

For Immediate Release

October 5, 2004

LMTAC Appoints New Tsawwassen Table Representative

Burnaby, B.C.... On September 29th, 2004, the *Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee* (LMTAC) endorsed the appointment of Burnaby Councillor Lee Rankin as the LMTAC representative to the *Tsawwassen Treaty Table*, and LMTAC Vice-Chair Candace Gordon, Maple Ridge Councillor, as his alternate to replace Richmond Councillor Harold Steves.

On September 20th LMTAC was notified that Councillor Harold Steves had resigned as the *City of Richmond's* representative to LMTAC, and that Richmond Council had appointed Councillor Linda Barnes as their replacement LMTAC representative. Prior to his resignation, Councillor Steves was LMTAC's Table Representative to the *Tsawwassen Treaty Table*.

Mayor Ralph Drew, LMTAC Chair, expressed his disappointment at the news, "I want to express our regret in Councillor Steves' decision to resign; he was an extremely valuable member and representative of LMTAC who was well respected not only by the LMTAC membership, but also by the other parties at the treaty tables." Councillor Steves noted that the reasons for his departure related to the time commitments demanded by his role as LMTAC's Table Representative to the *Tsawwassen Treaty Table* and his personal desire to further pursue non-treaty related agricultural interests in his community.

Given that LMTAC is the voice of Lower Mainland area local governments on all issues relating to the treaty process, Chairman Drew reinforced LMTAC's obligation to continue to participate fully in treaty negotiations, particularly at the *Tsawwassen Treaty Table*. "It is essential to be a part of the discussions at *Tsawwassen*, as decisions reached at this table will likely have implications for other Lower Mainland treaty tables."

Councillor Steves confirmed the value of LMTAC's role in his September 27th email communiqué to LMTAC: "It is crucial for LMTAC to continue at the Tsawwassen negotiating table. There have been many instances where our voice has moderated the positions of both Canada and BC. This has benefited both the region and the *Tsawwassen First Nation*, who will one day join us in some form of regional partnership."

LMTAC table representatives participate as full members of the Provincial negotiation team. Accordingly, LMTAC will continue to ensure that local government interests are represented at the *Tsawwassen Treaty Table* as part of the Provincial negotiation team.

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For more information, please contact: Mayor Ralph Drew, LMTAC Chair, at (604) 451-6160.

LMTAC coordinates and represents the interests of Local Governments, and through them their constituents, in defining and building relationships between First Nations and other orders of government.