

UPDATE BULLETIN

“Coordinating and Representing the Interests of Local Governments and their Constituents in Lower Mainland Area Treaty Negotiations”

Volume 1, Issue 9

Reporting on LMTAC Activities Nov. 1999 - Dec. 1999

January 2000

Key Items of Business

Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee (LMTAC)

Nov 24, 1999

At the November 24 LMTAC meeting, the last of 1999, members congratulated each other on re-election or articulated their regrets in the upcoming changes to the LMTAC membership. Members proudly and effectively finalized the LMTAC First Principles document. Member municipality input on the thirty-five (35) principles was scrutinized and incorporated. This finalized the hard work by both members and staff to gain consensus on these strong statements which will be presented to the provincial negotiators as Local government mandates in treaty negotiations. This will also allow LMTAC table representatives clear messaging when representing all Lower Mainland local governments.

A farewell presentation took place where best wishes were articulated to Councillor Nancy A. Chiavario, former chair of LMTAC. A speech and talking stick marked the appreciation of all members for the years Councillor Chiavario dedicated to the Committee. Councillor Chiavario closed the meeting by endorsing all 1999 executive members and members named Councillor Vicki Huntington as interim chair.

This Bulletin provides a general overview of major issues dealt with by LMTAC representatives. It is not intended, nor should it be relied upon, to reflect all of the issues before the Committee or its representatives. Any opinions expressed herein are solely of the LMTAC.

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UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS:

Wednesday, January 26, 2000
Wednesday, February 23, 2000

Upcoming: January 26, 2000

LMTAC Orientation

LMTAC's January meeting will begin with staff-led Orientation for new and returning members. A resource binder will also be made available at this meeting for members' ongoing use.

LMTAC Elections 2000

Congratulations to all returning members! Following the November 20 Municipal Elections, LMTAC staff has assessed that 60 percent of our members will be returning in 2000. Consequently, LMTAC elections will be the second order of business during the January 26 regular LMTAC meeting. Positions to be filled include:

Sub-Committee	Position
Executive Committee	5 Table representatives
	2 At-Large
	Chair
	Vice Chair
Communications	Chair (from EC)
	Vice Chair (from EC)
	4 At-large members
Finance & Organization	Chair (from EC)
	Vice Chair (from EC)
	2 At-large members
Technical and Strategic Working group	8 Staff members- maximum (<i>general call</i>)

A full LMTAC Election Procedure document has been developed and is available through the LMTAC office. Following the LMTAC orientation and elections, regular business will be reviewed.

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Negotiation Updates

Regional and Table Specific

REGIONAL ROUNDUP

During municipal elections, negotiations continued with the Tsawwassen First Nation. Highlights include the October 21 Main Table where the Tsawwassen First Nation received the federal and provincial governments' response to their July 30 presentation. Other negotiations have remained quiet.

The provincial government has held various consultative and public information meetings over the past few months to increase public involvement in treaty negotiations around the Lower Mainland Treaty negotiations.

On December 13, 1999, the House of Commons passed Bill C-9, the Nisga'a Final Agreement Act.

Tsawwassen Public Information Session. The second in a series of public information sessions for the Tsawwassen negotiations was hosted by the tripartite negotiators in Tsawwassen on December 2. These meetings allow for the dissemination of information and open dialogue between the public and third party interests.

TABLE SPECIFIC

Katzie First Nation (Stage 2)

The Chief Negotiators signed the Katzie Procedural Protocol at a Main Table meeting on October 20, 1998, completing the readiness requirements of stage 2 of the BCTC process. The Chief Negotiators also confirmed their support for a local advisory group (known as the Katzie LAG). The Chief Negotiators mandated the working group to begin Framework Agreement negotiations. No meetings have been held or scheduled since the last report to the Committee on November 5, 1998.

Councillor Candace Gordon was the 1999 LMTAC representative to the Katzie negotiations.

Musqueam First Nation (Stage 3)

On June 26, 1998 negotiations on the Musqueam Framework Agreement were completed and all Parties to the negotiations had initialed the Agreement. Delays are due to differing opinions about the inclusion of the term "compensation". No further Agreement in Principle workplanning sessions are scheduled at this time.

LMTAC representative to the Musqueam negotiations is to be determined.

Squamish Nation (Stage 3)

Federal and provincial governments have obtained internal approval for the Framework Agreement. Squamish Nation is seeking ratification from their members. There have been no meetings with Squamish Nation since January 1998.

Mayor Corinne Lonsdale was the 1999 LMTAC representative to the Squamish negotiations.

Tsawwassen First Nation (Stage 4)

At a public Main Table meeting held on October 21, 1999 the provincial and federal governments formally responded to Tsawwassen First Nation's comprehensive treaty proposal presentation from the September 30 Main Table meeting. In addition, the Main Table directed the development of a work plan for chapter development.

Currently, the Main Table working group has finalised the draft work plan and the technical working groups have begun processes to gather the fish and the land technical information necessary to support negotiations.

Negotiations at this table are expected to accelerate over the next few months. The next meeting, scheduled for February 10, 2000, will be a Fisheries Workshop for Chief Negotiators and is open to the public (with invitations extended to LMRAC and LMTAC members).

Councillor Vicki Huntington was the LMTAC 1999 representative to the Tsawwassen negotiations.

Tsleil-Waututh First Nation (Stage 4)

The Tsleil-Waututh table commenced Stage 4 negotiations in May 1997. On July 12, 1999 the Chief Negotiators from the federal and provincial governments made a 'scoping presentation' to negotiators from the Tsleil-Waututh Nation to provide their initial indication of how the federal and provincial governments could potentially address Tsleil-Waututh's interests. Tsleil-Waututh indicated their need to consult further with both their negotiating team and the Tsleil-Waututh community before returning to the negotiation table.

On February 1, 2000, the Chief Negotiators will meet to hear Tsleil-Waututh Nation's response and to consider the next steps for the negotiations.

Mayor Don Bell was the 1999 LMTAC representative to the Tsleil-Waututh negotiations. ❖

PRIORITY NEWS

First Principles

First Principles Endorsed and Finalized After extensive consultation and consensus building, LMTAC members discussed and integrated comments received from member municipalities at their final meeting of 1999. The document was been finalized and will act as local government mandates in treaty negotiations. For an official bound copy of the LMTAC First Principles, please contact the LMTAC office. ❖

Lower Mainland Advisory Groups: Update

REGIONAL CAUCUS (LMRC)

On November 26, 1999 . . . The Regional Caucus meeting was held in Victoria. Thus far, meeting locations have alternated between Vancouver to Victoria. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Lower Mainland TAC, the Fraser Valley TAC, various BC line ministries, Crown Corporations, and the BC South Team. The Tsawwassen First Nation presented a compacted version of their treaty proposal from the September 30 Main Table to members of the Caucus. The next Lower Mainland Regional Caucus meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2000 in Vancouver. For more information please contact the LMTAC office.

The LMRC was created as a forum for provincial line ministries, Crown Corporations, and local governments to discuss key treaty and Aboriginal issues.

REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LMRAC)

The Lower Mainland Regional Advisory Committee met on December 9, 1999. This body has not met for nearly a year. LMTAC staff is currently awaiting the discussion notes from BC South from the December meeting. Sub-consultation groups have met in place of the LMRAC to consult *specifically* on the Tsawwassen and Tsleil-Waututh negotiations. The first Tsawwassen RAC Consultation Group met on September 9, 1999 and again on October 7, 1999. Both meetings were held at the Best Western Hotel in Tsawwassen. The January Tsawwassen Consultation group meeting was postponed and will be rescheduled for a later date.

LMTAC members should note that agendas and notices of confirmation/cancellation are distributed by federal and provincial consultation officers.❖

FRASER VALLEY TREATY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FVTAC)

The fall was a busy time for the FVTAC. The FVTAC Chair, Mayor Clint Hames, and staff person Tamara Little completed a comprehensive presentation tour to all FVTAC member councils and boards in September and October. Members of BC Team South also participated in order to answer questions on specific negotiating tables and Provincial policies. The tour was successful in meeting the goals of raising awareness of members on the activities of the FVTAC, reviewing the FVTAC's Guiding Principles in Treaty Making paper and seeking feedback on these Guiding Principles, and providing member jurisdictions with detailed updates on the status of treaty negotiations with First Nations in their area. Held in public council sessions, most of these presentations were also aired on Rogers Cable.

In-SHUCK-ch N'Quat'qua Land and Cash Proposal

On October 29 the In-SHUCK-ch N'Quat'qua First Nation were given a public presentation of a land and cash proposal by BC and Canada in Pemberton. This was the second public proposal provided under the BCTC process, and was preceded by a very active year of negotiations: this table has 10 initialed chapters, and released 11 more in a public consultation process. Highlights of the proposal included a total of 18,114 hectares of land, including 2,090 hectares of existing reserves, divided into 11 parcels; \$29.75m in cash to be transferred over a period of time; and a water reserve of 1,685 cu. decametres for domestic, community, agricultural and commercial purposes. In general, the First Nations expressed dissatisfaction with the proposal, particularly the nature of the process, which they saw as too final. They had anticipated considerable more opportunities to work jointly with the other parties to ensure the proposal met all parties' joint principles. The governments have articulated that this is "not a final offer" and look forward to the First Nation's comments and response by January 20, 2000. The FVTAC Table Representative to these negotiations, Councillor Jim Killer of the Village of Harrison Hot Springs, played a central role in the negotiation process leading up to the proposal, and attended the public presentation in Pemberton. His efforts in ensuring local government interests were represented at the table and to the Province were very successful and resulted most notably over the last year in the creation of the first

Intergovernmental Relations Technical Working Group in the BCTC.

The FVTAC will be preparing for a considerably higher level of negotiating activity in the Fraser Valley in 2000, with the Yale and Sto:lo tables both gaining momentum as the First Nations prepare to engage in negotiations.

New table representatives will be elected at each table, as well as the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair at the FVTAC meeting on January 25. In preparation for a busy year and in recognition of the new members who are joining the FVTAC, the Chair and Aboriginal Affairs Coordinator will be hosting an Orientation Session for new (and returning) members before the first FVTAC meeting in January. BC Team South and the Federal Treaty Negotiation Office will be invited to present on the consultation process and Federal and Provincial Mandates in February and March. A priority for the FVTAC in the new year will be to review the FVTAC's Guiding Principles in more detail with the Province to ensure negotiators fully appreciate the interests contained in the document, and to continue to provide additional detail and topic coverage as negotiations progress. The FVTAC recognizes the important work the LMTAC has also done on its First Principles and looks forward to our Executive meeting with the LMTAC to discuss our mutual interests and look for opportunities to work together over the next year. Mayor Les, who has finished his role as Mayor of City of Chilliwack, has valued his time on the LMTAC as FVTAC representative and wishes the LMTAC the best in their work in the new year.

For additional information on FVTAC activities, contact FVTAC's Aboriginal Affairs Coordinator, Tamara Little at 1-800-528-0061 or tlittle@fvrd.bc.ca.

LMTAC Biz

TECHNICAL & STRATEGIC WORKING GROUP
(TSWG)

The TSWG will be working with the GVRD Social Planning Committee to identify Urban Aboriginal issues affecting local governments. Progress reports on TSWG activities will be presented to the LMTAC Executive and its members as meetings are held.

URBAN GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP

The working group was formed to assist in the development of models by which to examine urban Aboriginal and treaty issues. The report called *Approaches and Options for Treaties In Urban Areas* has now been finalized and copies are available through Alison McNeil, Policy Analyst, at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) (604) 270-8226 or the LMTAC office.

BOARD ORIENTATION & DEVELOPMENT

In addition to the January 26 Board Orientation, ongoing Board Development sessions will be offered in early 2000 to improve understanding and facilitate discussion on substantive treaty issues. These optional sessions will be held outside of the regular LMTAC meeting times and may include video viewing, discussion groups, and guest speakers. Be watching for further information.

Communications Update

The CSC has developed a public meeting strategy kit. This project acknowledges the importance of local governments' public consultation process. The public meeting strategy is based on LMTAC experience with presentations to the public about treaty issues. It articulates the necessary components for communicating clear factual information and suggests ways to allow public input into local negotiations through local government. Completion of the kit will be relative to the messaging in the LMTAC First Principles final version.

The LMTAC Communications Plan 2000 is currently being developed. It is expected that final LMTAC First Principles will be the source of broad messaging for the new millennium.

Suggestions? Ideas? Articles?

*Please fax or e-mail your material to: LMTAC
Fax: (604) 436-6860 or E-mail: lmtac@gvrd.bc.ca.*