

Update Bulletin

Reporting on recent
LMTAC Activities

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Upcoming Public Board
Meetings:

November 28, 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

Tsawwassen Settlement Legislation Introduced in BC Legislature

The Provincial government introduced legislation to give effect to the Tsawwassen Final Agreement on October 15th, after a historic speech by Tsawwassen Chief Kim Baird, only the second non-government official to address the Legislature. The Tsawwassen settlement legislation consists of three bills; the *Tsawwassen First Nation Final Agreement Act*, the *First Nation Consequential Amendments Act, 2007*; and the *Treaty First Nation Taxation Act*.

The introduction of the legislation capped off a historic day of celebrations in Victoria, attended by both the LMTAC Chair and Vice-Chair. Following the passage of Provincial legislation, Federal settlement legislation must be passed by the House of Commons and Senate in order for the treaty to come into effect. The Tsawwassen First Nation ratified the treaty in a community vote on July 25th.

LMTAC Executive Committee Meets with Minister De Jong

The LMTAC Executive Committee had an opportunity to meet with the Honourable Michael de Jong, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, during the Union of BC Municipalities Convention. Further to a Ministry news release to announce funding support for local government involvement in treaty negotiations, the Minister presented LMTAC with \$40,000 in funding for the 2007/2008 Fiscal Year and personally committed to provide funding for next year's activities. Additional discussion topics included local government involvement in New Relationship activities and ways in which LMTAC could assist the Ministry in policy development, as well as Agreement-in-Principle negotiations at the Tsleil-Waututh and Katzie treaty tables.

Release of BC Treaty Commission Probe into Lheidli T'enneh Ratification Vote

The British Columbia Treaty Commission (BCTC) released the results of its probe into the failed *Lheidli T'enneh Final Agreement* in late September. The research explores main reasons the treaty was not ratified, including; consultation timelines; band council elections; communications and information sharing between negotiators; band leadership; and the opinions of band members and families. The analysis provides invaluable lessons learned for all Parties involved in the BC Treaty Process.

For more information on the probe, please visit the BCTC website www.bctreaty.net.

Maa-Nulth First Nations Ratify Final Agreement

The five member Indian Bands of the Maa-Nulth First Nations successfully endorsed the *Maa-Nulth Final Agreement*, marking the second modern treaty to receive First Nation ratification under the BC treaty Process. In community votes held October 13th through 20th, the Ucluelet, Toquaht, Uchucklesaht, and Kyuquot First Nations approved Maa-nulth treaty, with an average 80% of votes cast in favour of the agreement. The Huu-ay-aht First Nation voted 90% in favour of the treaty in a ratification vote last July.

The Minister de Jong has suggested provincial settlement legislation for the *Maa-Nulth Final Agreement* could be introduced in Provincial Legislature as early as this month.

LMTAC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

October 24th Board Meeting

At the October 24th Board meeting, members considered and endorsed the 2008 LMTAC Workplan, which identifies LMTAC priorities for the coming year. Members also received an update on the results of the 2007 annual member survey, endorsed the 2008 budget and considered the Federation of Canadian Municipalities draft report *Improving the Municipal – Aboriginal Urban Interface*.

NEGOTIATION UPDATES

Katzie Table (Stage 4)

The Katzie Main Table Working Group (MTWG) continues to meet regularly, averaging two meetings a month. Parties most recently discussed draft Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) chapters on *Environmental Management, Culture and Heritage, Forest Resources, and Parks and Protected Areas* during meetings on October 9th and 10th.

The table is scheduled to meet again November 6th and 7th for further development of draft AIP chapters, including the draft *Katzie Role Outside of Treaty Settlement Lands* chapter. Discussions on *Intergovernmental Relations* are scheduled for December 4th, and the result of Katzie's land identification exercise is expected December 5th.

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

Tsleil-Waututh Table (Stage 4)

Negotiations are active at the Tsleil-Waututh table, with Parties anticipating that details of an informal land and cash offer may be tabled as early as December 2007 or January 2008.

Parties met September 17th, 18th, and 19th, with discussion topics including outstanding issues, as well as draft AIP chapters on *Fisheries, Taxation, and Fiscal Relations*.

More recently, Parties met October 22nd to discuss the draft AIP *General Provisions* chapter. The following day, the MTWG met for continued discussion of chapters on *Land Use, Culture and Heritage, and Local and Regional Government Relations (LRGR)*.

Tsleil-Waututh meetings for November are scheduled on November 13th, 14th and 15th for *Fiscal Relations*, with both a MTWG and a Chief Negotiators meeting tentatively scheduled for November 26th and 27th, respectively.

Note: For more details on the LRGR chapter, please refer to the TSWG update below.

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

Musqueam Table (Stage 4)

Both the Province and the Musqueam have confirmed negotiations regarding Musqueam's interest in the University Golf Course, with an announcement on the outcome of the discussions anticipated in January 2008. The discussions remain outside the treaty process, and were prompted by a 2005 BC Court of Appeal ruling that the Province had failed to consult and accommodate with the Musqueam on a previously planned sale of the course.

Councillor Jean Ferguson is the LMTAC representative to the Tsleil-Waututh negotiations.

LMTAC BUSINESS

Finance and Administration Sub-Committee (FASC)

At the October 3rd FASC meeting, members recommended a final draft 2008 LMTAC Budget to the LMTAC Executive for approval. The Budget was subsequently endorsed by the LMTAC Executive on October 10th and by the LMTAC Board on October 24th.

In accordance with 2008 Budget work, LMTAC is in the midst of its annual Regional District tour, providing updates on LMTAC activities and key projects to each of the Sunshine Coast Regional District, the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District, and Metro Vancouver.

Technical and Strategic Working Group (TSWG)

TSWG Members met on October 11th with representatives from the Ministry of Community Services to discuss possible approaches to develop a *Local and Regional Government Relations (LRGR)* chapter at Tsleil-Waututh. LMTAC has been invited to initiate development of a LRGR chapter by Provincial negotiators, and TSWG members will continue LRGR chapter drafting at its meeting on November 8th.

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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