

Update Bulletin

Reporting on LMTAC Activities
May - June 2001

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Negotiation Updates	2
LMTAC Biz	2 & 3
Lower Mainland Advisory Groups	3

Upcoming Public Meetings:

July 25, 2001

September 26, 2001*

* to be held during the UBCM Convention

Please note that there will be no Full LMTAC meeting in August due to the summer break.

The LMTAC home page has been updated to include the *Lower Mainland Governance Symposium Final Report*.

Visit us at:

www.lmtac.bc.ca

LOWER MAINLAND TREATY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

LMTAC works to coordinate and represent the interests of Local Governments and their constituents in Lower Mainland area treaty negotiations.

May and June Highlights

May 23 Full LMTAC Meeting

Representatives from the Federal Treaty Negotiation Office (FTNO) delivered a presentation regarding *Communities First*, the new First Nation Governance initiative. Lorne Brownsey, FTNO Executive Director, outlined the main components and time line of the new initiative and answered questions from LMTAC members regarding inter-governmental communication and consultation.

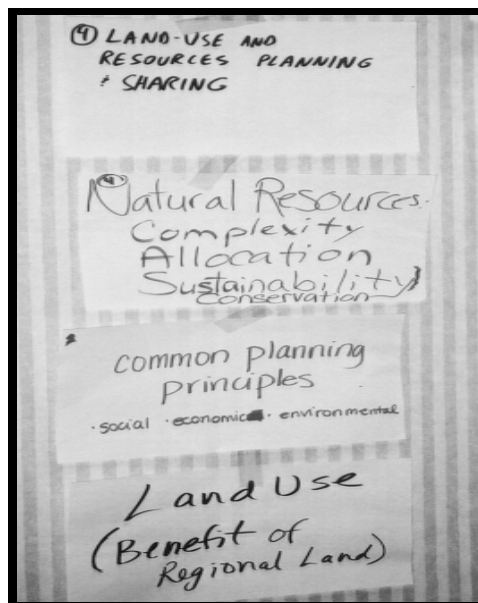
In addition, following a presentation by staff, LMTAC members endorsed the workplan for the two-day *Lower Mainland Urban Forum event* ("Paddling Together - Economic, Environmental and Social Partnerships in an Urban Setting") planned for the fall. The Urban Forum will focus on urban-based case studies in three theme areas of First Nation/local community partnerships: economic/business, environmental and social/cultural issues. Location and date details are progressing and will be communicated once confirmed. Watch your email and fax machine for details.

June 27 Full LMTAC Meeting

Members endorsed the *Local Government Fisheries Discussion Paper* as a backgrounder to LMTAC First Principle #23 and will be distributed to member municipalities and boards for their review and consideration. This paper was prepared to provide a brief overview of key Local Government concerns and issues within the Lower Mainland area regarding fisheries.

Lower Mainland Governance Symposium – June 7, 2001

LMTAC hosted the Lower Mainland Governance Symposium on June 7 as follow-up to the October 2000 LMTAC-GVRD workshop on regional district membership and as part of the LMTAC 2001 Workplan. Approximately 70 people participated in this event co-sponsored by the Union of BC Municipalities, the Provincial Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and the Federal Treaty Negotiations Office. See page 2 for more details of the event.



Key interests and concerns of participants were discussed at the Governance Symposium. The photos illustrate some of the discussion and a sample of the issues identified.

NEGOTIATION UPDATES

Regional Update

The new Premier and Cabinet were sworn into office by the Lieutenant-Governor on June 5, 2001 and changes affecting the Ministry involved in treaty negotiations are outlined below.

The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs becomes the Treaty Negotiations Office with responsibility for treaty negotiations and interim measures. The Treaty Negotiations Office will report directly to Attorney General Geoff Plant, who is the Minister Responsible for Treaty Negotiations.

The government has given the Treaty Negotiations Office a clear mandate to settle land claims and reporting directly to the Attorney General will enhance the Office's ability to deliver this mandate. The Ministry will continue to work closely with First Nations, advisory groups, third-party representatives and the public as the negotiations re-engage. The responsibility for the Metis and Off-Reserve Policy Forums will also be transferred to this new Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services.

Further details on the new structure of government are available at www.gov.bc.ca.

Katzie Table (Stage 4)

The Katzie First Nation held a meeting on May 17, where preliminary work on a local consultation group was undertaken. It was suggested to optimize a community consultation group rather than operate separate groups with overlapping interests.

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

Musqueam Table (Stage 3)

Further table work is on hold pending Musqueam consideration of issues related to the negotiation of compensation and ratification of the Framework. The Tripartite working group has drafted a Procedures Agreement for Stage 4. No further negotiation meetings or activities have been scheduled.

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

Squamish Table (Stage 3)

No activity has occurred at the Squamish table since February 1998. No further treaty-related meetings are scheduled at present.

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

Tsawwassen Table (Stage 4)

The Tsawwassen table has been focused on three Treaty Related Measures (TRMs) related to 1) Community Planning, 2) Economic Development, and 3) Human Resource Development. Negotiation meetings will commence in the near future.

Councillor Vicki Huntington is the LMTAC representative to the Tsawwassen negotiations.

Tsleil-Waututh Table (Stage 4)

No negotiation meetings occurred during the provincial election campaign.

Mayor Don Bell is the LMTAC representative to the Tsleil-Waututh negotiations.

LMTAC BIZ

Lower Mainland Governance Symposium

At the June 27 LMTAC Board meeting, David Didluck, LMTAC's Executive Director, provided an overview of the June 7 Governance Symposium and highlighted that the event was well-attended by area First Nations and was structured to include a self-reflective, small group, and large discussion components. The Final Report identifies the following conclusions:

- a need for ongoing discussions of regional significance
- relationship building should be tied to discussions of substantive topics
- issues identified provide a focus for the next Governance Symposium.

A copy of the Final Report was distributed to all participants and can also be accessed from LMTAC's web site.

LMTAC Strategic Planning Session

The purpose of the Strategic Planning Session held on June 27 was to define and update LMTAC's role and mandate, by developing a clear vision of what Local Governments see as their future role in Aboriginal and treaty-issues in the Lower Mainland area. There have been no formal strategic planning discussions to update LMTAC's role, mandate or structure since 1994 and with new developments in the treaty process, the need for a focused strategic planning session is real.

The Session was an opportunity for the LMTAC membership to utilize their seven years of experience in Lower Mainland area treaty negotiations to map out a forward-looking vision of their role and mandate. The consultant's report will be brought to the Full Board meeting on July 25 and the next steps will be reviewed.

Board Development

The second annual LMTAC member survey has been drafted and reviewed by both sub-committees. The final survey will be distributed in August for member feedback.

Finance and Organizational Sub-Committee (FOSC)

The Finance and Organization Sub-Committee (FOSC) continues to address ways to improve LMTAC's structure and flow of information. LMTAC recently endorsed FOSC's recommendations outlining the strategic planning session and evaluation processes.

Communications Sub-Committee (CSC)

The Communications Sub-Committee had worked hard since January to develop the theme, objectives, speakers and target audience of the Lower Mainland Urban Forum scheduled for the fall. This project is the major activity for the CSC's 2001 Communication Plan. Staff are now implementing the details of the Urban Forum workplan.

The LMTAC new display board has arrived! The three-panel, table-top display was completed as part of the Communications Plan and will complement LMTAC presentations and meetings. The display outlines LMTAC roles and features a Lower Mainland Statement of Intent Overlap Map and some photographic examples of LMTAC projects. Look for the display at upcoming LMTAC board and committee meetings.

Technical and Strategic Working Group (TSWG)

The LMTAC Technical and Strategic Working Group (TSWG) is the staff-led body that facilitates discussion of key treaty/Aboriginal interests and makes recommendations to the LMTAC membership. The TSWG completed the first draft of a progress report on the First Principles. This draft will be reviewed again at a future Executive meeting. Also, at the June TSWG meeting, members received a presentation on a comparison of the experiences of Australia and Canadian Aboriginal policy.

LMTAC Office Update

The LMTAC general office number (604-451-6179) now leads callers to an automatic voice messaging system with various voice mail options. Staff will continue to monitor this system.

**For more information on LMTAC, please contact us:
Tel: (604) 451-6179 or email: lmtac.lmtac@gvrd.bc.ca**

LOWER MAINLAND ADVISORY GROUPS

Regional Caucus

Regional Caucus was created as a forum for provincial line ministries, Crown Corporations and local governments to discuss key treaty issues. No Regional Caucus meetings occurred in May or June.

Lower Mainland Regional Advisory Committee (LMRAC)

Consultation Groups have met in place of the LMRAC to consult specifically on the Tsawwassen and Tsleil-Waututh negotiations. No LMRAC meetings occurred in May or June.

Fraser Valley Treaty Advisory Committee (FVTAC)

The FVTAC has been meeting less frequently since the writ was dropped and negotiations suspended. The June meeting had representatives from FTNO attend and present on the context of federal negotiations on self-government and the self-governance continuum by Elizabeth Snow, Manager of Treaty Negotiations. Robin Dodson, returning Chief Negotiator on the Sto:lo file, reviewed the status of those negotiations and his hopes for successful negotiations once the province returns to the table. This session was a useful primer for FVTAC members on federal approaches, and allowed for some relationship building with the FTNO representatives.

Provincial Chief Negotiator Katherine Gordon and her team at BC Team South introduced Gordon Douglas as the new negotiator for the Yale file, replacing Lynn Beak. An in camera review of a FVTAC staff update and report on current policies regarding compensation and adjustment funding and its relevance to local governments was made, with the FVTAC decision to strike a technical committee to analyse this important topic and provide recommendations and advice to BC and Canada. Staff will be following up on the Chair's recommendation that the LMTAC be invited to co-sponsor this subcommittee and work together on this topic of mutual interest.

The FVTAC meeting ended with Tamara Little, FVTAC Aboriginal Affairs Coordinator, issuing her resignation from the FVTAC to move to Victoria for family reasons. FVTAC Chair thanked Tamara for her hard work at the FVTAC, and wished her well. The FVTAC will be filling this position in preparation for a return to 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.