

Update Bulletin

Reporting on LMTAC Activities
September - October 2000

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Upcoming Public Meeting: November 22, 2000*

*Please note that this is the last public LMTAC meeting for the year 2000. The first meeting of 2001 is scheduled for January 24.

Did you know that you can access the LMTAC meeting schedules, agendas, and minutes all from our web site? To find these and many other LMTAC and treaty-related documents, visit us at:

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.

PRIORITY NEWS

Highlights from the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Annual Convention (October 23 - 27, 2000):

- Inaugural Joint LMTAC / FVTAC Meeting



Co-chaired by Mayor Don Bell, LMTAC Chair, and Mayor Clint Hames, FVTAC Chair, members of LMTAC and FVTAC participated in their first joint meeting on October 26, 2000. The meeting focused on shared approaches to the development and application of local government interests in treaty negotiations. This meeting was a key item of LMTAC's 2000 workplan.

- LMTAC meeting - October 26, 2000

LMTAC held their regular monthly meeting at the UBCM Convention. Members welcomed Skeena TAC representative, George Thom, who joined for the public portion of the meeting. In addition, Katherine Gordon, Chief Negotiator and many members of the BC Team South attended the meeting. Following from the success of the June 16, 2000 workshop to discuss First Principles, both LMTAC and BC Team South agreed that a similar workshop should be organized in December. Watch for details to follow.

- Annual LMTAC Executive Meeting with Minister of Aboriginal Affairs
Chair Don Bell and a few LMTAC Executive members met with Minister Lovick to discuss the below topics:
 - Linkage between LMTAC First Principles and BC Mandates
 - Resourcing to LMTAC (eg. in-kind contributions)
 - Need for better public awareness

- Protocol Agreement on Interim Measures and Treaty-Related Measures

A copy of this agreement was sent to all LMTAC Members on November 1, 2000. LMTAC congratulated Minister Lovick and his Ministry for working with the UBCM to develop this consultation agreement with Local Government. LMTAC members look forward to participating in the implementation of this new protocol.

Community to Community Forum - September 14, 2000

This Forum was referenced often during the UBCM Convention as a successful meeting of First Nations and Local Governments on issues of similar interest. Bound copies of the Summary of Proceedings from the first-ever Lower Mainland Community-to-Community Forum are being finalized and will be distributed to all participants in early November. The Proceedings are also available from LMTAC's web site (www.lmtac.bc.ca) on the "Announcements" page.

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATES

Katzie First Nation (Stage 4)

A Framework Agreement was signed by the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Katzie First Nation on September 20, 2000. Canada will sign at a later date.

Working Groups are scheduled for November 15 and December 6, 2000. The parties have formed a Fish Technical Working Group and an Intergovernmental Relations Working group. Stage 4 work planning is underway.

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)

The Tsawwassen treaty table continues to be the most active negotiation in the Lower Mainland. Recent open Main Tables were held on May 11, July 28, and October 13, 2000. No other public meetings have been formally scheduled at this time.

At the Main Table meeting of July 28, 2000, Tsawwassen delivered a major Treaty Negotiation Proposal which summarized the community's interests to date on the key issues under negotiation. Following the presentation made July 30, 1999, Tsawwassen reviewed negotiations over the past year, indicating outstanding issues, tabling their treaty interests concerning the capital transfer, fish and governance. Together, the two presentations set out the main elements, from Tsawwassen's perspective, of an Agreement in Principle.

Tsawwassen seeks a formal response by the federal and provincial governments, in the form of a counter-proposal, by December 2000. Should the counter-proposal be accepted by Tsawwassen, it is anticipated that the process of chapter development (Stage 4 of the Agreement-in-Principle) will officially begin.

On October 13, 2000, at an open Main Table, the federal and provincial Chief Negotiators discussed with Tsawwassen their governments' approach to developing the counter-proposal.

The Parties have made an extensive set of tripartite and individual Party's papers available to the public. Copies are available for public review either through regional public libraries or through the Parties' internet web site.

Internal Provincial work, through inter-ministerial caucus (with TAC Rep participation) will now concentrate on preparation and consultation with advisory bodies for the joint federal-provincial counter-proposal.

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

Tsleil-Waututh First Nation (Stage 4)

Meetings were held in September and October to discuss approaches to land and governance. Side table meetings have been scheduled as follows: October 31 (Land), November 7 & 8 (Governance: Child Welfare, Health Services), December 5 (Main Table) and Nov 23 (Side Table: Land & Governance).

The Parties agreed to develop a workplan schedule to June 2001 by the end of November.

Tsleil-Waututh Nation (TWN) will make a presentation of their vision of a treaty at the December 5 Main Table. There have been few open Main Table meetings, and Chief Negotiators will be discussing "openness" at the December Main Table.

Mayor Don Bell is the LMTAC representative to the Tsleil-Waututh 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 the Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee.

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LMTAC BIZ

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 interest and makes recommendations to the LMTAC membership.

On September 22, 2000, members of TSWG and GVRD's Social Issues Sub-Committee met to discuss Aboriginal Peoples living off-reserve/Treaty Settlement Lands in Urban Settings. A report will be reviewed by the LMTAC Executive on November 8, 2000.

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

Board Development

To evaluate LMTAC's work during the past year and to develop the 2001 LMTAC workplan, Chair Bell recently distributed a Member Survey. All responses should be returned to the LMTAC office no later than Friday, November 17, 2000. The survey results will be reviewed at the November 22 LMTAC meeting.

Commencing with the November 22, 2000 LMTAC Board meeting, the LMTAC office will send out only two agenda packages to each member jurisdiction. This measure will help reduce costs and paper used for the production and distribution of the LMTAC Full Board agendas.

Workshop to Discuss First Nation Participation on Regional District Boards

On October 5, 2000, LMTAC hosted a workshop at which approximately 40 people from various levels of Local, Provincial and Federal Governments participated to discuss aspects of First Nation participation on Regional District Boards.

Summary notes will be distributed to attendees in early November once reviewed by the LMTAC Executive Committee and GVRD Aboriginal Affairs Committee. In general, participants noted the value of the discussion and encouraged attendees to share information with each other and neighbouring First Nations.

Public Input at LMTAC Meetings

In July, the full LMTAC endorsed that a public input and delegation section be added to the full LMTAC meeting structure. This amendment will provide an opportunity for members of the public to speak at LMTAC meetings. Please call 451-6179 for more information.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

LMTAC Web Site

On September 27, LMTAC members received a tour of the updated web site by Rob Fenger, LMTAC Web contractor. This presentation highlighted the newest LMTAC documents and features accessible via the web site, these include: all public meeting agendas and minutes, key policy documents (eg. Considerations Paper), various mapping information, links to an extensive list of treaty, government and aboriginal related sites. Improving the web site was a key priority of the Communications Sub-Committee.

Promotional LMTAC web cards are available from the LMTAC office by calling 451-6179.

Table Updates for Member Council/Boards

Beginning with a presentation to the Delta City Council of September 30, 2000, LMTAC with representatives from BC Team South commenced a tour of those municipalities most affected by the Tsawwassen treaty negotiations. A delegation to Surrey City Council followed on October 30, 2000. Presentations to Richmond and White Rock Councils will take place in November. These presentations are follow-up to the introductory presentations made to all member councils and boards in 1998/99.

GVRD Council of Councils Session

At the September 16 GVRD Council of Councils Session, Mayor Don Bell (LMTAC Chair), Councillor Vicki Huntington (Tsawwassen Table Representative), David Didluck (LMTAC Executive Director) and Katherine Gordon (Chief Negotiator for BC Team South) provided an update on treaty negotiations taking place in the Lower Mainland.

BCTC Interactive Display

The BC Treaty Commission has developed an interactive display using touch screen technology that helps to answer six basic questions about treaty negotiations from a number of different perspectives. Several LMTAC member municipalities have hosted the display already, including West Vancouver, City of North Vancouver and Surrey. If, in the New Year, your community would be interested in hosting this display in a high-traffic location, such as a municipal hall or recreation centre, please contact the LMTAC office at 451-6179.

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. The next Regional Caucus meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2000.

The LMRC was 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)

The first LMRAC meeting in close to a year will be held on November 2, 2000 at the Federal Treaty Negotiation Office, Vancouver. Key items of business include a review of the December 8, 1999 meeting notes and updates on the five Lower Mainland treaty tables.

Consultation Groups have met in place of the LMRAC to consult specifically on the Tsawwassen and Tsleil-Waututh negotiations. The Tsawwassen Consultation Group (TCG) met on September 14 and was briefed on the land BC is studying for potential inclusion in the December counter-proposal to Tsawwassen. TCG reviewed maps and discussed the process by which BC investigates and verifies land tenures and encumbrances. At the October 12 meeting negotiators reviewed the rationale BC and Canada will be using in preparing the December counterproposal. A series of meetings with lessee farmers and fishing interests are planned for the fall.

Fraser Valley Treaty Advisory Committee (FVTAC)

FVTAC activities continue to be busy over the fall, with a number of key sessions planned with BC. FVTAC extends an invitation to all LMTAC members to join us on November 28 at 2:00 PM at the FVRD Boardroom in Chilliwack for the Servicing Agreement and Taxation Workshop with BC Team South. This session will be an opportunity for TAC members to share information on the nature of the extensive servicing agreements with First Nations already in place with the negotiators and mandates branch representatives, and discuss potential impacts, negative and positive, of treaties on those agreements. A background on the topic will be circulated in advance.

In terms of negotiations, the Yale table continues at a quick pace, with interest papers on forestry, fish, and water being tabled recently, as well as negotiation

sessions on eligibility and enrolment, governance, and access. This table is now normally open to the public at the request of the First Nation, which is a positive step applauded by the FVTAC and the community. We anticipate considerable dialogue between Local Government and Yale over the next year, and look forward to opportunities to explore how the treaty will allow for an increased relationship with Yale in the future.

The Sto:lo table, after some direct action in the summer, and subsequent meetings with BC and Canada in October, has shown some indication of progress. There have been commitments made to continue negotiations over the upcoming months.

The In-SHUCK-ch table has not met for over a year. The N'Quat'qua people have withdrawn from the joint tribal council and from the treaty as a result of a referendum, and although the remaining southern In-SHUCK-ch bands have committed to continuing the treaty, no meetings have been set.

FVTAC and District of Kent are looking forward to the first Fraser Valley Community to Community Forum on November 30 in Agassiz and Seabird Island. Mayor Pranger will be hosting up to five First Nations Chiefs and Councils in addition to the Sto:lo Nation leadership for a day long session at which joint local management issues for the Fraser will be discussed with an audience of federal and provincial officials. This will be followed by a lunch hosted by Seabird Island First Nation and a closed council of council meeting at which Sto:lo Nation will make a presentation, and the group will review key issues of joint interest by the governments. It promises to be a productive and important session.

FVTAC members greatly enjoyed our inaugural joint meeting with LMTAC held at the UBCM Convention. It was a profitable session, and members commented at the full FVTAC meeting on the importance of working closely with our Local Government neighbours in the future.

For more information on the table in the Fraser Valley or FVTAC activities, please contact Tamara Little, FVTAC Aboriginal Affairs Coordinator, 1-800-528-0062.

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 Kirstie Pirie, Communications Coordinator, at: Fax: (604) 436-6860 or
E-mail: kirsteen.pirie@qvrld.bc.ca*