT

**Initiative represents an important step forward in reconciliation and community recognition.**

**ENDERBY, BC** – In a significant act of reconciliation and community recognition, the Splatstin te Secwepemcúl'ecw flag was raised at the Enderby RCMP detachment on Tuesday, March 11, 2025. The flag now stands as a symbol of the RCMP's commitment to reconciliation and recognition of the Splatstin people as an integral part of the community they serve.

The event brought together community leaders, Splatstin Band Members, and RCMP representatives to mark this important occasion. **Bart Thomas**, a Splatstin Band Member, provided a traditional blessing for the RCMP detachment before the flag was raised. **Elder Randy Williams** addressed the gathering, sharing his thoughts on the significance of the flag raising. **Elder Adele Thomas** also spoke at the event, offering her perspective on reconciliation and community unity.



*From L to R: Splatstin Band Member Bart Thomas conducts a traditional blessing, Splatstin Elder Randy Williams, and Splatstin Elder Adele Thomas.*

In addition, **Splatstin Kukpi7 (Chief) Michael Christian** participated in the ceremony, alongside **RCMP Officer Mike Wasylenki**, the Indigenous Liaison Officer for the Enderby Detachment.

“Raising the Splatstin te Secwepemcúl’ecw flag at the Enderby RCMP detachment marks a historic moment in reconciliation,” stated **Kukpi7 Michael Christian**. “It not only honours the presence of the Splatstin people in this region but also symbolizes a shared commitment to working together with mutual respect and understanding. As we look toward the future, it’s vital that we continue building strong partnerships between Splatstin and the RCMP to create a better, more united community for all.”



*Left: Kukpi7 Michael Christian and RCMP Indigenous Liaison Officer Mike Wasylenki raise the Secwepemcúl’ecw flag.  
Right: The flag proudly flies high over the Enderby RCMP detachment.*

**Allysa Hopkins, RDNO Director for Area F**, also underscored the importance of the event: “Raising this flag is an act of recognition and respect for the Splatstin First Nations, acknowledging their rooted history and enduring contributions. It symbolizes our dedication to healing, understanding, and building a future where all North Okanagan communities thrive together.”



*Kukpi7 Michael Christian and Allysa Hopkins, RDNO Director for Area F, addressed the crowd in attendance.*



The installation of the new flagpole, now proudly displaying the Splatstsin te Secwepemcúl'ecw flag, was completed by Splatstsin Construction Services, a division of Splatstsin Development Corporation (SDC), in January 2025. The project took four days, ensuring ample time for the concrete base to properly set and cure.

**SDC CEO Grahame Go** spoke to the important contribution of Splatstsin Construction Services in realizing this vision: "It was an honour for Splatstsin Construction Services to install this flagpole as part of a broader effort toward reconciliation. Through projects like these, we are not only strengthening infrastructure but also reinforcing our commitment to recognizing Indigenous history and presence in our shared communities."



*RCMP Indigenous Liaison Mike Wasylenki and SDC CEO Grahame Go; On the right, the newly raised Splatstsin te Secwepemcúl'ecw flag flies proudly alongside the Canadian flag.*

This flag raising is an important step forward, with all parties grateful to have the Splatstsin te Secwepemcúl'ecw flag now fluttering atop the Enderby RCMP detachment. It serves as a reminder of the shared commitment to reconciliation and strengthens the ongoing efforts to build meaningful, respectful relationships between the RCMP and the Splatstsin people.

**For media inquiries, please contact:**

Ken Barnes, Communications Specialist  
Splatstsin te Secwépemc  
(250) 801-8256 | [ken.barnes@splatstsin.ca](mailto:ken.barnes@splatstsin.ca)