

# UPDATE BULLETIN

*"Coordinating and Representing the Interests of Local Governments and their Constituents in Lower Mainland Area Treaty Negotiations"*

Volume 2, Issue 2

Reporting on LMTAC Activities July - August 2000

September 2000

*Welcome back from the summer break!  
September is upon us and the fall proves to be both a busy and exciting time for the Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee.*

## Key Items of Business

*Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee (LMTAC)*

*July 26, 2000*

The last LMTAC meeting before the August break featured two special delegations. First, Mr. Michael de Jong, Liberal MLA, Aboriginal Affairs Critic, gave a presentation on the Liberal Party's perspective on treaty negotiations in the province and shared detailed information regarding the Supreme Court of Canada decision relative to the Constitutionality of the Nisga'a Treaty's self-government provisions.

Following this, Mr. Jose Villa Arce, Executive Director of Mandates, with Lisa Nye, Director of Governance, Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, presented the BC's perspective on governance. He referenced a Provincial report that included various aspects of Governance, including approaches, structure, categories and scope of authority, fiscal arrangements with First Nations, Canada-BC self-government cost-sharing negotiations, representation of non-members and relationships with local governments.

In addition, the full LMTAC endorsed the Integrated Considerations Paper. This document incorporates the LMTAC First Principles and interest statements that have been developed over the past several years by LMTAC members.

### UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETING:

Wednesday, September 27, 2000

A complete LMTAC meeting schedule is available from our website at: [www.lmtac.bc.ca](http://www.lmtac.bc.ca)

## PRIORITY NEWS

**Community to Community Forum  
September 14, 2000**

The Lower Mainland Community-to-Community Forum (LMCCF) is the first, participant-driven event of its kind in the region to actively encourage direct dialogue between area First Nations and local community officials and leaders. The Forum provides a unique opportunity for approximately 60 invited participants to exchange views, identify interests and discuss options for treaty and non-treaty approaches to issues of concern in the province's most urbanized area.

**Workshop to discuss First Nation Participation on Regional District Boards**

On October 5, LMTAC will host a workshop to discuss First Nation Participation on Regional District Boards. The workshop is the result of a recommendation from the GVRD Aboriginal Affairs Committee and will offer an opportunity for elected officials to present their views on this topic and discuss perspectives and options. Workshop details and invitations to follow shortly.

**Public Input at LMTAC Meetings**

On July 26, the full LMTAC endorsed that a public input and delegation section be added to the full LMTAC meeting structure. This amendment will provide an opportunity for members of the public to speak at LMTAC meetings. For more information the delegation procedures, please call the LMTAC office.

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## Negotiation Updates

### TABLE SPECIFIC

#### **Katzie First Nation** (Stage 3)

In May 2000, Katzie forwarded a draft Framework Agreement for consideration by the Parties. Chief Negotiators met on June 29, and Working Group met on July 18 and 19, and August 22. The Parties anticipate completing the Framework Agreement at the end of September and commencing Stage 4 (Agreement in Principle) negotiations.

*Councillor Candace Gordon is the LMTAC representative to the Katzie negotiations.*

#### **Musqueam First Nation** (Stage 3)

Further table work is on hold pending Musqueam consideration of issues related to the negotiation of compensation and ratification of the Framework. The Tripartite working group has drafted Procedures Agreement for Stage 4. No further negotiation meetings or activities have been scheduled.

*Mayor Greg Halsey-Brandt is the LMTAC representative to the Musqueam negotiations.*

#### **Squamish Nation** (Stage 3)

No activity has occurred at the Squamish table since February 1998 when LMTAC provided provincial negotiators with comments on a draft of the Framework Agreement. No further treaty-related meetings are scheduled at present.

*Mayor Corinne Lonsdale is the LMTAC representative to the Squamish negotiations.*

#### **Tsawwassen First Nation** (Stage 4)

The Tsawwassen treaty table continues to be the most active negotiation in the Lower Mainland. The Main Table Working Group/Side Table met several times to share interests on several key issues, including Culture and Heritage, Access, Environmental Planning and Assessment, Water and Fisheries. GVRD staff participated in a presentation of water and water resource on June 29, 2000.

At the Main Table on May 11, 2000, the Fish Technical Working Group released to the public the information it gathered on abundance and harvest of federal fish species of interest to the Tsawwassen. (This information is available at the Kwantlen University College, Richmond campus library). In addition, Chief Negotiators confirmed approval for a

second TAC Representative, reports from all Working Groups, and discussion of a possible framework for developing a cultural resources study.

At the Main Table on July 28, 2000, Tsawwassen presented a formal "treaty proposal" which summarized the community's interests to date on the key issues under negotiation. The proposal also contained a preliminary synopsis of the First Nation's interests in governance. Tsawwassen seeks a formal response by the federal and provincial governments, in the form of a counter-proposal, by December 2000. Should the counter-proposal be accepted by Tsawwassen, it is anticipated that the process of chapter development (Stage 4 of the Agreement-in-Principle) will officially begin.

Internal Provincial work, through inter-ministerial caucus (with TAC Rep participation) will now concentrate on preparation and consultation with advisory bodies for the joint federal-provincial counter-proposal. Should the counter-proposal be accepted by Tsawwassen, it is anticipated that the process of chapter development (Stage 4 of the Agreement-in-Principle) will officially begin.

*Councillor Vicki Huntington is the LMTAC representative to the Tsawwassen negotiations.*

#### **Tsleil-Waututh First Nation** (Stage 4)

A draft workplan was reviewed by the Parties and agreement reached to begin discussions on the topics of Land, Access, Forestry, Fish and Governance. There have been few open Main Table meetings, and Chief Negotiators will be discussing "openness" at future meetings. Side table meetings have been scheduled for August 30, September 20 and 21, 2000 to discuss Land and Governance. Negotiations with Tsleil-Waututh will be commencing in September with interest exploration in lands and resources.

*Mayor Don Bell is the LMTAC representative to the Tsleil-Waututh negotiations. ❖*

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## LMTAC Biz

### TECHNICAL & STRATEGIC WORKING GROUP (TSWG)

The LMTAC Technical and Strategic Working Group (TSWG) is the staff-led body that facilitates discussion of key treaty/Aboriginal interests and makes recommendations to the LMTAC membership.

On September 22, 2000, members of LMTAC's Technical and Strategic Working Group and GVRD's Social Issue Sub-Committee will meet for a workshop to discuss Aboriginal Peoples Living off-Reserve/Treaty Settlement Lands in Urban Settings. This workshop will elaborate on the discussions held during TSWG meetings as members seek to identify issues unique to the urban aboriginal context of the Lower Mainland and to make suggestions on how to address these particular issues. The outcome of this workshop will be a research report for consideration by members of LMTAC and federal and provincial treaty negotiators.

*Progress reports on TSWG activities are presented to the LMTAC Executive and its members as meetings are held.❖*

### BOARD DEVELOPMENT

In an effort to improve the organization and communication of committee business and to provide guidance to members, the LMTAC office is proud to present LMTAC members with the newly formatted agendas. As LMTAC becomes involved in more projects and as treaty table activity increases, the manner in which material is organized and presented to members becomes even more important. As of September 1, 2000, all LMTAC agendas will reflect the new municipal-style format.

To aid in the production of the agenda and meeting coordination and production, LMTAC has hired a new part-time staff member. **Joy Smith joined the LMTAC office on August 28** and brings extensive experience in administration and material production to her position. If you would like to talk to Joy directly, **her phone number is 451-6548**. Welcome aboard, Joy!

### *New BCTC Interactive Display*

The BC Treaty Commission has developed an interactive display using touch screen technology that

helps to answer six basic questions about treaty negotiations from a number of different perspectives. If your community would be interested in hosting one of these displays in a high-traffic locations, such as a municipal hall, or recreation or community centre, please contact the LMTAC Office at 451-6179. ❖

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## Communications Update

### LMTAC Web Site

One of highest priorities of communication activities for LMTAC's Communications Sub-Committee was to update the committee's web site. Members of LMTAC and the public can now access meeting agendas and minutes in addition to key LMTAC policy documents such as the July 2000 integrated Considerations paper. In addition, various mapping information, such as individual traditional territory maps of the First Nations and the overlap map, is available. In addition, the site includes an extensive links page for related treaty, government, and aboriginal web sites. The September 27 full LMTAC meeting will feature a tour of the new web site.

### Table Updates for Member Council/Boards

Beginning in late September, LMTAC will commence a tour of those municipalities most affected by the Tsawwassen treaty negotiations. These presentations follow up on the introductory presentations made to all member councils and boards in 1998/99 and will be tailored to each individual jurisdiction. Table updates to other municipalities and regional districts will likely follow in early 2001.

### Council of Councils Session

#### September 16, 2000

At the September 16 GVRD Council of Councils Session, LMTAC with BC South will be providing an update on treaty negotiations taking place in the Lower Mainland.

*This Bulletin provides a general overview of recent activities and major issues dealt with by LMTAC representatives. It is not intended to reflect all of the issues before the Committee. Any opinions expressed herein are solely of the Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee.*

**For more information, please contact LMTAC at:  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 4330 Kingsway, Burnaby, BC, V5H 4G8.**

**Tel: (604) 451-6179 Fax: (604) 436-6860**

**E-mail: [www.lmtac.bc.ca](http://www.lmtac.bc.ca)**

## Lower Mainland Advisory Groups: Update

### REGIONAL CAUCUS (LMRC)

Meeting locations have alternated between Victoria and Vancouver. Representatives from the Lower Mainland TAC, the Fraser Valley TAC, various BC line ministries, Crown Corporations, and the BC South Team attended these meetings. The next Regional Caucus meeting is scheduled for September 20.

*The LMRC was created as a forum for provincial line ministries, Crown Corporations, and local governments to discuss key treaty and Aboriginal issues.*

### REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LMRAC)

There will be no regional advisory committee meeting in September. The next meeting will be scheduled when there is sufficient material to bring forward for the consideration of the members. Consultation Groups (CG) have met in place of the LMRAC to consult specifically on the Tsawwassen and Tsleil-Waututh negotiations.

### *Tsawwassen Consultation Group (TCG)*

At the July 13 TCG meeting, Canada made a presentation on the Federal approach to Fisheries. In addition, both Federal and Provincial team outlined their respective water interest papers. The next meeting with the TCG is scheduled for September 14, 2000. ❖

### FRASER VALLEY TREATY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FVTAC)

The summer has been an active one for the FVTAC. It has had been working on a public communication and consultation plan which will serve as a basis of future information sharing activities with the public-FVTAC will consider and approve in the fall. On August 29, FVTAC and BC Team South had a very productive workshop to review key Guiding Principles and to have a detailed discussion of FVTAC's interests in the treaty process. Topics discussed included: the role of TACs in the treaty process - during and post-final agreement; the limited financial and staff capacity of FVTAC and the challenges this presents when attempting to provide full local government input into the process; the importance of harmonized and standard regulations on and off TSL particularly in terms of hard services; the essential role of both municipal and regional district

governments in considering and even approving the addition of land to TSL post-treaty; the relationship between potential taxation authority by First Nations over non-members and the continued role of local government post-treaty in providing servicing on some TSL; and the paramountcy of voting as a means to provide democratic input into decisions of a local government nature by non-First Nations members who live on TSL.

BC heard and better understood FVTAC's interests in these areas, and a number of action items resulted including: an invitation to Jose Villa-Arce to discuss key mandate issues such as taxation and local government servicing and non-member representation; an invitation to invite Canada to discuss fiscal issues and Additions to Reserves Policy; a future servicing agreement workshop with BC to provide detailed technical information around taxation and servicing on Indian Reserves; and interest in inviting the BCTC to discuss accountability and incentives in the treaty process.

After a long and somewhat frustrating summer that has had blockades and delays in negotiations, FVTAC looks forward to a busy fall in which some key concerns it has about the present course of the treaty process will be examined. FVTAC remains committed to finding effective, fair and long-term solutions to address First Nations issues in the Fraser Valley. It is particularly looking forward to an active Yale treaty table, and hopes to see negotiations resume at the Sto:lo and In-SHUCK-ch tables as well.

*More detailed monthly updates on FVTAC activities and the status of the negotiating tables are available on the FVTAC web site at [www.fvrd.bc.ca/tac/home](http://www.fvrd.bc.ca/tac/home) or by contacting Chair Mayor Clint Hames or Tamara Little at 1.800.528.0061. ❖*

### ***Suggestions? Ideas? Articles?***

*If you have a suggestion, idea, or copy of an article you would like to include in an upcoming issue of the LMTAC Update Bulletin, please fax or e-mail your material to Kirstie Pirie, Communications Coordinator, at:*  
*Fax: (604) 436-6860 or E-mail: [www.lmtac.bc.ca](mailto:kpirie@lmtac.bc.ca)*