

Update Bulletin

Reporting on recent
LMTAC Activities

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Upcoming Public LMTAC Board Meetings:

May 26, 2010
(CANCELLED)

June 23, 2010

July 28, 2010

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**LOWER
MAINLAND
TREATY
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

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

Federal Round Table on Aboriginal Rights and Title

On March 16, 2010, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) hosted a Round Table on Aboriginal Rights and Title in British Columbia. In addition to LMTAC, other parties attending included UBCM, business and industry groups, the First Nations Summit and the federal Privy Council Office. In advance of the Round Table, INAC circulated a backgrounder announcing revised approaches to federal treaty negotiation mandates. Highlights include:

- Acknowledgment of existing Aboriginal Rights and Title;
- Provide greater options to address “certainty”;
- Streamline the Treaty-Related Measures process and funding model;
- Provide First Nations with the ability to establish fines and penalties on treaty settlement lands (TSL) comparable to those applied by other regulatory bodies off TSL.
- New funding arrangements for self-governing First Nations; and
- Deferring negotiation of the *Fish* chapter until the conclusion of the Cohen Inquiry.

An LMTAC report on the new federal treaty mandates was circulated to all LMTAC member jurisdictions in early May. Should you be interested in more information, please contact the LMTAC office at 604-451-6179.

LMTAC Executive Committee Meets Minister Abbott

The LMTAC Executive Committee met with the Honourable George Abbott, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, on April 30, 2010. The meeting provided an opportunity for Minister Abbott and the Executive Committee to discuss the following topics:

- Treaty revitalization and Common Table negotiations;
- Local government consultation with First Nations;
- Lands within municipal boundaries used for reconciliation agreements;
- Coordination between ministries on *New Relationship* initiatives

City of Vancouver and Squamish Nation Sign MOU

City of Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson and Squamish Nation Chief Gibby Jacob signed a Memorandum of Understanding and Protocol Agreement (MOU) on May 17, 2010, bringing the two communities closer together.

The City and the Squamish Nation will form a steering committee to meet regularly and intend to host joint Council meetings at least once a year. The MOU also encourages collaboration in areas of mutual interest such as economic development, tourism, and environmental protection.

LMTAC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

April 28, 2010

At the April LMTAC Board meeting, members were provided with a briefing on the *Coastal First Nations* and the *Haida* Reconciliation Protocols; discussion emphasised the role of local government in the above agreements.

Members also reviewed the draft Tseil-Waututh Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) *Local Government Relations* chapter, and endorsed comments on the federal *Action Plan* on aboriginal rights and title.

NEGOTIATION UPDATES

Katzie Table (Stage 4)

Parties at the Katzie table have not met since December 2009 due to scheduling conflicts. Despite the apparent negotiation slowdown, technical work on creation of a land package has continued.

The next Main Table Working Group (MTWG) meetings are scheduled for May 19th and 20th, with agenda items including *Governance, Eligibility and Enrolment, Land, and Culture and Heritage*.

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

Tseil-Waututh Table (Stage 4)

Negotiations at the Tseil-Waututh table have continued at a steady pace, with Parties meeting March 24th, April 20th and April 21st. Notable progress has been made on the following chapters: *Environmental Assessment and Protection, Culture and Heritage, and Land Title*.

The next MTWG meetings are scheduled for May 26th and 27th in Victoria for discussion of *Fiscal Relations* and *Taxation* chapters. A Chief Negotiators' meeting has been scheduled between the Parties for June 24th in North Vancouver.

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

LMTAC BUSINESS

Technical and Strategic Working Group (TSWG)

TSWG recently revised the *LMTAC Lessons Learned and Best Practices at the Tsawwassen Treaty Table* to reflect the experiences of the Corporation of Delta and Metro Vancouver staff in implementing the treaty. The document will be provided at the next LMTAC Board meeting for final review and endorsement.

TSWG also continues to address the challenge of post-treaty Additions to Treaty Settlement Land (TSL) and will be working on a revised briefing note in the coming months.

The next TSWG meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 3, 2010. All local government staff are welcome to attend.

Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM)

On April 8, 2010, the UBCM announced that LMTAC was the recipient of a \$10,000 grant under the Supporting Treaty Implementation Program (STIP). The STIP was established by the UBCM and the Province as a temporary measure following the elimination of Provincial grant funding for Treaty Advisory Committees in 2009.

Lower Mainland Local Government Association

LMTAC Vice-Chair Corinne Lonsdale was invited to provide a general update on recent LMTAC activities and area treaty negotiations at the 2010 LMLGA Annual General Meeting, May 12th -14th; as part of our ongoing communication strategy to educate and inform our member jurisdictions on the potential implications of aboriginal issues for local government.

For more information on the Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee, please contact LMTAC at:
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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.