



PRINCE GEORGE TREATY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chair: Shelley Zenzen
Vice Chair: Susan Schienbein
Confidential Assistant: Nancy Floris

TAC 1.22

INFORMATION REPORT

*Prepared by Dave Read
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Date: February 28, 2007

This report provides a summary of the February 23, 2007 PGTAC meeting for member local governments participating in the Prince George Treaty Advisory Committee.

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair and Appointments:

Director Shelley Zenzen of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George was elected as the Chair of the PGTAC for 2007 and Councillor Susan Schienbein of the Village of Burns Lake was elected Vice-Chair.

PGTAC members expressed their appreciation to outgoing Chair Bonny Hawley for her many years of dedicated commitment to the treaty process. Bonny has served as Chair of PGTAC since January 2002 and has been involved as an appointee almost from its inception.

Councillor Tony Thompson of the Village of Fraser Lake and Councillor Allan Frederick of the Village of McBride were welcomed as new appointees to PGTAC at this inaugural meeting for 2007.

Councillor Don Bassermann of the City of Prince George was re-appointed as the PGTAC representative to the Lheidli T'enneh negotiations. The appointment of the PGTAC representative to the Yekooche negotiations was deferred until a later meeting.

Appreciation for Ongoing Regional District Support:

The ongoing support for continued funding of PGTAC by both the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako and the Fraser-Fort George Regional District is appreciated. This ongoing support will enable PGTAC to continue its commitment to solution-based treaty making.

Respected Elder and Carrier Sekani Statesman Passes:

PGTAC members were saddened by the passing of Harry Pierre on February 20, 2007. PGTAC was represented at Pierre's funeral in Prince George.

Harry Pierre enjoyed a long political career starting in the 1960s, often serving as Chief of the Tl'azt'en Nation. He also served a three-year term as Tribal Chief of the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, elected in 2003. He was one of the founding Chiefs of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs in the late 1960s and the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council in the 1970s. He also supported the creation of the First Nations Summit in the early 1990s.

Lheidli T'enneh Final Agreement:

On October 29, 2006 the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, the Federal Government and the Province of British Columbia initialled the Final Agreement for the Lheidli T'enneh.

The Lheidli T'enneh ratification vote will end on March 30, 2007. Following a successful outcome of that process, both BC and Canada must pass enabling legislation.

Quick Fact, from PGTAC “Frequently Asked Questions”

Will treaties give the right to sell fish and wildlife commercially or will harvest be for food only?

Wildlife harvested under the Final Agreements may not be sold, unless federal and provincial laws were to allow the sale. Lheidli T'enneh and Yekooche will have the right to harvest fish for food, social and ceremonial purposes. These fish cannot be sold.

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, May 25, 2007, at a community outside of Prince George.