

## **Katzie Treaty Team Makes a Tour Stop with the Greater Vancouver Regional District**

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**Burnaby, B.C. ...** On Tuesday, December 4, 2001 representatives from the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) played host to a meeting of the Katzie Intergovernmental Relations Working Group. Five previous Katzie Intergovernmental Relations Working Group (KIGRWG) tours were held at Pitt Meadows, Maple Ridge, Belcarra, Langley Township and Surrey. At the GVRD, as with these preceding KIGRWG tours, the exchange of information allowed all parties involved an opportunity to learn more about both First Nation and local government structures and processes.

The Intergovernmental Relations Working Group was struck in part to provide an information sharing mechanism prior to discussions on intergovernmental relations at the Katzie table. The group consists of representatives from the Katzie First Nation and federal and provincial negotiating teams. Representatives from the Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee (LMTAC), as members of the provincial negotiating team, were also involved.

As part of his opening comments for the day, Katzie Chief Peter James expressed his appreciation for the continued enthusiasm by all participants at the table. He emphasized that the meeting with the GVRD continued Katzie's interest in gathering information about how municipalities and regional districts work prior to beginning negotiations on government models with Canada and British Columbia at the treaty table. Chief James suggested that although Katzie may not wish to exactly replicate the municipal style of government, "there is much to learn from and about local governments."

Representatives from the GVRD's Aboriginal Affairs and Electoral Area Committee and the GVRD Parks Department shared general information relating to the roles of their departments and, based on participant questions, covered such topics as liquid and solid waste treatment, housing, water and parks management. Related to these topics, the KIGRWG participants were interested to learn from a few of GVRD's smaller municipalities that, at the GVRD Board, the size of one's municipality doesn't affect one's ability to participate fully in board decision making.

Based on the success of these tours, other treaty tables are beginning to refer to the Katzie Intergovernmental Relations Working Group as a model to establish discussions on intergovernmental relations.

The Katzie First Nation is one of five First Nations in the BC Treaty Process whose traditional territory is in the Lower Mainland. Katzie's total membership is estimated at 450 individuals and its community consists of five reserves located in five separate Lower Mainland municipalities and electoral areas including Barnston Island, Pitt Meadows, Langley Township, Coquitlam and Maple Ridge.

**For further information on LMTAC and its activities, please contact Kirstie Pirie, LMTAC Manager, at (604) 451-6160 or visit us at [www.lmtac.bc.ca](http://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.*