

# Update Bulletin

Reporting on recent  
LMTAC Activities

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### Upcoming Public Board Meetings:

April 26, 2006  
May 24, 2006

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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

### LMTAC Requests Update on 'Certainty'

As a result of the Province's *New Relationship* and the Supreme Court of Canada's decisions including *Haida* and *Mikisew Cree*, LMTAC requested that the Province update local government on how it intends to address policy issues related to "certainty" in light of this new legal context. Particular concerns communicated to the Province include the potential impact that uncertainty over land use and land selection may have on *Official Community Plans* and *Regional Growth Strategies*. Further discussion of the concept of "certainty" is anticipated at a future LMTAC Board meeting.

### Province – Wide Community-to-Community Forum

The Union of BC Municipalities and First Nations Summit jointly hosted a Province-Wide Community-to-Community Forum on March 10; marking the fourth event of this kind in ten years. The theme of the event was *Moving from Dialogue to Partnership: Exploring Innovative Local Government – First Nation Partnerships*.

Presentations were received on the following topics: economic development; land use, servicing and governance; and lifelong learning and skills development. Participants also engaged in two small group discussions on the Foundations of Partnership and the "How To" of Building Partnerships. Keynote speakers included the Hon. Tom Christensen, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, and Chief Stewart Phillip, President of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs.

### Lower Mainland Roundtable on First Nation – Local Government Relations

In July 2005, the LMTAC Board discussed and endorsed a proposal to establish a *Lower Mainland Roundtable on First Nation – Local Government Relations*. This proposal was shared with the BC Treaty Commission (BCTC) to request their assistance with facilitating this forum and encouraging funding support by senior governments.

The BCTC responded positively to LMTAC's proposal and organized a steering committee meeting in early April to further explore the *Roundtable*. In addition to LMTAC and GVRD representatives, steering committee participants include representatives from the Tsawwassen, Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh and Katzie First Nations.

### Yale First Nation Agreement-in-Principle

Canada, British Columbia and the Yale First Nation signed an Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) on March 9, 2006; effectively marking the sixth treaty table to enter into Final Agreement negotiations.

Highlights of the AIP include: 1139 hectares of fee-simple Treaty Settlement Land in the Fraser Canyon; a cash transfer of \$6.5 million at time of Final Agreement; allocation of 0.9% of the Canadian total allowable Sockeye catch for domestic purposes (to a maximum of 7278 fish); and the transfer of Emory Creek Provincial Park as Treaty Settlement Land.

## LMTAC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006

LMTAC members received an information report on the recent Supreme Court of Canada ruling in *Mikisew Cree v. Canada*. This case is significant as it relates to treaty rights, certainty from treaties, and the duty of the Crown to consult with First Nations.

The newly elected Chair of the *Fraser Valley Treaty Advisory Committee* attended and provided a local perspective on the recent signing of the Yale AIP. Provincial negotiators also attended to provide the Board with an overview of active treaty tables. Further, members were also informed of the Snuneymuxw First Nation position paper on treaty negotiations and recent exploratory discussions to re-engage the table in active treaty negotiations.

## NEGOTIATION UPDATES

### Katzie Table (Stage 4)

Katzie First Nation Council elections were held on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Results are as follows:

<u>Chief:</u> Diane Bailey	<u>Council</u> Leslie Bailey (incumbent) Donna Leon (incumbent) Debbie Miller
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The table continues to meet an average of 2-3 days each month and is progressing on the development of AIP Chapters related to: Tax, Fiscal, Fish and Lands.

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for: April 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. All meetings are open to the public and are usually held at the Katzie Band Office in Pitt Meadows.

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

### Tsawwassen Table (Stage 5)

Following the signing of an Agreement-in-Principle in 2004, the table continues with Final Agreement negotiations. In an effort to reinvigorate negotiations, Parties are currently exploring ways to address outstanding issues involving lands, resources, fiscal/tax, governance, servicing and general provisions. Parties continue to work towards a tripartite goal of reaching a Final Agreement by the end of 2006.

***Councillor Harold Steves is the LMTAC representative to the Tsawwassen negotiations.***

## Tsleil-Waututh Table (Stage 4)

The Tsleil-Waututh Nation recently entered into a Partnership Agreement with the provincial Integrated Land Management Bureau to develop an *Integrated Land and Resource Management Plan for the Indian River Watershed*. Through the agreement, the First Nation and B.C. wish to create a showcase of sustainable land use and natural resource management in the Indian River Watershed for the 2010 Olympics.

The negotiation teams met in late March to discuss a framework through which the table could reach an Agreement-in-Principle. The next meeting is scheduled for May 10<sup>th</sup>.

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

## LMTAC BUSINESS

### Finance and Administration Sub-Committee (FASC)

In order to assist LMTAC staff in the preparation of Board agenda topics, the *Finance and Administration Sub-Committee* initiated the use of monthly board feedback forms as a three-month pilot project. The survey forms will be included in future agenda packages (on the opposite side of the expense claims form) and can be submitted directly to staff.

### Technical and Strategic Working Group (TSWG)

TSWG met on March 9 to endorse a final draft of its serving discussion paper for submission to the GVRD *Regional Administrators Advisory Committee* for its review and consideration. Following this technical staff review, a final draft will be presented to the LMTAC Board in May for discussion and in preparation of a service agreement workshop in June to assist members in furthering positive First Nation – Local Government relations.

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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