

Update Bulletin

Reporting on recent
LMTAC Activities

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Policy and Event Highlights	1
Board Meeting Highlights	2
Negotiation Updates	2
LMTAC Business	2

Upcoming Public Board Meeting:

January 31, 2007

LMTAC Member Orientation Session:

January 24, 2007

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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.

TSAWWASSEN FINAL AGREEMENT INITIALED



Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, Hon. Michael de Jong, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Hon. Jim Prentice, Tsawwassen negotiator, Laura Cassidy, and Premier Gordon Campbell observe as Chief Negotiators from Canada (Tim Koepke), Tsawwassen First Nation (Chief Kim Baird), and B.C. (Bronwen Beedle) initial the Tsawwassen Final Agreement.

On December 8th, the Tsawwassen Final Agreement was initialled in a historic ceremony at the Tsawwassen Longhouse by Chief Negotiators from the Tsawwassen First Nation, Canada, and British Columbia. The agreement represents the second Final Agreement to be initialled under the BC Treaty Process and the first to be negotiated in a Canadian metropolitan region.

Highlights of the Final Agreement include: 724 hectares of fee-simple treaty settlement land (TSL), 662 of which will be under the jurisdiction of the Tsawwassen Government; a capital transfer of \$13.9 million over 10 years; \$17.8 million in other contributions; the right to harvest fish, aquatic plants, crabs, intertidal bivalves, and allocations of salmon for food, social and ceremonial purposes; a harvest agreement for an economic salmon fishery; complete phase-out of *Indian Act* tax exemptions after 12 years; and membership in the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD).

In response to the initialling, LMTAC issued a press release offering its continued support for the conclusion of a Final Agreement with the Tsawwassen First Nation. "LMTAC is excited that Tsawwassen will become full member of the GVRD," stated LMTAC Chair Ralph Drew, "and to have them engage with their municipal neighbours will only encourage understanding and the opportunity to work together on matters of mutual interest." However, LMTAC does have concerns with certain aspects of the Final Agreement.

In particular, LMTAC remains opposed to the 'Specified Lands' approach to post-treaty additions to TSL, which does not require municipal consent prior to removing lands acquired by Tsawwassen from municipal boundaries. LMTAC also expressed concerns regarding the removal of 207 hectares of TSL from the *Agricultural Land Reserve* through settlement legislation as opposed to the open and transparent process provided by the *Agricultural Land Commission*.

Following ratification of the Final Agreement by the Tsawwassen First Nation, British Columbia and Canada will commence their respective ratification processes through the passage of settlement legislation in the Legislature, Parliament, and Senate.

LMTAC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

November 22nd, 2006

Representatives from both the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and Community Services attended the final Board meeting of the year as a special delegation to provide an update on the Tsawwassen and Lheidli T'enneh Final Agreements.

Members also received the results of the annual member survey, adopted amendments to the Operating Procedures, to clarify policy on the sharing of in-camera information with LMTAC member councils and boards, and endorsed a 2007 Workplan. Updates were provided on recent relationship building activities between the Squamish Nation and its local government neighbours.

Additionally, Tsawwassen Table Representative Councillor Harold Steves was presented with a gift in appreciation of his long and dedicated service to LMTAC and the treaty process.

NEGOTIATION UPDATES

Katzie Table (Stage 4)

Parties at the Katzie table met regularly this fall, progressing on the development of several draft Agreement-In-Principle (AIP) chapters that include; Land, Fish, Wildlife and Migratory Birds. The steady pace of negotiations will continue into the New Year, with approximately 2 meetings per month scheduled until December 2007.

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for December 15 and January 16-17. Meetings are to be held at the Katzie Band Office in Pitt Meadows.

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

Tsleil-Waututh Table (Stage 4)

Activity at the Tsleil-Waututh table has remained steady in recent months, with Parties discussing approaches to concluding an AIP and development of the draft Lands Chapter. Parties are scheduled to meet again on December 13th to examine the *Lheidli T'enneh Final Agreement* General Provisions Chapter.

Outside of treaty, the Tsleil-Waututh Nation is actively pursuing management opportunities in its traditional territory; developing a co-management plan for Indian Arm Provincial Park with BC Parks and initiating a Land and Resource Management Plan for the Indian Arm Watershed.

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

Other Treaty Tables

Lheidli T'enneh

On October 29, 2006, the *Lheidli T'enneh Final Agreement* became the first agreement to be initialled under the BC Treaty Process. Highlights of the Final Agreement include: 4330 hectares of Treaty Settlement Land, of which 643 will be removed from the Agricultural Land Reserve, and a capital transfer of \$13.2 million. The Lheidli T'enneh First Nation has 320 members.

Maa-nulth

The *Maa-nulth Final Agreement* was initialled Saturday, December 9, marking the third Final Agreement to be initialled under the BC Treaty Process. The Maa-nulth First Nations represent 5 Indian Bands, with a combined population of over 2000 members. Details of the proposed Maa-nulth settlement include: 24 551 hectares of Treaty Settlement Land, and \$73.12 million in capital transfers.

LMTAC BUSINESS

LMTAC Executive

LMTAC Executive members met on December 13 to discuss the release of the *Tsawwassen Final Agreement* and components of key interest to local governments. Members endorsed a draft comparative analysis of the *Tsawwassen Final Agreement* with LMTAC's First Principles. An advance copy of the comparative analysis was shared with LMTAC Board members and it will be brought forward to the inaugural Board meeting on January 31, 2007, for discussion and endorsement.

Finance and Administration Sub-Committee (FASC)

FASC members developed and endorsed a meal requisition form to be implemented in January 2007. Planning is underway for the annual Orientation session and LMTAC members are requested to please "save-the-date" for **January 24**. Details will be confirmed early in the New Year. With respect to the coming year, the development of a Final Agreement communications strategy was identified as a key project for FASC.

Happy Holidays!

For more information on the Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee, please contact LMTAC at:
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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.