



# PRINCE GEORGE TREATY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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## INFORMATION REPORT

**May 29, 2006**

This report provides a summary of the May 26, 2006 PGTAC meeting for member local governments participating in the Prince George Treaty Advisory Committee.

### **Negotiations Update:**

Lheidli T'enneh: The Lheidli T'enneh First Nation negotiations are moving quickly towards the initialling of a Final Agreement, which is anticipated by later this year. Very substantive progress has been made in finalizing the provisions of many Chapters of the Treaty. A number of significant matters have been signed off. The Lands Package has been finalized and agreed; however, some aspects related to Lands remain outstanding. Matters still under negotiations include some aspects of Certainty, Forest Fire Suppression, Water Reservation quantum, some Governance Provisions and some Fiscal Relations provisions.

Following initialling of a Final Agreement, all parties will embark on the process for signing and ratification of the Treaty.

Yekooche: Negotiations with the Yekooche First Nation are also progressing rapidly towards the initialling of a Final Agreement. The issues outstanding are similar to those outstanding with the Lheidli T'enneh.

### **Next Steps for Local Government:**

Local government, as represented at PGTAC, are now considering the next steps once Final Agreements are initialled with both the Lheidli T'enneh and Yekooche First Nations. Consideration will be given to the process for implementing these treaties, the role of local governments in implementation, and the Local Government/First Nations relationship post-treaty.

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, the City of Prince George and the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation are currently developing a Comprehensive Master Agreement which will address harmonization of regulatory regimes, operational and fiscal harmonization, and will address service agreements and other related matters.

### **Quick Fact: from PGTAC "Frequently Asked Questions"**

*Will private property be included in treaty settlements?*

*Private land will only be acquired from willing sellers. Government will not expropriate private property for treaty settlement purposes.*

### **Next meeting:**

The next scheduled PGTAC meeting will be Friday, September 15, 2006 in Prince George. PGTAC expects to review substantive draft Chapters from the Yekooche Final Agreement at that meeting.