

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:

April 23, 2008
May 28, 2008

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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

Draft Paper on Cooperative Management Released for Board Comment

At the March 26th LMTAC Board meeting, members endorsed a motion to release the new draft discussion paper *Developing a Local Government Perspective on Cooperative Management Agreements with First Nations* from in-camera and to circulate the paper to member jurisdictions and affiliated government bodies for comment.

The draft discussion paper assesses the perspectives of First Nation, Provincial, Federal, and Lower Mainland local governments on the topic of cooperative management, identifying significant implications for local government and proposing several interest statements. LMTAC member Councils and Boards are encouraged to submit comments by Friday, May 30th.

Community Meeting on Katzie AIP Negotiations Scheduled April 16th

Members of the general public will receive an update on Katzie First Nation Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) negotiations during a community meeting on April 16th, at 7 PM. The meeting will be held at the Katzie Band Office, 10946 Katzie Road, in Pitt Meadows.

Musqueam Reconciliation Agreement Approved

On March 10th, the Musqueam First Nation voted 98 per cent in favour of ratifying a *Reconciliation, Settlement, and Benefits Agreement* with the Province of British Columbia. Provincial legislation to ratify the agreement was introduced into the Legislature March 11th.

Under the *Agreement*, the University Golf Course (59 ha), the Bridgepoint Casino Lands (7 ha), portions of Pacific Spirit Park (22.3 ha), and a cash settlement of \$20.3 million will be provided to the Musqueam by the Province. In return, Musqueam will agree to end litigation against the Province regarding three outstanding court cases; the University Golf Course, the Bridgepoint Casino, and the Celtic Shipyard lands.

Indigenous Nations Recognition Act Proposed

Recent media articles and statements by Premier Gordon Campbell, the Hon. Michael de Jong, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, and members of the First Nations Leadership Council suggest that an *Indigenous Nations Recognition Act* is being considered.

The proposed *Act* would enshrine the Province's *New Relationship* vision statement into legislation and may provide for recognition of aboriginal rights and title. Considering the wide scope of the proposed *Act*, and potential implications for Lower Mainland local governments, LMTAC continues to monitor this topic as necessary.

LMTAC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

March 26, 2008

In addition to endorsing the draft cooperative management discussion paper for public release, LMTAC Board members received a presentation from representatives of the *Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation* on using the concept of *Comprehensive Master Agreements* as a tool to build relationships between local and First Nation governments both inside and outside of the treaty process.

February 27, 2008

Highlights of the February 27th LMTAC Board meeting include a presentation from Sandra Carter of Bull Housser & Tupper, LLP on the *Tsilhqot'in* case and implications for local government. Updates were also provided by the Chair of the Union of BC Municipalities First Nations Relations Committee and LMTAC Table Representatives on area treaty negotiations

NEGOTIATION UPDATES

Katzie Table (Stage 4)

The Katzie table continues to meet regularly, making steady progress towards an AIP. During recent Katzie meetings Parties discussed development of the draft AIP chapters on *Fish, Access, and Crown Corridors*.

In addition to the April 16th community information meeting, Parties are scheduled to meet on April 16th and 17th for discussions on *Governance, Intergovernmental Relations, Indian Act Transition, and Environmental Management*.

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

Tsawwassen Table (Stage 5)

While Parties continue to await the outcome of the federal ratification process, Metro Vancouver has established staff working groups in preparation for Tsawwassen's membership in the regional district.

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

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.

Tsleil-Waututh Table (Stage 4)

Chief Negotiators from Canada, British Columbia and Tsleil-Waututh met February 13th to discuss table progress. The LMTAC table representatives received a further update on table negotiations from provincial negotiators during a February 22nd conference call.

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

LMTAC BUSINESS

Finance and Administration Sub-Committee (FASC)

FASC members met March 13th for their first meeting of 2008. Members considered 2008 Workplan priorities, and feedback received following the 2008 Orientation Session. Committee members endorsed development of a 'Board-in-Brief' reporting tool that will provide LMTAC members with a synopsis of in-camera and regular Board meetings. FASC members also discussed LMTAC participation at the 2008 Lower Mainland Local Government Association Annual General Meeting, May 7th – 9th in Whistler.

The next FASC meeting is scheduled for May 2nd.

Technical and Strategic Working Group (TSWG)

At the TSWG meeting of March 13th, members continued development of the draft discussion paper on cooperative management that was subsequently circulated to LMTAC member jurisdictions and affiliated government bodies for comment. Following receipt of comments on the draft paper by May 30th, TSWG will prepare a final draft for Board endorsement. TSWG members also brainstormed discussion topics for a special workshop forum on key urban aboriginal issues as part of the 2008 Workplan.

The next TSWG meeting has been tentatively scheduled for May 1st.

For more information on the Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee, please contact LMTAC at:

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