

Update Bulletin

Reporting on recent
LMTAC Activities

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Upcoming Public Board Meetings:

November 23, 2005
January 25, 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 Executive Meets with the New Provincial Minister

On September 30, 2005, the LMTAC Executive Committee met with the Honourable Tom Christensen, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation. Further to a formal introductory opportunity, members were provided an opportunity to meet with the Minister for an extended period of time to discuss key issues relating to the impact of non-treaty agreements, regional governance and services, land use harmonization and TAC funding. As follow up to this meeting, the Minister generously offered to provide the LMTAC Board with an update on the Province's *New Relationship* mandate in the New Year.

LMTAC Completes First Principle Review

After an extensive, two-year process the LMTAC Board completed the First Principle Review at its October 26 Board meeting by endorsing revisions to several of LMTAC's 39 First Principles, as well as, the adoption of four new principles. LMTAC's First Principles were initially developed through consensus and endorsed as part of the policy document *Considerations: A Guide to Lower Mainland Area Local Government Interests in Treaty Negotiations* in July 2000.

Since that time, a number of developments occurred, such as the Tsawwassen table moving into Final Agreement negotiations, which necessitated an update of the First Principles. Following, the LMTAC Board initiated a process to review its First Principles in October 2003 by actively consulting its members and each of their respective Councils and Boards. On behalf of the LMTAC Board, a sincere thank you is extended to each of our member jurisdictions for your valuable contribution to this policy process. A revised *Considerations* paper will be distributed in the near future.

New Policy Background Briefing Note- Support for BC Treaty Process

In September, the LMTAC Board endorsed in-principle a new background briefing note *Support for the BC Treaty Process* and recommended its distribution to members for review and comment (and posted to the website).

Development of this policy paper was initiated in order to elaborate upon a new First Principle that was proposed during the First Principle review process. A new principle was recommended by local governments in light of the dissolution of the provincial Treaty Negotiation Office (and subsequent creation of the new Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation), as well as, recognition by local governments of an increased number of bilateral agreements negotiated between senior governments and First Nations outside the BC Treaty Process. In particular, LMTAC is concerned that the benefits derived from non-treaty related agreements may act as a disincentive for First Nations to pursue or enter into the treaty process and that local government is not adequately consulted in the negotiation of such initiatives. Further to the adoption of this new First Principle in October, and receipt of member comments, the Board anticipates endorsing the policy backgrounder in-full at its November meeting.

LMTAC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

September 21st

The Board endorsed, in-principle, a new policy backgrounder to a proposed First Principle for adoption on *Support for the BC Treaty Process*. Members also endorsed the 2006 Budget and revisions to LMTAC Operating Procedures.

October 26th

Members officially endorsed changes to complete the First Principle Review that included both revisions to existing First Principles and the adoption of four new ones. The Board also discussed and endorsed the LMTAC Workplan for 2006, with suggested amendments including a servicing agreement workshop and enhancing communications through the development of monthly updates.

NEGOTIATION UPDATES

Katzie Table (Stage 4)

Following an August break, Parties at Katie continue to meet for two days each month and Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) negotiations are steadily progressing on a number of topics including: parks, wildlife, migratory birds, culture & heritage, forestry, access and Crown corridors, as well as, several procedural chapters.

More recently, the table initiated discussions on governance, fish and land. In particular, September 13-14 Main Table Working Group meetings focused on governance, forestry and the establishment of Fish and Land Technical Working Groups.

Along with tax and fiscal presentations, discussions were also initiated on land in early October. Parties are in the process of presenting their respective interests as they relate to land selection. Due to the lack of available Crown land in the region, the table is faced with the challenge of exploring land selection on parcels that may not be adjacent to existing reserves. Meetings held later in October focused on fisheries while land was further discussed on November 1.

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for: December 6-7 and January 17-18. All meetings are open to the public and are usually held at the Katzie Band Office in Pitt Meadows.

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

Musqueam Table (Stage 4)

On April 4, 2005, a Framework Agreement was officially ratified by Parties during a special ceremony at the Musqueam Reserve; effectively moving the table into stage 4 AIP negotiations. The table is currently negotiating a confidentiality protocol and developing an AIP workplan, with a focus on the topic of land.

Aside from treaty discussions, Musqueam is actively pursuing non-treaty opportunities including entering into an MOU with the Federal government and the City of Richmond on the Garden City Lands in April 2005. Further, Musqueam has been announced as a partner in a consortium competing to develop the future site of the Athletes Village for the 2010 Olympics in False Creek.

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

Squamish Table (Stage 3)

In 2000, treaty negotiators at the Squamish table recommended a draft Framework Agreement for approval by their Principals. Since that time, no further negotiation activity has occurred.

Meanwhile, the Squamish Nation is pursuing economic opportunities outside of the treaty process, including agreements related to the 2010 Winter Olympics. Further, Squamish Nation co-operated in the development of the recent, federally proposed *First Nations Commercial and Industrial Development Act* (FNCIDA), introduced to Parliament on November 2, 2005, that is intended to address existing regulatory gaps in industrial/commercial development on reserves through replication of well established provincial regulatory regimes.

Councillor Corinne Lonsdale is the LMTAC representative to the Squamish 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 March 2006.

Councillor Candace Gordon is the LMTAC representatives to the Tsawwassen negotiations.

Tsleil-Waututh Table (Stage 4)

The Tsleil-Waututh Nation has made progress at the negotiation table in 2005 with two Treaty Related Measures (TRMs). The first relates to inter-governmental relations, while the second is a land status TRM. Both are anticipated to be complete by the end of the year. Although work on AIP chapters has been slow, the Tsleil-Waututh Nation feels that much needed treaty work is being done through the TRMs.

Councillor Jean Ferguson is the LMTAC representative to the Tsleil-Waututh negotiations.

LMTAC BUSINESS

Joint RAAC/LMTAC Workshop on First Nations and Regional Governance

On October 26, 2005, LMTAC was invited to present to the GVRD's Regional Administrative Advisory Committee (RACC). The purpose of this workshop was to review and understand First Nation governance and key local government interests. It was also intended for participants to consider and discuss the political and servicing issues associated with the GVRD's proposed governance models for First Nation-regional district relations, post-treaty.

Following presentations by both LMTAC and GVRD staff, it was recommended that a discussion on specific regional governance models was premature and that additional work be pursued with respect to drafting a common set of principles for service arrangements and the development of a model to address local government interests.

Proposed Lower Mainland Round Table on First Nation – Local Government Relations

In July 2005, the LMTAC Board discussed and endorsed a proposal to establish a *Lower Mainland Round Table 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 request and is working to facilitate the development of this proposal with area First Nations. Following, the establishment of a steering committee is envisioned with the potential of hosting the first *Round Table* session in early 2006.

Finance and Administration Sub Committee (FASC)

As in previous years, LMTAC provided presentations to each of its three Regional District members: *Greater Vancouver Regional District* (Sept. 2), *Sunshine Coast Regional District* (Oct. 20), and *Squamish-Lillooet Regional District* (Oct. 24); to provide a status report on 2005 activities and an overview of the 2006 Workplan priorities.

Technical and Strategic Working Group (TSWG)

At the September Board meeting, members endorsed a TSWG recommendation to expand the role and responsibility of TSWG to respond proactively to the multitude of emerging treaty and non-treaty issues. Given this enhanced role, correspondence was sent from the LMTAC Chair to each member jurisdiction to encourage more staff nominations.

The next TSWG meeting is scheduled for November 17 (9-11am) to initiate work on service agreements and further to the October 26 joint RAAC/LMTAC workshop. All interested staff are encouraged to attend.

UBCM COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY FORUMS --- FUNDING AVAILABLE ---

UBCM recently announced that additional funding is available for 2005/2006 Community to Community Forums. LMTAC encourages its member jurisdictions to take advantage of this opportunity to co-organize an event with one or more neighbouring First Nations. Both first-time and repeat applicants are welcome.

Applications must be received by UBCM no later than December 15th, 2005, and the event must be held by March 31, 2006. Further information can be found at the UBCM website: www.civicnet.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 LMTAC.

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