

LMTAC BACKGROUNDER

What is the Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee (LMTAC)?

- The *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.
- There are 26 individual local government jurisdictions represented as full members on LMTAC; 23 municipalities and 3 regional districts, including Metro Vancouver and the Squamish-Lillooet and Sunshine Coast regional districts.
- LMTAC acts as a full member of the British Columbia treaty negotiation teams and was established to provide input into negotiations with five Lower Mainland area First Nations: Katzie, Musqueam, Squamish, Tsawwassen and Tsleil-Waututh.
- In order to effectively act on its Mission Statement, LMTAC established the following priority roles to:
 1. Communicate the collective interests of local government, in area treaty processes, to provincial, federal and First Nation's governments;
 2. Advise and update LMTAC members regarding local government interests in aboriginal governance issues and treaty negotiations;
 3. Monitor and, where necessary, respond to non-treaty aboriginal issues that may impact the collective local government interest; and
 4. Facilitate the development of effective working relationships between local governments and First Nations.
- LMTAC is the largest of 19 *Treaty Advisory Committees* (TAC) in British Columbia and the only one comprised mainly of urban local governments.

Will My Community Be Impacted by Treaty Settlements?

- Certain aboriginal rights, such as harvesting wildlife, plants and fisheries, are not restricted to Treaty Settlement Lands but rather exercised throughout a First Nation's traditional territory. For example, while the Tsawwassen First Nation's Treaty Settlement Lands are located within the Corporation of Delta, its traditional territory spans the area from Pitt Lake to the Gulf Islands.
- Post-treaty, First Nation Treaty Settlement Lands will be removed from the municipal land base but will remain within regional district boundaries. As a self-government entity, the Tsawwassen First Nation became a full member of Metro Vancouver. Treaty negotiations with other Lower Mainland First Nations may contemplate a similar arrangement post-treaty.
- It is essential for local governments to monitor developments at lead Final Agreement tables and policy initiatives such as the Province's *New Relationship* and the First Nations' *Unity Protocol*; as the outcome of these discussions will influence future treaty negotiations in British Columbia.
- Post-treaty, local and First Nation governments will interact on a daily basis. The success of any treaty settlement will depend upon the development of positive intergovernmental relationships pre-treaty.

How do Local Governments Participate in Negotiations?

- Each full member municipality or regional district of LMTAC typically appoints one elected representative and one staff representative.
- From the total membership, LMTAC elects Treaty Table Representatives for each of the treaty negotiations in which LMTAC is involved. LMTAC Treaty Table Representatives report table activity to the wider LMTAC membership and, along with LMTAC staff, work to address issues arising from the negotiations.
- LMTAC's main policy document is the *Considerations* paper, which includes 43 First Principles for treaty negotiations. These principles outline local government interests in Lower Mainland treaty negotiations.
- LMTAC produces position papers, discussion papers, and background briefing notes on policy items for the use of Provincial negotiators, LMTAC table representatives, and local government officials. All LMTAC policy documents are available at www.lmtac.bc.ca.
- All LMTAC policy documents are vetted with each of its member councils and boards.

How and Why Was LMTAC Formed?

- In 1991, discussions commenced between the *Union of British Columbia Municipalities* (UBCM) and the Province of British Columbia regarding the role of local government in treaty negotiations.
- These discussions resulted in the recognition that local government was not a third party interest at the treaty table. Local governments are public governments responsible to the constituents who elect them and the most likely to have day-to-day interaction with First Nations communities in the post-treaty environment, particularly in the urban setting.
- In 1993, a *Memorandum of Understanding* (MOU) was signed (and later renewed in 2003) between the UBCM and former Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs in recognition that local government constituted "a unique and special government interest in the negotiations." Through the MOU, local governments became full members of provincial negotiating teams. On September 22, 2008, a revised MOU was signed to establish a role for local government in the negotiation and implementation of agreements encompassed by the *New Relationship* with First Nations.

When Does LMTAC Meet?

- LMTAC holds meetings of its full membership bi-monthly, on the fourth Wednesday of the designated month, in the 2nd Floor Boardroom, Metro Vancouver Head Office, Burnaby, BC. Meetings are open to the public.

Looking for Additional Information?

To obtain information on LMTAC, treaty negotiations, or local government's role in the BC treaty process, contact: Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee, 4th Floor, 4330 Kingsway, Burnaby, BC V5H 4G8
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