

Update Bulletin

Reporting on recent
LMTAC Activities

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Highlights	1
Negotiation Updates	2 - 3
LMTAC Business	3
UBCM Community to Community Forums	3

Upcoming Public Board Meetings:

July 28, 2004

September 29, 2004*

* changed from September 22 to avoid
conflict with UBCM's annual convention

Looking for LMTAC
materials or documents?

Visit us at:

www.lmtac.bc.ca

**LOWER
MAINLAND
TREATY
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

*LMTAC coordinates and
represents the collective
interests of local government,
and through them their
constituents, in defining and
building relationships
between First Nations and
other orders of government.*

HIGHLIGHTS

TSAWWASSEN TREATY TABLE INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

The Parties - Tsawwassen First Nation, BC Treaty Negotiations Office and the Federal Treaty Negotiation Office - at the Tsawwassen table committed to support development of intergovernmental relationships in part by establishing a Tsawwassen Intergovernmental Relations Technical Working Group (IGRTWG) to address First Nation/local government matters. In particular, the workshops were intended to exchange technical information on the following topic areas: Planning and Land Use Regulation, Local Governance and the GVRD, Services and Finances.

In addition to the Parties, invited participants to this working group included representatives from LMTAC, GVRD, and the Corporation of Delta. Using funding provided by British Columbia, LMTAC contracted the services of Sussex Consultants Ltd. to research and compile local government material.

Since the inaugural meeting of the Tsawwassen IGRTWG in February 2004, three workshops were held. These workshops provided a valuable opportunity to exchange information and address questions by all of the participants.

Subsequently, the related reports and presentation material prepared by Sussex Consultants Ltd have been circulated to all LMTAC member jurisdictions and are now also posted on LMTAC's web site. These materials form not only an important compilation of documents for use by the Tsawwassen table, but for all treaty tables in the area.

LMTAC PRESENTATION TO THE LMMA AGM

On May 13, Councillor Candace Gordon, LMTAC Vice Chair, provided delegates to the Lower Mainland Municipal Association (LMMA) Annual General Meeting with an update on treaty negotiations in the Lower Mainland. This annual update provides an opportunity to share timely information to local government representatives from the Lower Mainland area. LMTAC staff was on hand with the LMTAC display board to offer additional information.

LMTAC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

April 28th

In addition to discussing updates at treaty tables with provincial negotiators, Alison McNeil, Senior Policy Analyst, Union of BC Municipalities, provided members with highlights of recent UBCM projects and priorities. See UBCM's web site (www.civiconet.bc.ca) for further details.

May 26th

Members received updates to recent policy developments regarding the Agricultural Land Reserve and Fisheries. Also, members endorsed in principle the Briefing Note related to the *Agricultural Land Reserve*.

There was no LMTAC board meeting held in June.

NEGOTIATION UPDATES

Katzie Table (Stage 4)

Parties at the Katzie table are steadily working on Agreement in Principle negotiations by continuing to meet approximately two days each month.

The table has concentrated efforts on drafting joint principles, interest checklists and comparison charts on the following five Agreement-in-Principle topics: environmental management; culture & heritage; wildlife; migratory birds; and parks & protected areas. Parties agreed to begin a process of translating interest papers into draft AIP chapters by the end of 2004. The table also received approval to proceed with two Treaty Related Measures. One relates to Culture and Heritage and will build upon intergovernmental relations, while the other relates to back-country recreational tenures. The table is also considering Federal and Provincial funding possibilities for forestry and tourism proposals.

In April, the Katzie table initiated preliminary discussions on governance and expressed an interest to participate in discussions for establishing intergovernmental relations between First Nations and the GVRD. Parties also initiated a review of the following AIP process-related chapters: amendment; approval of the AIP; *Indian Act* transition; implementation; dispute resolution; ratification of the Final Agreement; and eligibility and enrolment. Katzie is currently developing interest papers related to Forest Resources and Fisheries that are anticipated to be released by the end of November 2004.

The next public Main Table Working Group meetings are scheduled: July 8-9 and September 9 -10. All meetings are open to the public and are usually held at the Katzie Band Office in Pitt Meadows.

Councillor Candace Gordon is the LMTAC representative to the Katzie negotiations.

This Bulletin provides a general overview of recent activities and major issues dealt with by LMTAC representatives. It is not intended to reflect all of the issues before the Committee. Any opinions expressed herein are solely of LMTAC.

Musqueam Table (Stage 3)

Since January 2003, the Parties have met monthly towards concluding a Framework Agreement and agreed to add the wording on compensation to the draft. The Agreement was subsequently supported by the Musqueam community members and ratified on November 18, 2003.

Following, on December 17, 2003, the Parties initialed the Framework Agreement and wait official signing of the agreement prior to commencing Agreement in Principle (AIP) negotiations.

Councillor Harold Steves is the LMTAC representative to the Musqueam negotiations.

Squamish Table (Stage 3)

In 2000, treaty negotiators at the Squamish table recommended a draft Framework Agreement for approval by their Principals. Since that time, no further negotiation activity has occurred.

Meanwhile, the Squamish Nation has been focused on initiatives outside the treaty process, including various commercial activities, an agreement with BC Rail and BC to co-mange the Squamish River Estuary, development and endorsement of the Squamish Nation Land Use Plan and co-hosting a Community-to-Community forum with the District of Squamish.

The Squamish Nation leadership is currently seeking the community's endorsement of a multi-year activity plan for all their business and community activities, including treaty negotiations.

Councillor Corinne Lonsdale is the LMTAC representative to the Squamish negotiations.

Tsawwassen Table (Stage 4)

The Tsawwassen Agreement in Principle (AIP) was ratified by all three Principals at the public signing ceremony on March 15, 2004. Since then, the Parties continue with Final Agreement negotiations and have expressed a tripartite goal of reaching a draft Final Agreement by the end of 2004.

Councillor Harold Steves is the LMTAC representative to the Tsawwassen negotiations.

Tsleil Waututh Table (Stage 4)

Beginning in January 2004, the Parties committed to meet for two days each month. Discussions since then have focused on Tsleil Waututh Nation (TWN) urban and rural land interests, considered key issues to be addressed in order to reach a negotiated treaty settlement. Parties have also explored general interests in forest resources and particular interests pertaining to the Indian Arm Watershed. TWN also identified further interests related to aquaculture opportunities, small hydro-electric projects, and a back-country recreational tenure.

On June 21, National Aboriginal Day, Geoff Plant, Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Treaty Negotiations, and George Abbott, Minister of Sustainable Resource Management, joined Tsleil-Waututh Chief Maureen Thomas at Cates Park/Whey-ah-Wichen in North Vancouver to launch the "Honouring our Past" poster and encourage First Nations to work with government to reintroduce aboriginal place names to B.C. The Tsleil-Waututh First Nation and District of North Vancouver signed a protocol agreement in 2001 to co-manage the park, with a focus on recognizing its historical and recreational significance to the First Nation and the municipality. Through funding a Treaty Related Measure, BC and Canada committed to support continued co-management of the park and to develop further intergovernmental relations.

Councillor Jean Ferguson is the LMTAC representative to the Tsleil-Waututh negotiations.

LMTAC BUSINESS

Review of LMTAC First Principles

At the March board meeting, members endorsed an action plan to review and build upon the committee's established First Principles. The first part was to request staff to proceed with background briefing notes on four specific topic areas which, based on discussions at the Tsawwassen treaty table, required elaboration. By the July board meeting three of these briefing notes will be finalized.

The second part of the plan entailed collecting comments from each member jurisdiction on the existing and potentially new principles to prepare for a special meeting. The deadline to receive comments was June 28 and staff will review and compile the comments over the summer in preparation for a future meeting.

Second edition of *Building Relations with First Nations; A Handbook for Local Government*

LMTAC and UBCM staff are working jointly to prepare a second edition of the Handbook created and circulated by LMTAC in 2003. This revised edition will incorporate more examples of agreements between local governments and First Nations. In addition, the primary audience will be expanded for the second version to include all local governments within BC. LMTAC's Technical and Strategic Working Group will be involved in preparing this updated version.

UBCM Governance Technical Team

LMTAC staff continues to participate along with the GVRD and the Corporation of Delta regarding the Tsawwassen table on the UBCM Governance Technical Team. UBCM facilitated meetings with local governments affected by Final Agreement negotiation tables with the purpose of preparing a final report with recommendations to present to the province.

Finance and Administration Sub Committee (FASC)

The audit of LMTAC's 2003 statement of revenues and recoveries is complete and will be distributed to members in the July board package.

At the July meeting, FASC members will review 2005 budget assumptions drafted over the past several months for endorsement at the July board meeting.

UBCM COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY FORUM --- FUNDING AVAILABLE ---

LMTAC encourages its member jurisdictions to take advantage of the Community to Community Forum funds available through UBCM to co-organize an event with one or more neighbouring First Nations. Both first time and repeat applicants are welcome.

Applications kits are available on UBCM's web site (www.civinet.bc.ca).

For more information on the Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee, please contact LMTAC at:
4th Floor, 4330 Kingsway, Burnaby, BC, V5H 4G8
Tel: (604) 451-6179 Fax: (604) 436-6860
E-mail: lmjac.lmtac@gvrd.bc.ca