



PRINCE GEORGE TREATY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chair: Terry Burgess, Director, Electoral Area 'G'
Regional District of Fraser-Fort George
Vice-Chair: Ken Young, Councillor, District of Vanderhoof
Assistant: Nancy Floris

TAC 1.22

INFORMATION REPORT

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This report provides a summary of the May 23, 2008 PGTAC meeting for member local governments participating in the Prince George Treaty Advisory Committee.

Yekooche Treaty Negotiations Update:

The Yekooche First Nation initialed an Agreement-in-Principal with Canada and BC in August 2005 and is currently involved in negotiations to develop the final treaty. Adjustments to the proposed land package are being discussed as well as the fiscal components of the proposed treaty.

A significant aspect of the work in recent months has been the development of a Comprehensive Community Plan by the Yekooche. Community members have worked to identify community needs and set community priorities, which in turn establish their interests in the final agreement. Other work includes an Economic Development Study to plan for short and long term economic opportunities for the Yekooche and a Land Use Planning Study to guide how Yekooche's treaty settlement land will be used.

Capacity development is also being addressed at this time, to ensure the Yekooche will be prepared to deliver the programs and services enabled by the treaty.

Lheidli T'enneh Treaty Update:

The federal and provincial governments have granted a further two year extension for the Lheidli T'enneh to reconsider treaty ratification. Canada and BC originally granted a one-year extension after the proposed treaty failed to achieve the required approval in a band referendum in March 2007.

Community-to-Community Forum:

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako is moving forward with planning for a Community-to-Community Forum to be held in Fort St James in the fall of 2008. This event will involve the District of Fort St James and the Yekooche First Nation as well. PGTAC approved funding to support this initiative in building relations among local government and First Nations.

Treaty Knowledge Exchange Program:

PGTAC has received approval for funding from UBCM to sponsor an information sharing session with the Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee. The purpose of this event, which is planned for the fall of 2008, is to meet and share experience gained through participation in the treaty process with other TACs and local governments.

Quick Fact, from PGTAC “Frequently Asked Questions”

What benefits will treaties bring to the community, the surrounding area and to individuals?

Treaties offer the promise of greater self-reliance for aboriginal people and economic opportunities for both aboriginal and non-aboriginal British Columbians.

Note: Copies of the PGTAC Frequently Asked Questions are available by contacting Nancy Floris, Confidential Assistant at nfloris@rdffg.bc.ca or 250.960.4414.

Next meeting:

The next meeting of PGTAC is scheduled on Friday September 5, 2008 in Burns Lake. A PGTAC Update presentation is proposed for the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board on September 4, 2008.