

LOWER MAINLAND COMMUNITY-TO-COMMUNITY FORUM

14 September 2000
Burnaby, British Columbia

"Our Communities Together"

*Together, Our Communities:
touch the past, hear the present, and see the future*

*And Together, in this Forum, we seek to:
understand and respect our differences,
identify current and common issues, and
develop co-operative solutions.*

Summary of Proceedings

Special Thanks From the Steering Committee

The Steering Committee would like to extend their sincere appreciation to all those who attended the Lower Mainland Community-to-Community Forum. We would like to thank the participants for giving of their time and energy and for exhibiting the courage to break new ground by engaging in frank discussions of issues vitally important to our respective communities.

The objective of this forum - the first of its kind in the Lower Mainland - was to bring together people with an interest in enhancing and building stronger relations between Local Governments and First Nations. The attendance and active participation at the forum by numerous individuals from Local Government and First Nation circles, and from related organizations, demonstrated the commitment of our community leaders to our shared future and ensured that this forum was successful in achieving its objectives.

The Steering Community would also like to express their appreciation to the Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee, the Tsleil-Waututh Nation and the Lower Mainland Municipal Association for their vision and recognition of the importance of the Lower Mainland Community-to-Community Forum, and for ensuring the Steering Committee had the necessary support and resources to organize this event. Finally, the Steering Committee would like to thank the Union of BC Municipalities for providing the funding necessary to host this unique event.

Sincerely,

David Didluck
Marilyn Van Bibber
Cameron Thorn
Mel Kositsky

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BACKGROUND

Introduction

The Lower Mainland Community to Community Forum (LMCCF) was jointly organized and implemented by three co-hosts: Tseil-Waututh Nation (TWN), Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee (LMTAC), and the Lower Mainland Municipal Association (LMMA). The LMCCF was the first, participant-driven event of its kind in the region to actively encourage direct dialogue between area First Nations and local community officials and leaders.

The LMCCF touched not only on treaty-related issues but also on many other areas of common concern for both First Nation and local governments alike. This LMCCF provided a unique opportunity for participants to exchange views, identify interests and discuss options for treaty and non-treaty approaches to issues of concern in the province's most urbanized area.

The LMCCF was successful largely due to all the people who took time from their busy schedules to come and participate in the discussions. Throughout the day, both in the group sessions and in smaller informal groups, there was a wide array of discussion. There were agreements and disagreements on issues and there was, at the end of the day, a sense that a big step towards a new relationship had occurred. Success was also due, in part, to the efforts put in behind the scenes by the three parties co-hosting this event. Numerous work planning sessions occurred between staff to organize this event. The co-hosts also organized a pre-Forum session to co-develop the theme for the event as well as one follow-up session to debrief the outcomes and next steps recommended by the LMCCF participants. It was the intention that this LMCCF will be the first of several subsequent community to community events. The direction and organization of these future forums will depend largely on the participant feedback from this September 2000 LMCCF.

Process

The format chosen for the LMCCF is "Open Space Technology" - an innovative, exciting participant-driven approach to group meetings. While the technology does not permit the development of pre-determined session outcomes, discussions at the LMCCF were guided by a broad theme relating to intergovernmental relations and community building, with specific emphasis on how Local Governments and First Nations interact in an urban environment with respect to key issues such as land use planning, servicing, and dispute resolution. Future refinement of the theme occurred during the pre-Forum session of the co-hosts in late July.

At the LMCC Forum, participants recorded their discussions on specific 'report forms' which are included in this summary of proceedings.

What Made This Gathering Different?

Open Space Technology is a meeting process that has been used successfully in a wide variety of circumstances to deal with issues of high complexity involving a diverse group of participants. It creates the appropriate structures, relationships and responsibilities for future action on those issues.

Typically, Open Space promises the following:

- Every single issue that anybody cares about enough to raise will be "on the table".
- All issues will receive as much discussion as people care to give them.
- All discussion will be captured in a book, and made available to the participants.
- All issues will be prioritized.
- Related issues will be converged.
- Responsibility will be taken for next step actions.

During a one day Open Space meeting there is often not enough time to adequately prioritize and converge related issues. It is for this reason that the co-hosts have organized a follow-up session to debrief the outcomes and next steps recommended by participants.

For more information about Open Space Technology, visit the following websites:

- www.openspacetechnology.com
- www.tmn.com/openspace/index.html

How the Process of an Open Space Meeting Works

Open Space operates under four principles and one law, as follows:

- Whoever comes are the right people
- Whatever happens is the only thing that could have happened.
- When it starts is the right time
- When it's over it's over

The Law is known as the Law of Two Feet:

If you find yourself in a situation where you are not contributing or learning, move somewhere where you can.

The four principles and the law work to create a powerful event motivated by the passion and bounded by the responsibility of the participants. The goal of an Open Space meeting is to create time and space for people to engage deeply and creatively around issues of concern to them. The agenda is set by people with the power and desire to see it through, and typically, Open Space meetings result in transformative experiences for the individuals and groups involved.

The meeting room was prepared for Open Space with a circle of chairs in the middle, letters or numbers around the room to indicate meeting locations, a blank wall that will become the agenda and a news wall for recording and posting the results of the dialogue sessions.

Essentially an Open Space meeting proceeds along the following process:

- Group convenes in a circle and is welcomed by the sponsor. The facilitator provides an overview of the process and explains how it works.
- Facilitator invites people with issues of concern to come into the circle, write the issue on a piece of quarter size flip chart paper and announce it to the group. These people are “convenors.”
- The convenor places their paper on the wall and chooses a time and a place to meet. This process continues until there are no more agenda items.
- The group then breaks up and heads to the agenda wall, by now covered with a variety of sessions. Participants take note of the time and place for sessions they want to be involved in.
- Dialogue sessions convene for the balance of the meeting. Recorders determined by each group capture the important points and post the reports on the news wall. All of these reports will be rolled into one document by the end of the meeting.
- Following a closing or a break, the group moves into convergence, a process that takes the issues that have been discussed and attaches action plans to them to “get them out of the room.”
- The group then finishes the meeting with a closing circle where people are invited to share comments, insights, and commitments arising from the process.

OPENING REMARKS

BY CHIEF LEONARD GEORGE

Leonard started out by thanking Leah George for standing up and giving her welcoming speech in the Halkomelem language. He also thanked everyone for coming to this meeting.

He proceeded to tell this story about a young man, with three young children getting on a public transit bus. There was an older gentleman sitting near the front of the bus that was observing this man and his children as they boarded the bus. The young man sits down and slowly closes his eyes and falls asleep. The children were being quite rambunctious and bumping and brushing other passengers. The young man remained asleep. The older gentleman that had been observing this thinks to himself, "well isn't he going to say anything to his children?"

So this goes on for a while and the older gentleman notices that he isn't the only passenger getting quite annoyed with these children. He thinks to himself, "Well I'm going to say something to that father." So he proceeds to shake this young man until he is awake. The young man awakens and the older gentleman says, "Hey do you think you could say something to your children? They're running around and bumping into other people". The young man says, " Oh I'm sorry, I didn't realize, I'm so tired, their mother passed away last night." It was this information that caused the older gentleman to shift his way of thinking and give him a new paradigm to use with his interaction with the young man and his children. His attitude became one of understanding and tolerance.

It is that same shift in attitude that will need to take place here in order for all of us to work together. It may be that there is a huge natural disaster tomorrow and it maybe my hand lifting you, or your hand lifting me or one of my loved ones, out of the rubble. The point is, we have to think in a new paradigm because we may have to depend on each other and, who knows, that could be soon.

Having said that I would just like to thank everyone for coming out.

OPENING REMARKS

BY MAYOR DON BELL

Good morning fellow guests, elders, Chiefs, Mayors, and Councillors, I wish to welcome you to the Lower Mainland region's first Community-to-Community Forum. This is an historic day, and I am delighted to be co-hosting this event with my colleague and neighbour, Chief Leonard George from the Tsleil-Waututh Nation.

This Forum is about communication and about bringing communities together to identify and discuss issues that are important to us all. You are here because of the unique and important roles you play in your respective communities, and because you each possess the ability, determination and leadership to influence what happens in your community.

The format for today's discussions may be new to some of you. Today we will be meeting in "Open Space" - an unique meeting process that draws on the principles of inclusivity, passion, responsibility, collaboration and respect. Chief George and I have NOT pre-determined today's agenda. With the assistance of our facilitator, you will set the agenda and objectives for this event, and Chris will tell you more about this process a little later.

We all live in the province's most urbanized and populated region, rich with heritage, and possessing much potential. The theme we have chosen to help frame our discussions today reflects this reality, because: Together, Our Communities: touch the past, hear the present, and see the future; And Together, in this Forum, we seek to: understand and respect our differences, identify current and common issues, and develop co-operative solutions.

As residents of the Lower Mainland, there are a multitude of issues which affect and impact our communities, from health and social well-being, to economic development and the environment. There are also many challenges before us; some that are very real and present, while others are rooted in the past. As today unfolds, I encourage you all to be realistic in the objectives you set out to accomplish, and be curious and respectful in your discussions. This Forum is the first time we have all collectively gathered in the Lower Mainland region to identify common issues and develop co-operative solutions, so I encourage you to use the opportunity to talk and listen, and to take time to meet your fellow community leaders. I am confident that there will be many more opportunities in the future to meet again to continue the discussions from today's gathering.

Finally, today's Forum would not be possible without the hardwork and dedication of those behind the scenes who made today a reality. I wish to extend special thanks to David Didluck, Marilyn Van Bibber, Cameron Thorn, and Councillor Mel Kositsky - our steering committee - for pulling together all the necessary resources to make this event possible. I also wish to thank the Union of BC Municipalities who provided us with the funding for the Forum.

Thank you all for being part of this historic event. I look forward to today's discussions.

SMALL GROUP REPORT FORMS

Topics for each small group session were set by the participants in a plenary circle. A convenor from each small group was designated as a recorder for the proceedings.

The following is a summary of the issues, suggestions and commitments discussed.

Session Title: Aboriginal Title

Convenor: Leonard George

Participants: Hal Weinberg, Bruce Milne, Debbie Miller, Ernie George, Brent Elliot, Jeanne Eddington, Richard George, Frank Clark-Jones, Tamara Little, Brenda Broughton, Leah George, Kirstie Pirie, David Didluck

Issues Raised:

1. Land ownership and First Nations; will First Nation lands be held in fee simple ownership?
2. Taxation and First Nation owned lands; how will First Nation owned lands affect the tax base of municipalities?
3. Lack of public education regarding Aboriginal Title and Treaties

Suggestions:

- More public information on aboriginal title, treaties and the impact of treaty settlements on land and taxes.

Commitment And Actions:

Session Title: BC Lands and Canada Lands

Convenor: Nolan Charles

**Participants: Jeanne Eddington, Robin Hicks, Jamie Ross,
Frank Clark-Jones, Kirstie Pirie**

Issues Raised:

1. BC Lands and treaty negotiations; lack of commitment from the governments of British Columbia and Canada to allow BC Lands to become subject to negotiation.
2. The treaty mandates of Canada and BC need to be more flexible.
3. “Sensationalism” of First Nation issues in the media.

Suggestions:

1. Allow for First Nation participation in development of Crown lands where feasible.
2. Create public awareness and inform the public that these lands ARE subject to negotiation.
3. Joint ventures where possible, community input required from all communities.
4. Creating awareness and opening the lines of communication with government.
5. First Nation’s partner with media group to ensure continuous coverage.

Commitment and Actions:

Session Title: Compatible Community Development

Convenor: Don Bell

Participants: Jeannie Eddington, Nolan Charles, Louella Hollington, Lisa Muri, Kim Baird, Robin Hicks, Marilyn Van Bibber, Leonard George

Issues Raised:

- First Nations face challenges which include lack of capacity and funding shortages.

Suggestions:

- Government to Government dialogue needed (local Governments and First Nations)
- Joint Planning committees
- Consultation Agreements (Protocol)

Commitment and Actions:

Session Title: Evolving New Treaty Mandates

Convenor: Doug Aberley

Participants: Chris Knight, Leah George, Doug Aberley, Taleetha Elliott, Terry Smith, Pam, Richard George, Ernie George, Janis Elkerton, Brenda Broughton, Leonard George, Brent Elliot, Marino Piombini

Issues Raised:

1. The limitations of the existing BC and Canada treaty mandates; new mandate need to be creative and flexible.
2. The Tsleil-Waututh variable interest model.
3. First Nations participation in the GVRD.

Suggestions:

A general discussion on “power” occurred. There was support for a ground-up process of decision-making and relationship building.

It was suggested that First Nations be given seats on the GVRD board. Chief George countered with the idea that the GVRD structure should change to allow First Nations – GVRD interactions at a higher level (i.e. government to government).

Commitment and Actions:

Session Title: Fish Conservation

Convenor: Louella Hollington

**Participants: Clarence Pennier, Mel Kositsky, Pam Tattersfield,
Richard George, Tom Blackbird**

Issues Raised:

1. Definition of conservation; should be clearly and universally defined.
2. Courts decisions and aboriginal rights to fish.
3. Protection of the fishing resource.
4. Commercial fisheries.
5. Damage to the marine life habitat; by marine activity, urban and industrial development.
6. Fish farms.

Suggestions:

Forward the following seven recommendations to the LMTAC, FMC Aboriginal Committee, UBCM, Assembly of First Nations and area First Nation offices:

1. Treaty should bring certainty and have a dispute resolution process ensconced in the treaty.
2. Fishing times should be staggered to allow for fish to continue up the river.
3. Net length and depth should be limited in the Fraser River to give fish a fighting chance to get up river. The net should not cover up more than 50% of the river.
4. Resorts and fishing guides should be regulated as to the amount of people who can come each year to fish.
5. Why not explore river ranches? (designed after the weir system).
6. First task is to identify the needs of First Nations (Bands) “for food purposes” and how many fish per day are needed, and identify the users of the resource (i.e. the bands that don’t fish but historically traded for fish).

7. The biggest step towards conservation is to limit the commercial and the sports fishery. Undoubtedly, we must also quit polluting and destroying our streams with urban development.

Commitment and Actions:

Forward the above 7 suggestions on Fish Conservation to the LMTAC, FCM Aboriginal Committee, UBCM, Assembly of First Nations and area First Nation Offices.

Session Title: Pre-Treaty Conditions

Convenor: Clarence Pennier

Participants: Pam Tattersfield, Marilyn Van Bibber, Kim Baird, Terry Smith

Issues Raised:

- Pre-conditions and treaty negotiations.

Suggestions:

- Establish working relationships to get the governments to change their pre-conditions on treaty negotiations.
- The Parties to treaty negotiations should work towards a common vision.

Commitments and Actions:

1. Have Community to Community sessions similar to this throughout the province.
2. Have a session with First Nations and the UBCM comparing information from all sessions.

Session Title: Relationship Building: How Do We Do This Now?

Convenor: Leah George-Wilson

Participants: Leanord George, Candace Gordon, Hal Weinberg, Ralph Drew, Lisa Muir, Cameron Thorn, Dennis Back, Don Bell, Iona Campagnolo, Doug Aberley, Tamara Little, Rick Beauchamp

Issues Raised:

- GVRD and First Nations' participation.

Suggestions:

- There is a need for basic understanding between the municipalities and First Nations.
- There is a need for cross cultural training.
- Cultural tourism may be the key to relationship building.

Commitment and Actions:

- Tsleil-Waututh to commit to meeting with Anmore and Belcarra.

Session Title: Reconciliation vs. Assimilation

Convenor: Kim Baird

**Participants: Leah George, Marilyn Van Bibber, Louella Hollington,
Brent Elliot, Hardy Staub, Jamie Ross, Iona Campagnolo,
Jamie Lamb, Lisa Muri**

Issues Raised:

1. Reconciliation relates to dealing with our past, and should include respect, recognition and acknowledgement.
2. There is a need for compensation and apology.

Suggestions:

1. Need for further dialogue to explore the concept of reconciliation.
2. Need further public education.
3. Need compensation and apology.
4. Look to global examples.
5. Look to Canadian examples (i.e. Japanese)
6. Aboriginal history should be included within the school curriculum.

Commitment and Actions:

Session Title: Tradition and Chaos

Convenor: Hal Weinberg

**Participants: Pam Tattersfield, Jeanne Eddington, Ron Riach, Kirstie Pirie,
Tom Blackbird, Marino Piombini, Richard George**

Issues Raised:

1. New Zealand Maori.
2. Future need for treaties.
3. Role of First Nations within local government.
4. Theories of traditions and chaos; chaos is that position between static and too much activity.

Suggestions:

1. Have a reserved seat in Provincial cabinet for a First Nations representative.
2. Treaties need to protect what is left before it's all taken away.

Commitment and Actions:

- Incorporate First Nations information sharing at LMTAC meetings.

Session Title: Treaty Process: What Does It Feel Like?

Convenor: Bruce Milne

Participants: Terry Smith, Ralph Drew, Leonard George, Frank Clark-Jones, Robin Hicks, Janis Elkerton, Candace Gordon, Tamara Little, Nolan Charles, Clarence Pennier, Debbie Miller, Cameron Thorn, Mel Kositsky, David Didluck

Issues Raised:

1. Treaty process is frustrating, manipulative, contrived and unproductive.
2. There appear to be “false mandates” derived from where nobody knows.
3. Lack of involvement is the major flaw.

Suggestions:

- Education of the broader community.
- Open up the process and build local relations – “policies of restriction” need to be changed.

N.B. The group that planned the action steps was much smaller than the group that participated in the discussions.

Commitment and Actions:

- Organize quarterly meetings of Lower Mainland First Nations governments and local governments.

Session Title: Treaty process: What's its Purpose and How Will We Measure a Good Deal?

Convenor: Chris Knight

Participants: Marilyn Van Bibber, Chief Kim Baird, Janis Elkerton, Ernie George, Taleetha Elliot, David Didluck, Bruce Milne, Ron Riach, Jamie Ross, Barbara Der, Hardy Staub, Marino Piombini

Issues Raised:

1. Socio-economic sustainability.
2. Cultural sustainability.
3. Determining with whom we need to build relationships and how?
4. Resolve uncertainty.
5. Reconciliation.
6. Recognize the role that local people play (First Nation/local governments)
7. Understand where we came from (history), where we are (present), where we collectively want to go (future).

Suggestions:

1. Continue dialogue on objectives.
2. Develop and share views/indicators on socio-economic and cultural sustainability.

Commitment and Actions:

NEXT STEPS

The Lower Mainland Community-to-Community Forum was notable in a number of aspects. For one, it was the first such event of its kind in the Lower Mainland and successfully brought together representatives from various Local Government and First Nation communities to discuss issues of mutual interest. Secondly, the participants also indicated a desire to hold future meetings and events -- both at the regional and community level -- in order to continue to strengthen the parties' relationship.

While the first Community-to-Community Forum may be regarded as a success, it is important to recognize that relationship building is an incremental and ongoing process that entails nurturing and the building of trust before substantive or concrete actions are achieved. Accordingly, it should not come as a surprise that the outcomes of this first meeting centred more on relationship building than on specific future actions.

The comment was made that 80% of the benefit of this first Community-to-Community Forum was in building relationships and becoming familiar with one-another and, 20% of the benefit was in exploring future commitments and actions. This is not surprising considering that for many participants this event marked the first real exposure both to the topic of discussion and the open space model as a vehicle for those discussions.

Participants at the Lower Mainland Community-to-Community Forum did make the following specific commitments to:

- Forward the 7 suggestions on fish conservation to the LMTAC, FCM Aboriginal Committee, UBCM, Assembly of First Nations and area First Nation Offices.
- Have Community-to-Community sessions similar to this throughout the province.
- Have a session with First Nations and the UBCM comparing information from all Community-to-Community sessions across BC.
- Commit to organizing a meeting between Tsleil-Waututh and the Villages of Anmore and Belcarra.
- Incorporate First Nations information sharing at LMTAC meetings.
- Organize quarterly meetings of Lower Mainland First Nations and Local Governments.

Overall, participants indicated the need and the desire for Local Government and First Nation communities to build stronger relationships irrespective of the role of the Provincial and Federal governments or the ultimate success of the British Columbia Treaty Commission process. A phrase that has been often

stated in the past when considering the treaty process and one which was repeated again at the forum is, 'when the Federal and Provincial governments have returned back to Ottawa and Victoria, it is the neighbouring Local Government and First Nation communities that will need to work together to find practical and workable solutions to the issues they face.' This realization was a key theme raised by participants at the Forum.

The desire by participants to continue to build stronger relationships was nurtured by the growing recognition that Local Government and First Nation communities have much more in common - the building of healthy communities, providing services and amenities - than may have been previously realized.

Many participants concluded that the best and most low-risk approach to building relationships and embarking on specific actions or partnership arrangements would be through an incremental or step-by-step approach. Importantly, such partnerships would not be imposed through a top-down approach - i.e. the treaty process, or by senior governments - but rather be the product of discussions at the grassroots level between respective Local Governments and First Nations. Finally, it was envisioned that such incremental arrangements may occur over time as the parties continue to build their relationships and are able to better understand their respective needs and objectives.

The knowledge achieved and understandings reached during the Lower Mainland Community-to-Community Forum remind us that together, our communities touch the past, hear the present, and see the future, and that together, we seek to understand and respect our differences, identify current and common issues, and develop co-operative solutions.

RECORD OF ATTENDEES

Name	Jurisdiction/Organization
Chief Kim Baird	Tsawwassen First Nation
Chief Leonard George	Tsleil-Waututh First Nation
Nolan Charles	Musqueam Nation / Fraser Basin Council
Debbie Miller	Katzie First Nation
Tom Blackbird	Katzie First Nation
Clarence Martin Pennier	Sto:lo Nation
Ernest George	Tsleil-Waututh First Nation
Richard George	Tsleil-Waututh First Nation
Travis George	Tsleil-Waututh First Nation
Leah George-Wilson	Tsleil-Waututh First Nation
Marilyn Van Bibber	Tsleil-Waututh First Nation
Doug Aberley	Tsleil-Waututh First Nation
Calvin George	Tsleil-Waututh First Nation
Chris Knight	Tsleil-Waututh First Nation
Taleetha Elliott	Tsleil-Waututh First Nation
Mayor Don Bell	District of North Vancouver / LMTAC Chair
Councillor Lisa Muri	District of North Vancouver
Director Pam Tattersfield	Squamish Lillooet Regional District
Councillor Mel Kositsky	Township of Langley
Mayor Ralph Drew	Village of Belcarra
Mayor Bruce Milne	Sunshine Coast Regional District
Councillor Jeanne Eddington	City of Surrey
Mayor Brenda Broughton	Village of Lions Bay
Mayor Hardy Staub	Greater Vancouver Regional District
	City of White Rock
Councillor Janis Elkerton	District of Pitt Meadows
Councillor Jamie Ross	Village of Belcarra
Councillor Candace Gordon	District of Maple Ridge
Councillor Terry Smith	City of Langley
Councillor Louella Hollington	City of Coquitlam
Councillor Barbara Der	City of Burnaby
Mayor Hal Weinberg	Village of Anmore
David Didluck	Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee
Kirstie Pirie	Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee
Marino Piombini	Greater Vancouver Regional District
Frank Clark-Jones	Township of Langley
Ron Riach	District of Maple Ridge
Robin Hicks	City of Coquitlam
Cameron Thorn	District of North Vancouver
Dennis Back	District of North Vancouver
Brent Elliot	City of Vancouver
Tamara Little	Fraser Valley Treaty Advisory Committee
Jamie Lamb	Vancouver Port Authority
Iona Campagnolo	Fraser Basin Council
Chris Corrigan	Facilitator
Kamala Todd	Facilitator

MEDIA REPORT

COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY FORUM - 8PM-LEIGHTON-CKNW SEP 14 2000

60 First Nations and local government representatives from around the lower mainland have held their first ever "community to community forum"...which may eventually open the door to a landmark "urban treaty."

Forum Co-Chair, North Vancouver District Mayor Don Bell says delegates spent Thursday discussing issues that could eventually pave the way for something entirely new.

"What we're moving toward here is really the first big urban treaty, so we're breaking new ground as we go through."

Co-Chair Chief Leonard George of the Tsleil-Waututh First Nation says if land and resources are already allocated, business becomes the key.

"I think in time we're probably be involved in import and export, we already have our own taxation base, we're developing eco-tourism, cultural tourism."

Both men say the relaxed atmosphere of the forum opened their eyes to new solutions they hope to work on in the coming months.