

UPDATE BULLETIN

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

Volume 1, Issue 5

Reporting on LMTAC Activities February 1999 - March 1999

April 1999

Key Items of Business

Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee (LMTAC)

February 24, 1999

The February 24 meeting of the full LMTAC membership featured a lengthy debate concerning Local Government Interest Inventory processes. LMTAC members agreed on the need to focus on the development of "principles", Stream A. Upcoming meetings will be utilized to further develop LMTAC principles and incorporate them into the existing *Considerations* paper. The technical stream (Stream B) will be examined by members of LMTAC and the GVRD Regional Administrators Advisory Committee (RAAC) on April 14, 1999.

Concerns articulated at the February meeting include:

- the financial cost of inventory development
- the need for RAAC support

In addition to the interest inventory discussion, the 1999 budget was discussed and passed, and LMTAC members appointed David Didluck as LMTAC's Executive Director. ❖

This Bulletin provides a general overview of recent activities and 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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March 24, 1999

Judy Kirk of Kirk and Co. presented the January 1999 LMTAC Policy Retreat Summary. It was noted that the purpose of the retreat was to "flesh out" the current LMTAC *Considerations* paper. The Committee's motions

related to next steps included direction for staff to integrate the retreat findings with the *Considerations* paper. From this discussion arose a decision to hold another retreat with the LMTAC Executive to compile a first draft of "first principles". The Executive retreat is scheduled for April 16, 1999. Any member of TAC may attend. Please contact LMTAC staff for more information.

Further, LMTAC members invited provincial negotiators from Team South to its next full Committee meeting in April for a round table question and answer period. Members are seeking clarification of provincial positions regarding Lower Mainland treaty negotiations. The next full TAC meeting is scheduled for April 28, 1999.

In addition, LMTAC members were provided with the interest papers Canada and British Columbia had presented at a March 16 Tsawwassen Main Table. Issues arising from the First Nation's Land Management Act (Bill C-49) were also reviewed.

NEXT PUBLIC LMTAC MEETING: Wednesday, April 28, 1999

*A complete meeting schedule is available from the LMTAC office. Please call (604) 451-6179 to request a copy or visit our web site at:
www.gvrd.bc.ca/LMTACO/lmtac.html*

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Negotiation Updates

Regional and Table Specific

REGIONAL

Activity at Lower Mainland area treaty tables continues at a brisk pace. In addition to the ongoing treaty and urban Aboriginal issues being addressed by LMTAC members, activity at the Tsleil-Waututh table has been complemented by new activity at the Tsawwassen table. On March 16, 1999, federal and provincial negotiators to the Tsawwassen table made comprehensive interest presentations on key substantive treaty issues.

LMTAC members also continue to work on a number of critical treaty-related issues affecting the Lower Mainland. These include:

- Bill C-49, the First Nations Land Management Act;
- provincial policy on interim measures agreements;
- non-treaty initiatives;
- urban governance;
- treaty process revitalization;
- Bill 31 Municipal Act reform;
- First Nation / local government relationships;
- local government interest identification processes. ❖

TABLE SPECIFIC

Katzie First Nation (Stage 3)

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 British Columbia Treaty Commission (BCTC) process. The BCTC has declared the table ready for Stage 3. Chief Negotiators signed Stage 3 Procedures which included Openness provisions and the role of the Local Advisory Group (known as the Katzie LAG). The tripartite working group has been asked to begin work on the Framework Agreement and to develop a Stage 3 meeting schedule. It can be anticipated that the parties will soon begin Stage 3 negotiations. No meetings are scheduled at this time.

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

Musqueam First Nation (Stage 3)

On June 26, 1998 negotiations on the Musqueam Framework Agreement were complete and all Parties to

the negotiations had initialed the Agreement.

The Musqueam First Nation have delayed a decision to sign the framework agreement pending an evaluation of the provincial and federal positions on whether or not "compensation" will be explicitly discussed during the financial component of Agreement in Principle negotiations. The province and Canada have provided their positions. No negotiations, or Agreement in Principle workplanning, are scheduled pending Musqueam's evaluation of the ministers' responses.

Councillor Nancy A. Chiavario is the LMTAC representative to the Musqueam negotiations.

Squamish Nation (Stage 3)

No activity has occurred at the Squamish table since February 1998 when LMTAC provided provincial negotiators with comments on a draft of the Framework Agreement. At present, federal and provincial negotiators have the authority to initial the agreement, but minor textual changes and editing may continue to occur. Once these changes are complete, it can be anticipated that the Framework will be initialed by the Parties and Stage 4 workplanning will commence. No further meetings are scheduled at this time.

Bill Williams recently replaced Joe Mathias as Chief of the Squamish Nation

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

Tsawwassen First Nation (Stage 4)

Tsawwassen began Stage 4 Agreement-in-Principle negotiations in August 1997. As scheduled, a public Main Table was held on March 16, 1999. In addition to interest presentations made by Canada and BC, a stage 4 workplan was adopted at the Main Table. It is anticipated that the Tsawwassen First Nation will respond to Canada and BC's interest presentations at the next Main Table scheduled for July, 1999. Canada and BC will then respond to the Tsawwassen proposal in the late fall of 1999, by which time the parties hope to agree on their expectations for progress in the negotiations. It is expected that a public information workplan will also be developed for the next Main Table.

On a related note, Chief Kim Baird has succeeded former Tsawwassen Chief Sharon Bowcott.

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

Tsleil-Waututh First Nation (Stage 4)

The Tsleil-Waututh table commenced Stage 4 negotiations in May 1997. The process of gathering Tsleil-Waututh's interests on key substantive issues began in October 1998. This information gathering process is well under way and is expected to be completed by the Summer of 1999. Once Tsleil-Waututh's interests are well understood, federal and provincial negotiators will be able to determine whether the main elements of a treaty "deal" exist. In the interim, Tsleil-Waututh negotiators are seeking initial responses from Canada and British Columbia on the interests Tsleil-Waututh have already articulated on key issues including governance and the Variable Interest Model. It is anticipated that the table will be working with these issues in the coming months.

A public Main Table was held on April 7, 1999. The purpose of the meeting was to update the public on the status of the table and to provide an opportunity for Tsleil-Waututh to present their integrated approach to negotiations.

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

PRIORITY NEWS

COUNCIL TOUR UPDATE

The LMTAC continued its Council Tour with presentations to various locally elected councils including: Vancouver's Board of Parks and Recreation; West Vancouver; District of North Vancouver; City of Langley; Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, and Burnaby. All presentations were open to the public and attended by various media organizations. The tour continues to gain momentum and is providing councils and the public with a synopsis of current treaty issues.

LMTAC plans to complete its tour of all remaining Lower Mainland municipalities by May 1999. Please contact Shannon Kaplun, LMTAC's Project and Communications Coordinator, for a complete and up-to-date Council Tour schedule. ❖

Upcoming LMTAC Presentations to Lower Mainland Area Councils Include:

New Westminster	Apr. 12	7:00pm
Port Moody	Apr. 27	7:00pm
White Rock	May 10	7:00pm
Langley Township	TBA	
Lions Bay	TBA	

Lower Mainland Advisory Groups: Update

REGIONAL CAUCUS (LMRC)

On March 5, 1999 BC Team South negotiators hosted the first in-person meeting of the Regional Caucus in over a year. The meeting was held in Victoria and was attended by representatives from the Lower Mainland TAC, the Fraser Valley TAC, BC line ministries and Crown Corporations, and BC Team South. Chief Negotiator Tom Isaac spoke about the Tsleil-Waututh's Variable Interest Model as it relates to lands, resources and governance. Other issues discussed included the importance for capacity building for the Tsleil-Waututh, the possible implications of Bill C-49 on the treaty process, and the links between non treaty initiatives and treaty negotiations.

The LMRC was created as a forum for provincial line ministries, Crown Corporations, and local governments to discuss key treaty and Aboriginal issues. The next meeting is scheduled for June 18, 1999 in Vancouver.

REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LMRAC)

No LMRAC meetings were held in February. However, an LMRAC workshop was held on March 31 at Capilano College. Workshop goals were to broaden LMRAC participation to include key North Shore area stakeholders that may be impacted by the Tsleil-Waututh negotiations. Some LMRAC members while supporting the need for expanded consultation activities also reminded members that the LMRAC is a regional consultative body, and that the group not be too narrowly focused on North Shore concerns. In an urban setting, there are many interconnections between communities. As such, it is LMTAC's belief that urban treaty negotiations, including the consultation processes that accompany them, need to take into account these urban realities as well as the public at-large.

The next LMRAC meeting is scheduled for April 27. 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)

FVTAC advises three negotiations: the Sto:Lo, Yale, and In-SHUCK-Ch N'Quat'qua tables, all of which are in

Stage 4. The Yale table negotiations have ceased while legal action related to fisheries is taking place. The In-SHUCK-Ch N'Quat'qua table is quite advanced. Seven draft chapters of the In-SHUCK-Ch N'Quat'qua Agreement-in-Principle were initiated by chief negotiators in November 1998. These draft chapters are available on the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs web site. It is expected that a land and cash offer will be presented by June 1999.

In the coming months, The Fraser Valley TAC will be involved in a series of intergovernmental workshops involving the In-SHUCK-Ch table. The latest of these was held in March 1999.

For additional information on FVTAC activities, contact FVTAC's Aboriginal Affairs Coordinator, Tamara Little at (604) 702-5000. ❖

LMTAC Biz

INTEREST INVENTORY DEVELOPMENT

LMTAC is supporting a GVRD working group by providing information concerning Lower Mainland treaty negotiations.

The LMTAC staff-led Technical and Strategic Working Group has been examining and researching examples of non-treaty initiatives and developing a list of questions regarding First Nations and Local Governments.

LMTAC staff are planning an orientation for new members and a reorientation for existing members for Fall 1999.

An LMTAC lecture and video series is being developed for committee development. Member suggestions concerning speakers or videos would be appreciated and should be forwarded to the LMTAC office.

Announcements

LMTAC wishes to congratulate David Didluck and Shannon Kaplun on their new positions as LMTAC's Executive Director and Project and Communications Coordinator respectively.

There is still a position available on the Communications Sub-Committee. Interested members wishing to join the should contact Councillor James Coleridge, Communi-

cations Sub-Committee Chair, or David Didluck for further information.

Nisga'a is in the house! The Nisga'a Final Agreement is now being debated in the Provincial legislature. LMTAC has sent information concerning questions addressed to the former provincial negotiator Jack Ebbels to all BC Members of Parliament and Members Legislative Assembly for their information.

Communications Update

The LMTAC Communication's Sub-Committee (CSC) has been actively developing and implementing ideas to communicate treaty and First Nation's issues to Local Governments and their constituents. Since the LMTAC Council Tour will be wrapping up by the end of May, a new tour is being planned, one which discusses "Urban Issues" as they relate to specific municipalities and surrounding treaty negotiations.

The CSC is also developing a public meeting strategy kit. This project acknowledges the importance of local governments public consultation. The public meeting strategy is based on LMTAC experience with presentations to the public about treaty issues. It will articulate the necessary components for communicating clear factual information and suggest ways to allow public input into local negotiations through local government.

A "New Member Kit" is now available from the LMTAC office. The new member kit will provide a brief, yet detailed, background on treaty issues and LMTAC activities. The kit is a two pocketed folio with permanent information on one side and time sensitive information on the other. This kit can also be utilized as an information tool for the public, the media, organizations, or other levels of government.

Suggestions? Ideas? Articles?

If you have a suggestion, idea, or copy of an article you would like to include in an upcoming issue of the LMTAC Bulletin, please fax or e-mail your material to: the Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee, Fax: (604) 436-6860;

E-mail: lmtac@gvr.bc.ca.

If submitting an article, please send an electronic copy in Rich Text or Word 7.0 formats only.