

Update Bulletin

Reporting on recent
LMTAC Activities

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Upcoming Public Board Meetings:

June 27, 2007

July 25, 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.

HIGHLIGHTS

National Aboriginal Day – June 21st

Thursday, June 21st marks *National Aboriginal Day* in Canada; an opportunity to celebrate the unique heritage, cultures and contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people in Canada. Many *National Aboriginal Day* celebrations around BC are posted on the federal Indian and Northern Affairs website (www.inac.gc.ca). Members are encouraged to check out the various events that have been scheduled locally on or around June 21st in the following communities:

- Burnaby
- Langley
- Maple Ridge
- New Westminster
- North Vancouver
- Richmond
- Vancouver

Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Conference - *Final Treaty Settlements: Examining Local Government Interests*

Representatives from the federal and provincial governments, First Nations, and local governments gathered in Richmond May 23rd-24th for the UBCM Conference *Final Treaty Agreements: Examining Local Government Interests*. Delegates in attendance focused on the *Tsawwassen*, *Maa-nulth*, and *Lheidli T'enneh* Final Agreements, and their relation to area local government interests.

Panellists, including LMTAC Chair Mayor Ralph Drew, presented on aspects of the Final Agreements that were relevant to local government including: First Nation governance over land; First Nation political representation on regional district boards; land issues, including additions to Treaty Settlement Land and the exclusion of lands from the Agricultural Land Reserve; and local government reflections of their experience in the treaty process. The City of Prince George also presented on the content of its *Comprehensive Master Agreement* with the Lheidli-T'enneh First Nation with respect to harmonized land use, planning and taxation.

Other conference highlights included: a keynote address and announcement by the Honourable Michael de Jong, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, regarding funding for continued UBCM work on First Nation–Local Government relations; comments from BC Treaty Commissioner, Jack Weisgerber; and a presentation by the First Nations Leadership Council on the *New Relationship*.

LMTAC Nears Completion of *Lesson Learned and Best Practices Document*

At the upcoming Board meeting on June 25th, LMTAC members will be considering an important item from the 2007 Workplan; a draft version of *LMTAC Lessons Learned and Best Practices at the Tsawwassen Treaty Table*. The Technical and Strategic Working Group (TSWG) commenced work on the document early in the year, seeking input from Treaty Table Representatives and the Executive Committee. The document reflects on LMTAC's experiences participating at the Tsawwassen Treaty Table in order to assist Treaty Table Representatives in effectively representing local government interests at upcoming Agreement-in-Principle Tables.

LMTAC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

April 25

During the April LMTAC Board, members received a presentation from Jonathan Rayner, Director of Third Party Engagement with the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, on the Province's *New Relationship* with aboriginal people. Mr. Rayner provided an overview of the history of the *New Relationship*; its goals to bridge social, economic, and cultural gaps between non-aboriginal and aboriginal communities; and methods through which those goals are being achieved, both inside and outside the treaty process. Following the presentation, Mr. Rayner discussed with LMTAC members local government interests in the *New Relationship*, and methods through which local government may become involved in the initiative.

NOTE: No Board Meeting was scheduled in May.

NEGOTIATION UPDATES

Katzie Table (Stage 4)

Parties at the Katzie Treaty Table met April 25th to continue development of the draft AIP Fish Chapter. The Main Table Working Group (MTWG) met the following day for a workshop on Land Title and post-treaty options for the registration of interests, in addition to discussing the draft AIP Water Chapter.

Katzie meetings scheduled in May were cancelled due to flood preparations. The next meetings are scheduled for June 20th – 21st.

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

Tsawwassen Table (Stage 5)

The Tsawwassen First Nation community vote to ratify the initialled Final Agreement has been scheduled for July 25, 2007. Following successful First Nation ratification, Canada and British Columbia must pass settlement legislation in order for all three Parties to proceed with the signing and implementation of the agreement.

Councillor Linda Barnes is the LMTAC representative to the Tsawwassen negotiations.

Tsleil-Waututh Table (Stage 4)

Parties met on May 8th for a technical review of the process for determining potential Tsleil-Waututh Treaty Settlement Land in the Indian River Watershed.

Discussions on May 9th and 10th focused on development of the draft AIP *Water, Forest Resources, Land, Access and Roads and Rights of Way* chapters.

The Tsleil-Waututh Nation will replace the land management provisions of the *Indian Act* with a community-developed land code under the *First Nations Land Management Act*, following successful endorsement of the Land Code in a referendum held last April. The *First Nations Land Management Act* enables First Nations to opt out of land management portions of the *Indian Act* in order to develop their own land codes; providing First Nations with more autonomy over cultural, social, ecological and economic land-use planning within their Indian Reserve Lands.

Outside of treaty negotiations, the Councils for both the District of North Vancouver and the Tsleil-Waututh Nation endorsed a *Communications and Cooperation Protocol*. The document will be officially signed by the Parties during a celebration to be held on June 23rd at Cates Park/Whey-ah-Wichen.

The next meetings are scheduled for June 5th – 6th.

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

LMTAC BUSINESS

Finance and Administration Sub-Committee (FASC)

Members of FASC met on May 2nd to initiate 2008 budget preparations.

Technical and Strategic Working Group (TSWG)

TSWG Members met on May 3rd to incorporate the Executive Committee's recommended revisions into the draft *Lesson Learned and Best Practices* document. Future TSWG meetings may be scheduled in the summer to consider 2008 Workplan priorities.

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.

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