



pgtac Vol 2, Issue 1  
**BULLETIN**

Local Government Interests in BC Treaty Negotiations

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**Upcoming Meetings** Check the PGTAC website for upcoming dates. All meetings in the boardroom of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George 155 George Street, Prince George.

## Update

► The Prince George Treaty Advisory has met five times since the last PGTAC Bulletin in September 1999.

Those meetings took place in 2000 starting January 25, Feb. 11, 22, March 29 and June 5. During those meetings the PGTAC has worked with Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs in offering advice on topics and chapters relating to the Lheidli T'enneh negotiations.

This edition of the bulletin updates those developments as well as the impending land and cash offer from B.C. and Canada to the Lheidli T'enneh. At their first meeting of the new millenium the PGTAC elected Sonny Beck as the new chairman. A participant in local government participation in the treaty process since the start, Sonny Beck thanked the outgoing members of the PGTAC for their leadership and wisdom in working in these negotiations.

## Negotiation Updates

### Land and cash offer

British Columbia outlined parameters of the Land and Cash offer process specific to the Lheidli T'enneh Band to members of the Prince George Treaty Advisory Committee at their June 5 meeting. Chief Negotiator Nancy Wilkin and Negotiator Carol Ann Shearer outlined some of the land and areas under study for the land and cash offer. Nei-



► *Sonny Beck,  
Director, Regional  
District of Bulkley  
Nechako. Chair of  
Prince George Treaty  
Advisory Committee*

ther the amount of land or money to be included in the offer was specified. The offer was expected in June however the date for the offer is now undetermined.

The land and cash offer is neither a treaty nor an Agreement-in-Principle in the six-stage treaty process. However it is seen as an important step in assembling the land and cash component of the Agreement-in-Principle. The parties of the Lheidli T'enneh negotiations have said their goal is to have an AIP in 2000.

The land selected is from unencumbered Crown land. Private land is not on the table. The land and cash proposal is not legally binding on any of the parties.

Included in B.C.'s discussion of the process was disposition of 160 acres of the former Agriculture Canada Experimental Farm lands adjacent to the Prince George Airport. These lands have been transferred to the Department of Indian Affairs to be used as part of the Lheidli T'enneh settlement. Members of the PGTAC have expressed concern to B.C. that

these lands will not be in the Agriculture Land Reserve.

Other land and cash offers at treaty tables in the Central Interior could take place later this year.

#### **Lheidli T'enneh (Stage 4)**

► In addition to explaining the land and cash offer process, British Columbia provided their first advice charts to the PGTAC. These included advice charts on some of Lheidli T'enneh chapters reviewed by the PGTAC with British Columbia:

The production of the advice charts for the PGTAC has been an ongoing challenge for the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs. As well it has been a point of discussion between the PGTAC and Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs (MAA) for more than a year. The advice charts show the members of the PGTAC how the province has used advice from local government in local treaty talks.

The chairman of the PGTAC reported that he was encouraged by this development and hopeful that the turnaround time for consultation could be streamlined. A review and analysis of the advice charts is ongoing. Results of that review will be brought to all local governments when complete. Those charts received are included below.

The PGTAC is still awaiting feedback in the form of advice charts on reviews of chapters from over a year ago. These chapters are Parks and Protected Areas; Minerals; Subsurface and Mineral Resources; Environmental Assessment; Approval of Agreement-in-Principle, Ratification of Final Agreement, Migratory Birds and Taxation. The PGTAC has also provided B.C. with draft wording for the Chapter on Local and Regional Government Relationships on which they are still awaiting feedback from the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>First PGTAC Review</b>
Access .....	January 21, 1998
Culture and Heritage Resources .....	November 18, 1997
Dispute Resolution .....	April 17, 1999
Eligibility and Enrolment .....	April 17, 1999
Environmental Assessment .....	July 28, 1999
Forestry .....	April 17, 1999

*Councillor Steve Kolida is the PGTAC representative to the Lheidli T'enneh negotiations.*

#### **Carrier Sekani Tribal Council (Stage 4)**

► Treaty negotiations with the Carrier Sekani tribal Council (CSTC) are focused on the Forestry Measures Table. However progress has been slow. The province reported that these talks were frozen in March after one of the member bands of the CSTC, Sai'Kuz, launched legal action against B.C.'s Ministry of Forests on a timber sale licence decision.

In meetings with B.C. the PGTAC has requested further information on these talks. No further meetings are scheduled.

New to this table is the return of the Burns Lake Band to the CSTC treaty talks. The Burns Lake Band had left the treaty process early in the talks to pursue legal action against the federal government. In May the B.C. Treaty Commission granted an application by CSTC and Burns Lake Band to return to talks as an active participant.

*Sonny Beck is the PGTAC representative to the CSTC negotiations*

#### **Cheslatta Carrier (Stage 2)**

► No talks have taken place at this table since 1997. No talks are currently scheduled.

*Linda Mowat is the PGTAC representative to the Cheslatta negotiations.*

#### **Yekooche First Nation (Stage 4)**

► After close to a year of internal consultations and reorganization, talks with Yekooche have resumed. The Chair of the PGTAC attended a Chief Negotiators meeting with Yekooche on June 6 in Prince George. Yekooche have provided Canada and B.C. with a comprehensive proposal towards an Agreement-in-Principle.

A Main Table meeting of Chief Negotiators is scheduled for July 28 in Yekooche.

*Sonny Beck is the PGTAC representative to the Yekooche talks.*

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The PGTAC has still had no formal word from MAA on advice charts on reviews of Yekooche draft chapters held in April 1999. These included draft chapters in Culture and Heritage Resources, Eligibility, Enrolment and Ratification; Environmental Assessment, Management and Protection; Forestry, and; Subsurface and Mineral Resources.

## Regional Roundup

### News from Northern Treaties and Smithers TACs

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#### ► **Members of the Northern Treaties TAC**

- Mayor Tom Briggs, Chair, District of Mackenzie, and NTTAC representative to Kaska Dena negotiations
- Joanne Monaghan, Regional District of Kitimat Stikine
- Kathleen Davidson, Atlin Advisory Planning Commission, NTTAC representative to Northern Regional Negotiations.
- Jonny Anderson, Dease Lake Planning Advisory Commission.
- Karen Goodings, Peace River Regional District, NTTAC representative to Tsay Keh Dene negotiations.
- Jackie Allen, Northern Rockies Regional District.

### Northern Treaties TAC

#### Tsay Keh Dene (Stage 4)

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► The Northern Treaties TAC met for the second time this year in Vancouver, June 19-20. Most meetings of the TAC are held via teleconference. The agenda revolved around review and discussion of eight chapters from the Tsay Keh Dene negotiations. Both Canada and B.C. have said they are planning to make a land and cash offer to Tsay Keh Dene in Fall-Winter 2000.

### Kaska Dene Council (Stage 4)

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► Activity around this table has focused on governance and general provision aspects of the treaty. A main table meeting is scheduled for July 11, 12.

### Northern Regional Negotiations (Stage 4)

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► No activities are currently scheduled. This table involves the Carcross/Taigish First Nation, the Taku River Tlingit First Nation, the Teslin Tlingit Council and the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations.

#### ► **Members of the Smithers TAC**

- Tim Toman, Chair, Alternate Director Area A, Bulkley Nechako Regional District;
- Bonny Hawley, Vice-Chair, Councillor, District of Houston;
- Fred Roisum, Chair, Director, Area B Kitimat-Stikine Regional District;
- Cress Farrow, Councillor, Town of Smithers;
- Rick Van Valkengoed, Director, Area G, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako;
- Susan Szufnarowicz, Councillor, Village of Telkwa;
- Mayor Pieter Weeber, District of New Hazelton, Smithers TAC representative to Wet'suwet'en negotiations;
- Mayor Paul Jean, Village of Burns Lake;
- Mayor Ed Sorge, Village of Granisle;
- Harold Kerr, Chair, Regional District of Bulkley Nechako;
- Eileen Benedict, Director Area E, Regional District of Bulkley Nechako;
- Rosanne Murray, Director Area B, Regional District of Bulkley Nechako;
- Mayor Alice Maitland, Village of Hazelton.

## Wet'suwet'en (Stage 4)

▶ Talks have progressed slowly between Canada, B.C. and the Wet'suwet'en in 2000. The Smithers TAC has met twice this year on Feb. 1 and May 25. Fred Roisum was elected as the new chair succeeding Bonny Hawley at the May 25 meeting.

## ▶ Members of the Prince George TAC

- Sonny Beck, Chair, Director Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako, and TAC representative to Regional Caucus. TAC representative to Yekooche First Nation and Carrier Sekani Tribal Council.
- Joan Nordli, Vice-Chair, Councillor, Village of Valemount;
- Mayor Tom Briggs, District of Mackenzie, TAC representative to Kaska Dene negotiations.
- Bonny Hawley, Councillor, District of Houston, member of Smithers TAC.
- Steve Kolida, Councillor, Village of McBride, TAC representative to Lheidli T'enneh negotiations.
- Robert Minger, Councillor, Village of Burns Lake
- Ron Thiel, Representative, City of Prince George, TAC representative to Northern Interior Regional Advisory Committee.

- Mayor Jim Togyi, District of Fort St. James. Alternate TAC representative to Northern Interior Regional Advisory Committee.
- Greg Van Dolah, Councillor, District of Vanderhoof, alternate TAC representative to Carrier Sekani Tribal Council negotiations.

## What is the Prince George Treaty Advisory Committee?

▶ The PGTAC is one of 17 Treaty Advisory Committees established to represent municipal interests in B.C. treaty negotiations.

Our membership is from the elected government councils within the Regional District of Fraser Fort George and the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako in the heart of B.C. The 11 members of the PGTAC sit as part of B.C.'s treaty negotiating team on four sets of land claims negotiations in our region.

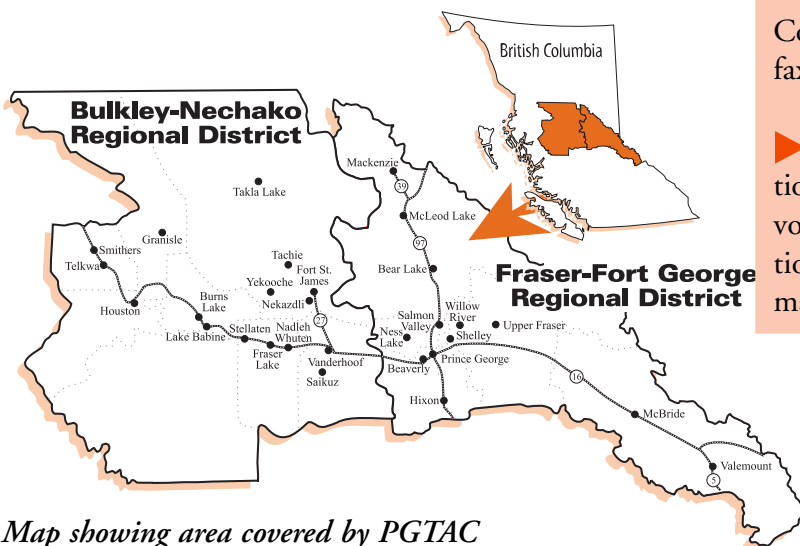
To learn more about the PGTAC or discover links to other aspects of treaty negotiations in B.C. try our website at <http://www.treaty.bc.ca>

For full information on our membership and terms and reference please visit our website.

▶ The PGTAC Bulletin is published periodically by the Prince George Treaty Advisory Committee. The PGTAC's offices are through the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, 155 George Street, Prince George, BC V2L 1P8.

Contact us by telephone (250) 960-4400 or by fax (250) 563-7520.

▶ PGTAC Bulletin is distributed to organizations and individuals interested in municipal involvement in British Columbia treaty negotiations. Please feel free to circulate or reprint the material from this newsletter.



Map showing area covered by PGTAC

PGTAC Bulletin is also available on the PGTAC's website at <http://www.treaty.bc.ca>