



PRINCE GEORGE TREATY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chair: Bonny Hawley
Vice-Chair: Shelley Zenzen
Confidential Assistant: Nancy Floris

*Prepared by Dave Read
Aspen Communications Ltd.*

TAC 1.22

INFORMATION REPORT

September 28, 2006

This report provides a summary of the September 15, 2006 PGTAC meeting for member local governments participating in the Prince George Treaty Advisory Committee.

Lheidli T'enneh Negotiations:

Very substantial progress has been made over the last several months to conclude a treaty with the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation. The Chief Negotiators have announced the conclusion of negotiations to reach what will become the first treaty agreement under the BC treaty process.

PGTAC has been integral to the negotiations, providing advice on behalf of local government throughout the 13-year process. Councillor Don Bassermann of the City of Prince George sits on the provincial negotiating team as the PGTAC representative.

An announcement will be forthcoming regarding the initialling of a Final Agreement by representatives for the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, BC and Canada. Once initialled, the agreement will go to all three parties for ratification.

PGTAC will now consider its role in representing local government interests following the initialling of the treaty, through the processes leading up to, during and following implementation of the treaty.

Yekooche Negotiations:

Negotiations with the Yekooche First Nation are making encouraging progress. All parties remain committed to progressing towards the initialling of a Final Agreement. Matters still under negotiation include some aspects of Certainty, some Governance Provisions and some Fiscal Relations provisions.

UBCM Joint TAC Chairs and Administrators Meeting:

Given the progress and achievements in treaty negotiations, including the significant role of local government in the PGTAC region, the fall meeting for TAC Chairs and Administrators was held in Prince George.

The focus of the meeting was the Comprehensive Master Agreement that is nearing completion between the City of Prince George, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George and the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation.

This landmark agreement will define the relationship among the parties post-treaty, and addresses harmonization of regulatory regimes, operational and fiscal harmonization, service agreements and other related matters.

Quick Fact, from PGTAC "Frequently Asked Questions"

Will aboriginals pay income, property, school and sales taxes in the same way as non-aboriginals?

Lheidli T'enneh citizens will pay income and sales tax. Lheidli T'enneh Government will have law-making authority to directly tax Lheidli T'enneh citizens on treaty lands to pay for services such as education. (These same provisions are included in the Yekooche Agreement-in-Principle.)

Note: Copies of the PGTAC Frequently Asked Questions for both the Lheidli T'enneh and Yekooche agreements are available by contacting Nancy Floris, Confidential Assistant at nfloris@rdffg.bc.ca or (250) 960-4414.

Next meeting:

The next scheduled PGTAC meeting will be Friday, November 24, 2006 in Prince George.