

Update Bulletin

Reporting on recent
LMTAC Activities

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LMTAC coordinates and represents the collective interests of local government, and through them their constituents, in defining and building relationships between First Nations and other orders of government.

HIGHLIGHTS

Union of BC Municipalities Conference - *Final Treaty Agreements: Examining Local Government Interests*

As part of its 2007 Spring Conference Program, the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) is hosting *Final Treaty Agreements: Examining Local Government Interests*, May 23rd -24th. Those attending the conference will learn about and discuss the Tsawwassen, Lheidli T'enneh and Maa-Nulth Final Agreements and related local government interests.

Agenda highlights include a keynote address by the Honourable Michael De Jong, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation; Plenary Sessions to discuss issues such as First Nation representation of Regional District Boards, First Nation Law Making Authorities, Coordination of Land Use Planning, and other land Issues; breakout sessions to discuss local government interests; and presentations from local governments involved in the treaty negotiations, including LMTAC.

For more information on attending the UBCM Conference *Final Treaty Agreements: Examining Local Government Interests*, please visit the UBCM website www.civicnet.bc.ca, click on 'Programs and Services', then 'UBCM Events'.

SFU Urban Land Claims Forum

The Simon Fraser University (SFU) Graduate Program in Public Policy and the Think City Society are presenting a forum on the potential impact of the *Tsawwassen Final Agreement* and other urban treaty settlements on the Lower Mainland region. Forum panellists include Chief Kim Baird, Tsawwassen First Nation; Doug McArthur, Professor, SFU Graduate Program in Public Policy; Councillor Harold Steves, City of Richmond; and Bill Tieleman, 24 Hours Newspaper Columnist and media commentator. The forum will be moderated by author, former Yukon premier, and negotiation consultant Tony Penikett.

The Urban Land Claims forum will be held at SFU Harbour Centre, 515 W. Hastings St., Vancouver. Further forum information and registration details can be found at www.thinkcity.ca.

Lheidli T'enneh Ratification Vote Results

During five voting days between March 17th and March 30th, members of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation (located just north of Prince George) participated in a community ratification vote on the draft Final Agreement. Lheidli T'enneh Band Council required a 70 per cent approval for ratification; however only 47 percent were in support of the Final Agreement. Polls showed that of the 273 eligible Lheidli T'enneh voters, ballots were cast by 234. All three parties are currently undertaking an internal analysis of the results and have not yet commented on possible next steps.

LMTAC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

February 28, 2007

During the February LMTAC Board meeting, members considered an approach for LMTAC to examine and identify potential implications for local government in regards to the six key treaty-related policy issues highlighted within the *First Nations Unity Protocol Agreement*. LMTAC Staff were directed to continue to monitor Protocol related developments, and report back to the Executive Committee as necessary.

March 28, 2007

LMTAC Board members received a presentation by Federal Negotiators from the Tsawwassen Treaty Table during the March Board meeting. In particular, members received updates on the Tax, Fiscal Rations, and Fisheries Chapters of the *Tsawwassen Final Agreement* and an opportunity to engage in a Q/A period.. Members also received updates from a provincial delegation on the status of Agreement-in-Principle negotiations at the Tsleil-Waututh and Katzie treaty tables

NEGOTIATION UPDATES

Katzie Table (Stage 4)

Parties at the Katzie Treaty Table met on March 29th – 30th and, following the introduction of a new Provincial Chief Negotiator, discussed draft AIP Chapters related to Wildlife, Migratory Birds, and Parks.

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for April 25th and 26th at the Katzie Band Office in Pitt Meadows, with discussion on Resources and Environment, Parks and possible roles off Treaty Settlement Lands.

Councillor Mel Kositsky is the LMTAC representative to the Katzie negotiations.

Tsawwassen Table (Stage 5)

The Tsawwassen First Nation community vote to ratify the initialled Final Agreement has been scheduled for July 25, 2007. Following successful First Nation ratification, Canada and British Columbia must pass settlement legislation in order for all three Parties to proceed with signing and implementation of the agreement.

Chief Kim Baird was re-elected to her position for a sixth term during Band elections on March 27, 2007.

Councillor Linda Barnes is the LMTAC representative to the Tsawwassen negotiations.

Tsleil-Waututh Table (Stage 4)

Chief Leah-George Wilson was re-elected during Tsleil Waututh Band Council elections on April 1, 2007.

With all parties anticipating substantial work towards an Agreement-in-Principle in 2007, discussions occurred April 13th for development of the draft AIP Water, Access, and Roads & Rights-of-Way Chapters.

On January 18th, the Tsleil-Waututh endorsed the *First Nations Unity Protocol Agreement*; a document signed by over 45 First Nations seeking to jointly engage Canada and BC in the negotiation of issues of common interest.

The next meetings are scheduled for May 9th and 10th.

Councillor Alan Nixon is the LMTAC representative to the Tsleil-Waututh negotiations.

LMTAC BUSINESS

Finance and Administration Sub-Committee (FASC)

The first FASC meeting of 2007 was held March 7th. Committee members discussed the LMTAC communications strategy following the initialling of the *Tsawwassen Final Agreement*, and continue to pursue predictable annual funding for LMTAC from the provincial government.

Technical and Strategic Working Group (TSWG)

At the April 11th meeting Executive Committee members provided initial comments on TSWG's draft "Lessons Learned and Best Practices" document, based on LMTAC's experience at the Tsawwassen Treaty Table. Following receipt of the comments, a TSWG meeting is to be scheduled in May to incorporate the suggested revisions.

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 LMTAC.

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