

# Update Bulletin

Reporting on recent  
LMTAC Activities

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### Upcoming Public Board Meetings:

February 22, 2006 (Cancelled)  
March 22, 2006

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**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

### LMTAC Inaugural Board Meeting and Election Results

At the January 25<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Board meeting, LMTAC acclaimed Mayor Ralph Drew as Chair for the fourth consecutive year. Councillor Corinne Lonsdale was acclaimed as the new LMTAC Vice Chair in addition to her roles as Chair of the Finance and Administrative Sub-Committee and Squamish Table Representative. (*Please refer to page 2 for complete coverage of election results*)

### LMTAC 2006 Orientation/ Refresher Session

LMTAC hosted its 2006 Orientation/Refresher Session on February 1<sup>st</sup> for both new and returning members and special invitations were extended to each of LMTAC's twenty-three member Councils and three regional district Boards (Great Vancouver, Sunshine Coast and Squamish-Lillooet) and the Councils. We are pleased to report a record-breaking turnout for this annual event and would like to acknowledge the following guest presenters who made this year such a success: Bob Joseph of Indigenous Corporate Training; Mike Furey, Assistant Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation; and BC Treaty Commissioners Mike Harcourt and Jody Wilson.

### Study Released on the Fiscal Impacts of Treaty Settlement Lands

In November 2005, an independent study jointly commissioned by the Union of BC Municipalities, the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and the Ministry of Community Services was released in December 2005. The final report, *Treaty Settlement Land: The Fiscal Impacts on Local Government*, explores the concerns of local governments and First Nations with respect to the creation of Treaty Settlement Lands (TSL) and the fiscal impacts that may result from jurisdictional changes.

The report suggests that service arrangements may be the most effective means of mitigating any adverse fiscal impacts, and the consultant offers the following three alternative approaches to address local government concerns: parties work out a service agreement when one is needed, set the framework at the time of treaty, or share taxing jurisdiction until a service agreement is in place.

### New Federal Legislation

Prior to its dissolution in November, Parliament passed the *First Nations Commercial and Industrial Development Act*. This enabling legislation is intended to address existing environmental regulation gaps of reserve industrial/commercial development through replication of well established provincial regulatory regimes. The Act was developed in partnership with five First Nations, including the Squamish Nation.

The *First Nations Fiscal and Statistical Management Act*, passed in spring 2005, is scheduled to become law in April 2006. Similar to the Municipal Finance Authority, this legislation will assist with raising funds for infrastructure development through the creation of four new independent bodies: *First Nations Fiscal Management Board*, to establish fiscal management standards; *First Nations Tax Commission*, to review local revenue laws; *First Nations Finance Authority*, to secure long term financing for infrastructure development; and the *First Nations Statistical Institute*.

## LMTAC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006

Following an introduction of new members and a welcome to those who returned, the LMTAC Chair provided the Board with an overview of 2005 workplan achievements and those proposed for 2006.

In advance of a special presentation by the Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, on the Province's *New Relationship* mandate, the LMTAC Board proceeded with annual election procedures. Results are as follows:

### LMTAC 2006 ELECTION RESULTS

#### Executive Committee

**Chair** Mayor Ralph Drew (Greater Vancouver RD)  
**Vice Chair** Councillor Corinne Lonsdale (Squamish)

#### *Table Representatives*

**Tsawwassen:** Councillor Harold Steves (Richmond)  
**Musqueam:** Councillor Jean Ferguson (West Vancouver)  
**Squamish:** Councillor Corinne Lonsdale (Squamish)  
**Tsleil-Waututh:** Councillor Alan Nixon (Dist. of North Van.)  
**Katzie:** Councillor Mel Kositsky (Township of Langley)

#### **At Large Members**

Councillor Lisa Barrett (Bowen Island Municipality)  
Councillor Mary-Wade Anderson (White Rock)

#### **Regional District Representatives:**

Greater Vancouver Mayor Ralph Drew  
Squamish Lillooet Director John Turner  
Sunshine Coast Mayor Barry Janyk

#### Finance and Organizational Sub Committee (FOSC)

**Chair** Councillor Corinne Lonsdale (Squamish)  
**Vice Chair** Director John Turner (Squamish-Lillooet RD)

#### **At Large Members**

Councillor Colin Richardson (Belcarra)  
Councillor Bob Osterman (New Westminster)  
Councillor Ted Schaffer (City of Langley)

#### **Ex-Officio Member (LMTAC Chair)**

Mayor Ralph Drew (Greater Vancouver RD)

#### LMTAC Observer to Fraser Valley TAC

Councillor Mel Kositsky (Township of Langley)

## NEGOTIATION UPDATES

### Katzie Table (Stage 4)

Parties at Katzie continue to meet an average of two days a month, and recently initiated discussion on Tax and Fiscal Relations Chapters. Parties agreed to establish a Fiscal Working Group to further develop these chapters. At its February 13-14 meetings, the Table will be addressing topics related to the Lands Chapter, such as the diking authority and land title registry,

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for: March 14-15. All meetings are open to the public and are usually held at the Katzie Band Office in Pitt Meadows.

***Councillor Mel Kositsky is the LMTAC representative to the Katzie negotiations.***

### Musqueam Table (Stage 4)

On April 4, 2005, a Framework Agreement was officially ratified by Parties during a special ceremony at the Musqueam Reserve; effectively moving the table into stage 4 AIP negotiations. The table is currently negotiating a confidentiality protocol and developing an AIP workplan.

***Councillor Jean Ferguson is the LMTAC representative to the Musqueam negotiations.***

### Squamish Table (Stage 3)

Although no treaty table activity has occurred since 2000, the Squamish Nation has been active in pursuing non-treaty agreements such as those linked the 2010 Winter Olympics and the purchase of a tree farming licence for 218,000 hectares; representing approximately one-third of its traditional territory.

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

### Tsawwassen Table (Stage 5)

Following the signing of an Agreement in Principle in 2004, the table continues with Final Agreement negotiations. In an effort to reinvigorate negotiations, Parties are currently exploring ways to address outstanding issues involving lands, resources, fiscal/tax, governance, servicing and general provisions. Parties continue to work towards a tripartite goal of reaching a Final Agreement by the end of 2006.

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

## Tsleil-Waututh Table (Stage 4)

The Tsleil-Waututh Nation made progress at the negotiation table in 2005 with the establishment two Treaty Related Measures (TRMs). The first relates to inter-governmental relations, while the second is a land status TRM. Both are anticipated to be complete by the end of the year.

*Councillor Alan Nixon is the LMTAC representative to the Tsleil-Waututh negotiations.*

## LMTAC BUSINESS

### Revised Considerations Paper and First Principles Released

Following the completion of LMTAC's First Principle Review in October, the LMTAC Board endorsed a revised *Considerations* paper on November 23 and recommended its release. Copies are available at [www.lmtac.bc.ca](http://www.lmtac.bc.ca).

### Proposed Lower Mainland Round Table on First Nation – Local Government Relations

In July 2005, the LMTAC Board discussed and endorsed a proposal to establish a *Lower Mainland Round Table on First Nation – Local Government Relations*. This proposal was shared with the BC Treaty Commission (BCTC) to request their assistance with facilitating this forum and encouraging funding support by senior governments. The BCTC responded positively to LMTAC's request and is working to facilitate the development of this proposal with area First Nations. Following, the establishment of a steering committee is envisioned with the potential of hosting the first *Round Table* session in early 2006.

### Finance and Administration Sub Committee (FASC)

The first meeting of the newly elected Finance and Administration Sub-Committee (FASC) is scheduled for February 15<sup>th</sup>. As per its Terms of Reference, FASC facilitates discussion of LMTAC budget, financial, staffing, organizational, and communication issues.

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.

## Technical and Strategic Working Group (TSWG)

Following the joint GVRD Regional Administrative Advisory Committee (RAAC)/LMTAC governance workshop on October 26, 2005, LMTAC and GVRD staff initiated work on the development of a servicing discussion paper to address RAAC's recommendation to develop principles and a regional approach to First Nations service agreements.

LMTAC, through the TSWG, initiated work in November 2005 to identify principles for local governments to consider when entering into service arrangements with neighbouring First Nation governments. Further, members also reviewed existing service agreements from around the province to begin to identify sample provisions and clauses that may be of interest.

TSWG is scheduled to meet on March 9<sup>th</sup> for a final review of the draft servicing discussion paper before submitting it to RAAC for its consideration.

Upon completion of the discussion paper, LMTAC intends to host a technical workshop on service agreements in spring 2006 to assist members in furthering positive First Nation – local government relations.

## Province-Wide Community to Community Forum – March 10, 2006

UBCM & the First Nations Summit are jointly organizing a province-wide Community to Community Forum. The forum is designed to build effective relationships between local governments and First Nations through dialogue. Topics for discussion include efficient service delivery and the harmonization of planning.

The Community to Community forum will be held **March 10, 2006** at the Renaissance Harbourside Hotel in Vancouver. Further information can be found at the UBCM website: [www.civicnet.bc.ca](http://www.civicnet.bc.ca)

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