

Update Bulletin

Reporting on LMTAC Activities
March - April 2001

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Negotiation Updates	2
LMTAC Biz	2 & 3
Lower Mainland Advisory Groups	4

Upcoming Public Meetings:

May 23, 2001

June 27, 2001

The LMTAC home page has been updated to include a "New features" section that provides direct links to documents recently added to our web site.

Visit us at:

www.lmtac.bc.ca

**LOWER
MAINLAND
TREATY
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

LMTAC works to coordinate and represent the interests of Local Governments and their constituents in Lower Mainland area treaty negotiations.

March and April Highlights

March 28 Full LMTAC Meeting

Members discussed the purpose of the LMTAC Workplan Policy Item 7, Governance Symposium, and passed a motion to encourage area First Nation participation in the work planning of this event. Additionally, LMTAC and BC Team South discussed the best methods to track issue specific information with each other. Various options were discussed and a future meeting with table representatives and BC South will refine a process.

April 25 Full LMTAC Meeting

Staff reported on the Governance Symposium planning meeting with aboriginal representatives from the Katzie, Tsleil-Waututh, and Tsawwassen First Nations. The agenda was reviewed, focusing on an overall theme of "Understanding the First Nations/Regional Governance Interface." Members also reviewed the draft Local Government Fisheries Discussion Paper. Following a technical analysis of the paper with interested members, the revised paper will be brought back to the full LMTAC.

Katzie Intergovernmental Working Group March 21, 2001

LMTAC member Belcarra played host to a successful Katzie Intergovernmental Working Group meeting on March 21. What do Katzie First Nation and the Village of Belcarra have in common? See page 3 for more details.



A representation of the 'intergovernmental' character of the Katzie Working Group meeting (L-R): Debbie Miller (Katzie Chief Negotiator), Ralph Drew (Belcarra Mayor), Ginny Hasselfield, (Federal Communications & Consultation Advisor) and Bill Seymour (BC Consultation Manager).

Lower Mainland Governance Symposium

As outlined in the LMTAC 2001 Workplan and as requested by the LMTAC Executive on February 14, the LMTAC will host a Lower Mainland Governance Symposium on Thursday, June 7. Watch your fax machine for further information.

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATES

Regional Update

For the duration of the Provincial election, all Lower Mainland tripartite table meetings and negotiation sessions will be postponed.

Katzie First Nation (Stage 4)

Katzie Main Table Working Groups, including the Fish and Intergovernmental Working Groups, have met throughout March and April. The Intergovernmental Working Group has continued with a series of tours into area municipalities. This initiative allows the three principal parties an opportunity to explore the roles and responsibilities of Local Governments (see page 3 for an account of the Belcarra tour). A Katzie public information plan has been prepared for adoption.

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.

Councillor Harold Steves is the new LMTAC representative to the Musqueam negotiations.

(Councillor Steves was appointed as the Musqueam Table Representative at the March 28 Full LMTAC Meeting and replaces Richmond Mayor Halsey-Brandt).

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)

On April 5, 2001, Canada agreed to the primary land and cash components of the Provincial proposal from January 25 to the Tsawwassen First Nation. The joint counter-proposal contains no element on fisheries and governance. During, March and April, the Tsawwassen table continued to work on AiP planning, Non-Member representation on reserves and Economic Development and Community Planning Treaty Related Measures.

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

Tsleil-Waututh First Nation (Stage 4)

At the December 5, 2000 Main Table, the Tsleil-Waututh Nation (TWN) delivered a presentation on their key principles and approaches to treaty negotiations, based on their public document entitled *A Future for the People of the Inlet*. The table has met in March and April to discuss aspects of this presentation.

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

LMTAC BIZ

Finance and Organizational Sub-Committee (FOSC)

The Finance and Organization Sub-Committee (FOSC) continues to address ways to improve LMTAC's structure and flow of information. LMTAC recently endorsed FOSC's recommendations outlining specific reporting roles of staff and table representatives.

Communications Sub-Committee (CSC)

The Communications Sub-Committee (CSC) has been working since January on the development of a major fall event involving area Local Governments and First Nations. The LMTAC Executive Committee supported the preliminary outline in March and the CSC will provide a more detailed work plan to the Full Board in May. More details will follow.

Technical and 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. The TSWG's current project is to review the First Principles and to outline the progress on key issues.

LMTAC Office Update

Beginning in May, due to changes at the LMTAC office the LMTAC general office number (604-451-6179) will lead callers to an automatic voice messaging system with various voice mail options.

LMTAC Board Development

Watch for upcoming details regarding the summer LMTAC Board Development Event. These events are organised to facilitate discussion on current treaty and Aboriginal issues and to encourage intergovernmental relations between members.

BC Treaty Commission (BCTC) Interactive Display

The BCTC Display is again available to LMTAC Members. The touch-screen display answers six basic questions about the treaty process. Several LMTAC members hosted the BCTC display last year, including West Vancouver, Ladner, North Vancouver City, Surrey and the GVRD.

If your community is interested in taking advantage of this public information tool for a high-traffic location, please call the LMTAC office at (604) 451-6179 for BCTC contact and display information.

Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM)

Many LMTAC members participated in the well-attended UBCM Province-wide Community-to-Community Forum held on March 6. This was another positive event in which local communities were able to talk directly with each other on issues of mutual interest.

As requested by LMTAC members, the UBCM Aboriginal Affairs updates will now be distributed via email.

On the Road with the Katzie Intergovernmental Working Group Municipal Tour to Belcarra

First Nations and Local Governments are learning that they share something in common. On March 21, the Village of Belcarra played gracious host to the Katzie Intergovernmental Working Group. The Katzie First Nation is one of five First Nations in the B.C. Treaty Commission process whose traditional territory is situated in the Lower Mainland.

This working group session in Belcarra represents the third in a series of day-long municipal tours to Lower Mainland area local governments. The Katzie Intergovernmental Working Group consists of representatives from the Katzie First Nation, federal and provincial negotiating teams, in addition to representatives from the Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee (LMTAC) who provide local government advice to the BC South negotiating team.

Key players from each party include Debbie Miller, Chief Negotiator (Katzie First Nation), Wendy Hutchinson, Negotiator (Federal Treaty Negotiations Office), and Vera Vukelich, Assistant Negotiator (Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs). Councillor Candace Gordon, LMTAC Representative to the Katzie table, has played an integral role as liaison and co-ordinator for each tour. This working group was struck in part to provide an information sharing mechanism prior to discussions on intergovernmental relations at the Katzie table.

The concept of a travelling municipal tour is unique to the Katzie table and was developed from a keen interest on Katzie's part to learn more about local government roles

and responsibilities. These tours exemplify the positive relationships fostered amongst all parties at the Katzie table and, currently, this is the only Intergovernmental Working Group in the Lower Mainland area. Two previous Katzie Intergovernmental Working Group tours were held in Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge. Unlike these two municipalities, however, Belcarra does not fall within Katzie's traditional territory. Nonetheless, Katzie Chief Negotiator Debbie Miller said Katzie was particularly interested in visiting Belcarra in an effort to learn how a small municipality survives as the smallest fish in the big pond of the Greater Vancouver Regional District.

At first glance, any commonality between the Katzie First Nation and the Village of Belcarra may seem subtle. Katzie's total membership is estimated at 420 individuals and its community consists of five Reserves located in five separate Lower Mainland municipalities (Pitt Meadows, Langley, Barnston Island, Port Coquitlam and Maple Ridge). In comparison, the Village of Belcarra is an affluent residential municipality of some 700 people and is geographically nestled in between the ocean and mountains on the east side of Indian Arm. Many similarities, however, were teased out of the day's discussion. The three main areas of shared interest focused on staff and elected linkages, networking, and long term planning. As Belcarra Administrator Moira McGregor suggested, at the end of the day, "it's really just about small community issues."



Moira McGregor outlines Belcarra's budget with the Working Group.

As well as offering reflections on their own experience, the afternoon provided an opportunity for Belcarra representatives to ask questions and learn more about the manner in which Katzie operates as a government. Again, both communities shared many of the same concerns regarding budgets and grants funding, service provision and staffing. Councillor Candace Gordon acknowledged that these tours have been an excellent forum to allow Katzie and area Local Governments to exchange information but "that they have also allowed the senior level of governments an opportunity to learn more about Local Government structures in the process."

Debbie Miller complimented the Belcarra representatives on the warm hospitality and their willingness to share experiences with the Working Group; she summarised the session as "very informative". Miller underscored that she ended the day having a better sense of what was required

to successfully manage a small community, and, more importantly, felt encouraged at the prospect that a small community can survive and thrive in the urban complexities of the Lower Mainland.

From the experiences to date, it's clear that this table has established a solid, positive example of how to improve understanding and build linkages. Other treaty tables are beginning to refer to the Katzie Intergovernmental Working Group as a model to establish discussions on intergovernmental relations. The working group looks forward to hitting the road again in the next few months to visit Surrey and the Township of Langley.



Following the successful Belcarra session, BC Team South members (L-R) Vera Vukelich (Assistant Negotiator), Bill Seymour (Consultation Manager), and Councillor Candace Gordon (LMTAC Representative to Katzie negotiations) share information learned during the day's discussion.

LOWER MAINLAND ADVISORY GROUPS

Regional Caucus

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. Meetings were held in March and April.

Regional Caucus created as a forum for provincial line ministries, Crown Corporations, and local governments to discuss key treaty and Aboriginal issues.

Lower Mainland Regional Advisory Committee (LMRAC)

Consultation Groups have met in place of the LMRAC to consult specifically on the Tsawwassen and Tsleil-Waututh negotiations.

Fraser Valley Treaty Advisory Committee (FVTAC)

The FVTAC has had a busy spring, with considerable activity at the Sto:lo and Yale tables, and consultation with BC Team South at a significant pace. The Sto:lo table is progressing, with a recent set of negotiations including a Main Table, the first in nearly a year. This Main Table and subsequent working group sessions demonstrated that the Sto:lo table is working hard to better understand the goals of the Sto:lo Nation, and the likely outcomes of an Agreement in Principle. Most sessions have been concerned with the Sto:lo tabling their Interim Measures Proposals on Fish, Forestry, Education, Lands and Mining. A future session will be an internal workshop on the role of Interim and Treaty Related Measures in Agreement in Principle negotiations, and a general review of the process. Sto:lo has indicated they have undertaken considerable internal work on "process" chapters such as amendment, ratification, etc., and intend to table them in the future.

The Yale table continues to be effective, with recent discussions on lands, fisheries, and access. A public Fisheries document, produced by the Fisheries Technical Working Group as a review of key fisheries issues include the context of the Aboriginal Fishing Strategy (AFS), has been released publicly and is available on the FVTAC web site at www.fvrd.bc.ca/tac/home. The Yale have also been approved for both a Traditional Knowledge and an Economic Development Treaty Related Measure. They have also proposed a Governance study TRM (not yet approved) that the FVTAC endorses as a way to begin dialogue, not only on internal Yale governance issues, but on intergovernmental relations. Chief Robert Hope has indicated an interest in partnering more with the FVRD in the future as a way to address community needs for a small First Nation.

With the current break in negotiations and formal consultation which results from the election, the FVTAC is re-orienting its focus temporarily towards to federal government, with an upcoming meeting with Stephen Owen, MP Vancouver-Quadra. A discussion is planned on topics such as non-member representation, landfills on federal lands, and the planned Governance Act reform to the Indian Act.

The FVTAC is pleased to announce that Gillian Berger has joined Tamara Little in the office as FVTAC Assistant. For more information on FVTAC activities, please contact Tamara at 1-800-528-0061 or tlittle@fvrd.bc.ca.

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:
Tel: (604) 451-6179 or email: lmtac.lmtac@gvrd.bc.ca**