

For Immediate Release

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## Katzie Team Makes a Tour Stop in Surrey

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**Burnaby, B.C. ...** On Friday, November 16, 2001 representatives from the City of Surrey played host to a meeting and tour of the Katzie Intergovernmental Relations Working Group.

The Katzie First Nation is one of five First Nations in the BC Treaty Process whose traditional territory is in the Lower Mainland. 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 outlined the interconnections between his own community and the City of Surrey. He mentioned that the Katzie First Nation have many positive linkages with Surrey particularly their reserve on Barnston Island. All of their children from that reserve attend school in Surrey and many other Katzie members both work and shop in Surrey.

The day continued on a similarly positive note, as Surrey planners shared information on how their municipality plans, manages, and finances parks, environmental issues, long range plans (OCPs) and neighbourhood plans. Like the Katzie tours elsewhere, the exchange of information allowed all parties involved an opportunity to learn more about both First Nation and local government structures and processes.

Four previous Katzie Intergovernmental Relations Working Group tours were held in Pitt Meadows, Maple Ridge, Belcarra and Langley Township. Katzie's total membership is estimated at 450 individuals and its community consists of five reserves located in five separate Lower Mainland municipalities including Barnston Island, Pitt Meadows, Langley Township, Coquitlam and Maple Ridge.

Other treaty tables are beginning to refer to the Katzie Intergovernmental Relations Working Group as a model to establish discussions on intergovernmental relations.

**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.*