

Update Bulletin

Reporting on LMTAC Activities
January - February 2001

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Upcoming Public Meetings:

March 28, 2001

April 25, 2001

Did you know that you can now access both meeting information and policy documents on the LMTAC web site?

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www.lmtac.bc.ca

**LOWER
MAINLAND
TREATY
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

LMTAC works to coordinate and represent the interests of Local Governments and their constituents in Lower Mainland area treaty negotiations.

January and February Highlights

January 24 LMTAC Meeting

"With the current status of BC treaty negotiations and the possibilities for Provincial Government policy change following the expected provincial election, the role of Local Governments in general, and LMTAC specifically, will become increasingly important in the coming months" expressed Chair Bell following his re-election as LMTAC Chair. The annual elections took place during the January LMTAC meeting and also resulted in Mayor Ralph Drew being elected as the new Vice-Chair to the largest Treaty Advisory Committee in the Province.

In addition, the LMTAC members endorsed the 2001 LMTAC Workplan and the 2001 Communications plan. Action has already begun on items from both of these plans.

February 28 LMTAC Meeting

Following from an LMTAC invitation to the Fraser Valley Treaty Advisory Committee FVTAC Chair Clint Hames presented the interests of Local Governments in the Fraser Valley regarding treaty making. Following a question period, members encouraged LMTAC and FVTAC staff to continuing to work together on issues and projects of shared interest.

Also, LMTAC received further briefing from BC South Team on continuing negotiations at the three most active tables in the Lower Mainland: Katzie, Tsleil-Waututh and Tsawwassen.

February 1 Board Development

As any new member can attest, the learning curve of becoming a member of LMTAC is extremely steep. To ease this transition and officially welcome the new members, LMTAC Staff held an orientation session on February 1 for new and recently new LMTAC member staff and elected officials. Chair Bell provided opening comments and words of welcome to the participants. Following, LMTAC staff with perspectives from GVRD and BC South Team provided an overview of the BC Treaty Process, the role of LMTAC in that process and individual member roles on the committee.

As some members have done already, any new or interested members who were not able to attend this session are welcome to contact the LMTAC office to set up an individual informational meeting.

Upcoming: Governance Symposium

As outlined in the LMAC 2001 Workplan endorsed at the January Full Board Meeting and as requested by the LMTAC Executive on February 14, the LMTAC office is planning a full day Governance Symposium for early spring. Details are yet to be confirmed. Watch for further information to be provided.

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATES

Katzie First Nation (Stage 4)

Main Table Working Groups, including the Fish and Intergovernmental Working Groups, have met several times in January and February. On February 6, a well-attended Fish Working Group was held to focus on sturgeon and eulachon. This meeting included representation from several area First Nations, and Local, Provincial and Federal governments. The Intergovernmental Working Group has initiated a series of field trips into area municipalities; the first was held on February 15. This initiative allows the three principals an opportunity to explore the roles and responsibilities of Local Governments.

A Katzie public information plan has been prepared for adoption in early 2001. In addition, negotiation meetings have been scheduled into June 2001 and a Main Table is scheduled for May 2001.

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

Musqueam First Nation (Stage 3)

Further table work is on hold pending Musqueam consideration of issues related to the negotiation of compensation and ratification of the Framework. The Tripartite working group has drafted Procedures Agreement for Stage 4. No further negotiation meetings or activities have been 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. 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)

At a public Main Table on January 25, 2001, BC presented a proposal to Tsawwassen First Nation and the Government of Canada, outlining the Province's view of what a joint counterproposal on land and cash from both governments to Tsawwassen might look like. The complete documents are available to the public directly through the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs web site.

Before making a decision on BC's proposal to them, Tsawwassen First Nation will wait for Canada's

response to BC's proposal. During this period, the Main Table Working Group will meet to discuss various land, environmental and resources topics.

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

Tsleil-Waututh First Nation (Stage 4)

At the December 5, 2000 Main Table, the Tsleil-Waututh Nation (TWN) delivered a presentation on their key principles and approaches to treaty negotiations, based on their public document entitled *A Future for the People of the Inlet*. Side Table meetings have been scheduled into June 2001.

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

LMTAC BIZ

Finance and Organizational Sub-Committee (FOSC)

The FOSC is focusing on improving reporting between sub-committees and table representatives and the full LMTAC, and between staff and the various committees. Watch agenda packages for suggested improvements.

Communications Sub-Committee (CSC)

Working with suggestions made by the Full LMTAC, the Communications Sub-Committee met with the web consultant, Rob Fenger, to begin changes.

The CSC and its steering committee have met in February to begin plans for a fall LMTAC-hosted conference event. The conference event plan will be brought to the full board in March or April for their review.

Technical and Strategic Working Group (TSWG)

The LMTAC Technical and Strategic Working Group (TSWG) is the staff-led body that facilitates discussion of key treaty/Aboriginal interests and makes recommendations to the LMTAC membership. Recent TSWG discussions have focused on inter-jurisdictional issues related to treaty negotiations.

LMTAC Office Update

LMTAC is pleased to announce that beginning March 1, Joy Smith's new role with LMTAC is as Administrative Assistant. Joy can be reached Tuesday to Thursday at the LMTAC office at (604) 451-6548.

Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM)

LMTAC distributed a memorandum to members requesting their feedback on the preferred method in which to receive the UBCM Aboriginal Affairs Update and the related attachments. Several responses have been received. A formal decision will be made at the Full LMTAC meeting in March.

LMTAC members look forward to participating in the upcoming UBCM Province-wide Community-to-Community Forum held in Vancouver on March 6.

LOWER MAINLAND ADVISORY GROUPS

Regional Caucus

Meeting locations have alternated between Victoria and Vancouver. Representatives from the Lower Mainland TAC, the Fraser Valley TAC, various BC line ministries, Crown Corporations, and the BC South Team attended these meetings.

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

Lower Mainland Regional Advisory Committee (LMRAC)

Consultation Groups have met in place of the LMRAC to consult specifically on the Tsawwassen and Tsleil-Waututh negotiations. The next Tsawwassen Consultation Group is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on March 8, 2001 at the Delta Town and Country Inn.

Fraser Valley Treaty Advisory Committee (FVTAC)

Negotiating Tables in the Fraser Valley have been active since the new year. The Sto:lo Table has entered substantial negotiations, with Interim Measures tabled by the First Nation on the topics of Fisheries, Forestry, Lands, and Mining, although information is only available publicly on the first two items. Most sessions are, however, public. The negotiations promise to be active through the summer, with two to four days per month scheduled. There has been considerable consultation at the FVTAC and RAC over the last two months on topics at the Sto:lo Table.

The Yale Table is also meeting frequently, addressing both chapter development and negotiation as well as proposals for IMs and TRMs. Chief Hope of the Yale First Nation has demonstrated considerable leadership in his open approach to negotiations, and recently had a very successful and appreciated session with the Fraser

Valley RAC, detailing plans for his Nation and reviewing ideas. Both Tables promise to continue a quick pace, and FVTAC looks forward to substantial negotiations to address key issues.

There is no news regarding the status of the In-SHUCK-ch table.

The FVTAC itself has just passed its annual budget. Key FVTAC advice has been centering on Treaty Related and Interim Measures at the Yale and Sto:lo Table. The FVRD senior staff made a presentation at the Yale Table in January, detailing Local Government jurisdiction and servicing. This Table has some unique and interesting approaches to governance which appear to address many Local Government concerns regarding efficiency and opportunities for partnership; FVTAC looks forward to additional discussions around intergovernmental relations and servicing at this table. Public information will be a key priority for FVTAC for the spring and summer, and FVTAC will continue to dialogue with BC Team South on outstanding policy areas.

In February, FVTAC co-hosted with the FVRD Board a comprehensive discussions on landfills and environmental regulations on current federal lands and Indian Reserves. Initiated as a result of growing public concerns regarding unpermitted (federal) landfill sites on Reserves, the discussion included representatives from GVRD, DIAND, an external expert on landfills, and Chief June Quipp, Cheam First Nation (other First Nations with landfill sites were invited but could not attend). FVRD Chair Terry Raymond and FVTAC Vice-Chair Mayor Sylvia Pranger emphasized the key concern of environmental protection and consistency of standards rather than any desire to prevent economic opportunities on Reserve lands. The results of the discussion were a clearer idea of the First Nations interests, as well as a firm understanding of the limited ability of DIAND to enforce their own laws on environmental protection and landfills, and the lack of consultation with the public and Local Government required of DIAND. Emphasis was made on a desire to support First Nations and work in partnership with them, despite the limitations of DIAND in terms of information sharing and regulation. Further discussion on this topic will likely take place.

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 the Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee.

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