

BACKGROUND

Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee (LMTAC)

The *Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee* (LMTAC) participates in area treaty negotiations as a member and advisor to the provincial treaty negotiation team throughout all six stages of the *BC Treaty Process*. The purpose of the *BC Treaty Process* is to clarify issues of uncertainty regarding land, resources and governance in BC by establishing “a new relationship among the First Nations, Canada and British Columbia, based on mutual trust, respect and understanding, through political negotiations.” (*The Report of the British Columbia Claims Task Force*, released in 1991).

Although local governments are not one of the three principle parties in the tripartite *BC Treaty Process*, a *Memorandum of Understanding* (MOU) between the *Union of BC Municipalities* (UBCM) and the Province of BC, signed in 1993, recognized that local government constituted “a unique and special government interest in negotiations”. Subsequently, in 1994, *Treaty Advisory Committees* (TACs) were formed.

In January 2003, a new MOU was signed to reconfirm the role of local governments as full members of the provincial negotiating team in the negotiation of treaties and other agreements.

As part of the provincial negotiating team, LMTAC continues to provide advice and guidance from a local perspective to five Lower Mainland area treaty tables: Tsawwassen, Tsleil-Waututh, Katzie, Squamish and Musqueam.

There are 25 individual local government jurisdictions represented as members on LMTAC: 22 individual municipal and 3 regional district jurisdictions (Greater Vancouver, Squamish Lillooet and Sunshine Coast).

From the total membership, LMTAC elects table representatives to sit as part of the provincial team at each of the 5 sets of negotiations, including the Tsawwassen treaty table. LMTAC table representatives table activity to the wider LMTAC membership, and along with LMTAC staff, work to address issues arising from the negotiations.

LMTAC acts a central information base for local governments and other interested organizations and individuals requesting treaty and related Aboriginal information from a local and community perspective.

As several LMTAC member jurisdictions may be located within a particular First Nation’s *Statement of Intent Area* (SOI), the outcome of treaty negotiations at one table will likely affect many local governments. Accordingly, LMTAC’s responsibility is to ensure that the broader interests of all local governments located in the Lower Mainland area are represented in treaty negotiations.

Given this regional responsibility, no individual municipality or regional district has direct representation in its own right at any specific negotiating table.

LMTAC is the largest of the 17 local government *Treaty Advisory Committees* (TACs) in the Province, and represents a mainly urban population of over 2 million people.

For further information on LMTAC and its activities, please visit: www.lmtac.bc.ca

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.