

UPDATE BULLETIN

“Coordinating and Representing the Interests of Local Governments and their Constituents in Lower Mainland Area Treaty Negotiations”

Volume 1, Issue 10

Reporting on LMTAC Activities February – April 2000

May 2000

Key Items of Business

Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee (LMTAC)

April 26, 2000

An extended LMTAC meeting was held on April 26 to accommodate a full and varied agenda. During the meeting, LMTAC members engaged in a discussion with BC South regarding their response to the First Principles and the Tsawwassen workplanning schedule. Stu Lewis, a representative from the BC Mandates Branch delivered an overview presentation of the responsibilities of his branch and answered questions from LMTAC members regarding provincial mandates.

In addition, Helen Davies, Public Information and Consultation Advisor, and Julie Balfour, Research, Planning and Analysis Manager with the Federal Treaty Negotiation Office (FTNO), provided an overview of FTNO and key Federal policy documents. This presentation was followed by a question and answer period to allow LMTAC members an opportunity to engage in a discussion on how to build better relations with the Federal government. LMTAC will continue to work with the FTNO in this regard.

March 22, 2000

At the March 22 meeting of the Full LMTAC, members welcomed Katherine Gordon, the new Provincial Chief Negotiator for the BC South Team. Ms. Gordon reviewed her commercial law and treaty negotiations experience in New Zealand. Following, LMTAC and BC South participated in a two-hour chapter planning session regarding the Tsawwassen treaty table.

February 23, 2000

At this first regular meeting of 2000, BC Team South and LMTAC began discussions regarding Tsawwassen treaty table workplanning and expectations of each party. During the public portion of the meeting, LMTAC members reviewed eight additional or

amended principles for consideration. These principles were forwarded to member councils and regional districts to consider for addition to the LMTAC *First Principles* document.

On behalf of the LMTAC, Chair Don Bell expressed appreciation to Tom Isaac, Chief Negotiator, BC Team South, for his past cooperation and communications efforts with LMTAC by presenting him with a LMTAC Team Player jacket. Mr. Isaac returned to his previous law profession in New Brunswick.

Upcoming: May 24, 2000

At the next LMTAC meeting, the full committee will discuss action to be taken on the additional/amended eight principles and review the revised LMTAC Considerations Paper. In addition, LMTAC looks forward to a presentation by and discussion with Director Jim Abram, UBCM Aboriginal Affairs Committee Chair, on the mandate and terms of reference of the UBCM Aboriginal Affairs Committee.

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS:

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Wednesday, June 28, 2000

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Did you know that the LMTAC has a new web site?? See page 3 for details...

Negotiation Updates

REGIONAL ROUNDUP

Tsawwassen Public Information Session

A Chief Negotiators' Information Workshop on Culture and Heritage was held on April 13, 2000 in Delta. This workshop combined two previously separate meetings (Chief Negotiators Information Workshop and Public Information Session) in order to allow both the Chief Negotiators and the public to hear presentations on the roles and responsibilities of their respective departments relating to Culture and Heritage. The presentations were followed by questions from each Chief Negotiator and members of the public. The next Public Information Workshop is planned for May 11.

TABLE SPECIFIC

Katzie First Nation (Stage 3)

The BCTC has declared the table ready for Stage 3. Chief Negotiators signed Stage 3 Procedures that included Openness provisions and the role of the Local Advisory Group (known as the Katzie LAG). Katzie has expressed new interest in engaging substantively in the coming months. A tripartite meeting to discuss workplanning may occur by June 2000.

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

Musqueam First Nation (Stage 3)

On June 26, 1998 negotiations on the Musqueam Framework Agreement were completed and all Parties to the negotiations had initialed the Agreement. Delays are due to differing opinions about the inclusion of the term "compensation". No negotiations, or Agreement in Principle workplanning sessions, are scheduled.

Mayor Greg Halsey-Brandt is the LMTAC representative to the Musqueam negotiations.

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. Federal and provincial negotiators have the authority to initial the agreement

and Squamish have indicated their willingness to sign 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)

The Tsawwassen treaty table continues to be the most active negotiation in the lower mainland. The Main Table Working Group/Side Table met several times to share interests on several key issues, including Culture and Heritage, Access, Environmental Planning and Assessment. Since January, the Fish Information Working Group had met twice and are continuing to compile technical information for the negotiations. The Tsawwassen table plans to initial an Agreement in Principle by the end of 2000. The next Main Table is scheduled for May 11.

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

Tsleil-Waututh First Nation (Stage 4)

The Tsleil-Waututh table commenced Stage 4 negotiations in May 1997. On July 12, 1999 the Chief Negotiators from the federal and provincial governments made a 'scoping presentation' to negotiators from the Tsleil-Waututh Nation to provide their initial indication of how the federal and provincial governments could potentially address Tsleil-Waututh's interests. Tsleil-Waututh Nation have provided an initial response and are expected to have some further meetings in the coming months to discuss "next steps."

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

PRIORITY NEWS

First Principles

In December 1999, the LMTAC finalized the LMTAC First Principles – thirty-five statements of principle to help inform local government interests in treaty negotiations. An additional eight principles have been reviewed by all 26 member local governments and will be discussed at the Full TAC meeting in May. As one of this year's main priorities, the LMTAC looks forward to continuing discussions regarding their First Principles with other Treaty Advisory Committees in B.C., the provincial and federal governments. ❖

LMTAC Biz

TECHNICAL & STRATEGIC WORKING GROUP (TSWG)

The LTMAC Technical and Strategic Working Group (TSWG), the staff-led body that facilitates discussion of key treaty/Aboriginal interests and makes recommendations to the LMTAC membership, has begun work to identify issues unique to the urban aboriginal context of the Lower Mainland and to make suggestions on how to address these particular issues. A meeting with the GVRD Social Issues Committee is being planned to further examine priority topics.

Progress reports on TSWG activities will be presented to the LMTAC Executive and its members as meetings are held.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

As follow up to the January 26 Orientation Session and as part of the ongoing board orientation, LMTAC hosted a BC Hydro Aboriginal Relations Information session on February 23. The BC Hydro Aboriginal Relations Information Session covered issues and specific treaty negotiation topics related to the Lower Mainland. Participants found the fact-based presentation engaging and informative. A second session is being held on May 10 for those members not able to participate in February.

The LMTAC staff has begun preparation for the National Aboriginal Day on June 21. More details will be available in the near future.

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES (UBCM)

Many LMTAC members participated in the well-attended UBCM Aboriginal Issues Conference on April 5-7 in Richmond. The three-day event was attended by local government representatives throughout BC who are involved in treaty and other aboriginal-related negotiations. LMTAC Chair Don Bell delivered two presentations at the conference, one on "Local Government and Treaty Negotiations-Lessons from LMTAC" and an update on the Tsleil-Waututh Negotiation Table. The conference included an introductory session for new members, panel

discussions with local government, First Nation and policy representatives, and presentations of recent court decisions. During the final day, members broke into small facilitation groups to discuss potential outcomes of treaty negotiations related to land. UBCM will prepare and distribute a summary of these comments to participants.

Director Jim Abram, UBCM Aboriginal Affairs Committee Chair, is scheduled to make a presentation on the mandate and terms of reference of the UBCM Aboriginal Affairs Committee at the next LMTAC meeting on May 24. ❖

Communications Update

In March 2000, the LMTAC launched an updated web site: www.gvrd.bc.ca/lmtac to reflect Lower Mainland area local governments interests in the BC Treaty Process, to outline changes in LMTAC membership after the January elections, and to provide a more accessible means of providing information about treaties and issues particular to an urban setting. As a result, the LMTAC's new web site provides information specific to the lower mainland treaty negotiations and, importantly, acts as a useful starting point to learn about treaty negotiations in general.

The LMTAC Communications Plan 2000 was approved at the March 22 Full TAC meeting. At the April 19 Communications Sub-Committee (CSC) meeting, members targeted three communication activities as high priority for the year: media relations, municipal forums and internet/web site. The committee will implement activities related to these categories in the coming month. It is expected that final LMTAC First Principles will be the source of broad messaging for 2000.

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 or its representatives. Any opinions expressed herein are solely of the LMTAC.
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Lower Mainland Advisory Groups: Update

REGIONAL CAUCUS (LMRC)

The Lower Mainland Regional Caucus has met once a month since January. Thus far, meeting locations have alternated between Victoria and Vancouver. The meetings are attended by representatives from the Lower Mainland TAC, the Fraser Valley TAC, various BC line ministries, Crown Corporations, and the BC South Team.

On March 10, a Regional Caucus Sub-Committee on Access was held. Other Access Sub-Committee meetings of the Regional Caucus will be held when required to further examine the complexities of Access issues. For more information, please contact the LMTAC office.

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

REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LMRAC)

The Lower Mainland Regional Advisory Committee last met on December 9, 1999. Sub-consultation groups have met in place of the LMTAC to consult *specifically* on the Tsawwassen and Tsleil-Waututh negotiations. The North Shore RAC met on March 1, 2000 to discuss the Tsleil-Waututh scoping presentation.

The Tsawwassen RAC met on March 9, 2000 and April 13, 2000 to up-date members on government perspectives relating to the Tsawwassen treaty negotiations. Both meetings were held at the Delta Town and Country Inn.

LMTAC members should note that agendas and notices of confirmation/cancellation are distributed by federal and provincial consultation officers. ❖

FRASER VALLEY TREATY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FVTAC)

After a successful orientation session of new and returning FVTAC members, and an overview presentation on the provincial and federal consultation process by BC Team South, FVTAC is ready to continue meeting its mandate of representing local government interests in the treaty process. At the inaugural meeting in January, Mayor Clint Hames, City of Chilliwack, was reconfirmed as FVTAC Chair,

and Mayor Sylvia Pranger, District of Kent, was elected as Vice-Chair. Mayor Gordon Poole, District of Hope was added to the Executive as a member as large, joined by new Table Representatives Directory Terry Raymond (Electoral Area A) at the Yale Table, and Councillor Bernie Cross (City of Chilliwack) at the In-SHUCK-ch N'Quat'qua table.

February and March activities centered on internal budget issues, submitting the funding request to the province, reviewing UBCM policy materials on treaties, a review of the Marshall fisheries regulation decision, and related updates. The FVTAC has invited members of FTNO to attend the March 28 FVTAC meeting to review local government intersects in health care funding, and the challenging issue of fisheries management and treaties. FVTAC Chair Clint Hames presented on the work of the Intergovernmental Relations Technical Working Group at the In-SHUCK-ch N'Quat'qua table at the April UBCM Aboriginal Issues conference.

No meetings are currently planned at the Yale Table.

The province and federal negotiators await the next step from the In-SHUCK-ch N'Quat'qua First Nation after their formal rejection of the cash and land proposal tabled in October, 1999. This table has undertaken significant work drafting chapters in advance of the proposal, and FVTAC looks forward to the resumption of negotiations.

The Sto:lo Maintable originally scheduled for April 5 has been postponed for a future date.

For more information on the FVTAC or these tables, please contact Tamara Little at 1.800.528.0061. ❖

Suggestions? Ideas? Articles?

If you have a suggestion, idea, or copy of an article you would like to include in an upcoming issue of the LMTAC Update Bulletin, please fax or e-mail your material to: Fax: (604) 436-6860 or E-mail: lmtac.lmtac@gvrd.bc.ca