

Update Bulletin

Reporting on recent
LMTAC Activities

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Policy and Event Highlights	1
Board Meeting Highlights	2
Negotiation Updates	2
LMTAC Business	2

Upcoming Public Board Meetings:

June 28, 2006
(Servicing Workshop)

July 26, 2006

Looking for LMTAC materials or documents?

Visit us at:

www.lmtac.bc.ca

**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

Tsawwassen Treaty Table Releases Final Agreement Draft Chapters

Chief Negotiators from Canada, the Tsawwassen First Nation, and British Columbia held a public information meeting in Delta the evening of Wednesday May 31, 2006, to provide a community update on the status of treaty negotiations. During the meeting, five draft Final Agreement Chapters were released for public review and discussed by all three Parties.

The five chapters released include: Forest Resources, Migratory Birds, National Parks and Marine Conservation Areas, Provincial Parks and Protected Areas, and Wildlife. The documents are available online at www.lmtac.bc.ca.

Lower Mainland Roundtable on First Nation – Local Government Relations

The second steering committee meeting of the *Lower Mainland Roundtable on First Nation – Local Government Relations* was hosted by the GVRD on June 8, 2006. The event was facilitated by BC Treaty Commissioner Mike Harcourt and participants included representatives from the GVRD, LMTAC, and the Katzie, Tsleil-Waututh, and Squamish First Nations, in addition to the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

During the meeting, a joint presentation was received from the Squamish Nation and the District of West Vancouver on relationship building and recent initiatives involving all North Shore communities. Following, there was discussion on some of the challenges and opportunities that exist when building local government – First Nation relationships in the regional context.

Future *Roundtable* steering committee meeting dates are being planned for September and November 2006.

LMTAC Discussion Paper and Workshop on Servicing Agreements

At the LMTAC Board meeting held on May 24, 2006, members endorsed in-principle the final draft discussion paper *Towards a Model Local Government Service Agreement with Lower Mainland First Nations*. The paper provides guiding principles and sample provisions for the negotiation of a service agreement, with the intent of encouraging a consistent approach to service agreements across the Lower Mainland.

The draft discussion paper was circulated to member jurisdictions for review and comment by July 28. Comments can also be shared during the LMTAC Technical Workshop on Service Agreements on June 28.

Other workshop highlights include a presentation from legal expert Donald Lidstone (*Lidstone, Young, Anderson*) on the legal context of First Nation service agreements and a panel discussion on service agreement negotiations involving staff representatives from the City of Vancouver, the District of North Vancouver, and the District of West Vancouver.

LMTAC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

May 24th, 2006

In addition to endorsing the draft servicing discussion paper in-principle, members received an information report on the Supreme Court of BC ruling in *Hupacasath First Nation v. British Columbia*.

The Board was also provided with an overview of amendments to the *Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) Act (2004)*; as they apply to an application from a Treaty First Nation to exclude potential Treaty Settlement Lands from the Agricultural Land Reserve designation. Members also provided staff with questions to submit to the ALC in advance of an upcoming presentation to LMTAC.

NEGOTIATION UPDATES

Katzie Table (Stage 4)

On July 14, the Katzie First Nation will be presenting before the GVRD *Aboriginal Relations Committee* to discuss their interests in the region. All interested individuals are welcome to attend.

The table has initiated a Treaty Related Measure on land selection to further development of the AIP Lands Chapter. Parties continue to meet an average of 2-3 days each month and are progressing on the development of AIP Chapters related to: Tax, Fiscal, Fish and Lands.

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for June 19-21. 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. Further to the front page article, Parties hosted a second Public Information Meeting in Tsawwassen on May 31 to release and discuss the five draft Final Agreement chapters with members of the public.

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 this 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 was scheduled for June 9 in Victoria.

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

LMTAC BUSINESS

Finance and Administration Sub-Committee (FASC)

FASC members met on June 7, 2006, to discuss and prepare LMTAC's preliminary 2007 Budget. Members also received an update on the results of the three-month trial period for the *Monthly Board Feedback Forms*, and endorsed a recommendation that the forms continue to be implemented at future Board meetings.

Technical and Strategic Working Group (TSWG)

Following the technical servicing agreement workshop to be held on June 28, TSWG members will begin the process of incorporating comments received from member jurisdictions into a final version of *Towards a Model Local Government Service Agreement with Lower Mainland First Nations* for release by October 2006.

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.

For more information on the Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee, please contact LMTAC at:
4th Floor, 4330 Kingsway, Burnaby, BC, V5H 4G8
Tel: (604) 451-6179 Fax: (604) 436-6860
E-mail: lmtac.lmtac@gvrd.bc.ca