



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

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INFORMATION REPORT

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This report provides a summary of the October 24, 2008 PGTAC meeting for member local governments participating in the Prince George Treaty Advisory Committee.

Yekooche Treaty Negotiations Update:

Negotiations with the Yekooche First Nation are proceeding towards a final treaty. Negotiators for BC and Canada have provided PGTAC with a progress report in closed session. The negotiation teams advised they will have the text of a number of the proposed treaty chapters ready for a detailed review by PGTAC this winter and spring. The Yekooche First Nation initialised an Agreement-in-Principal with Canada and BC in August 2005.

New Memorandum of Understanding Signed between UBCM and Province of BC:

BC and UBCM signed an MOU on September 22, 2008, which renews the commitment of the Province to include local government in treaty negotiations and expands the local government participation to include agreements negotiated under the Province's New Relationship with First Nations.

The renewed MOU commits the Province to "consult and exchange information with local government on matters of mutual interest including those matters that will have a significant impact on local government jurisdiction." The MOU further defines the processes and roles for both local government and the Province.

Full text of the MOU can be found at <http://ubcm.civicweb.net/contentengine/launch.asp?ID=4052>.

PGTAC Strategic Review:

The renewed MOU with the Province has prompted PGTAC to begin a strategic review to define its future role. The review was initiated at the October 24 meeting, in order to capture input from the current members, some of whom will not be returning in the New Year. The process will continue following appointment of PGTAC representatives following civic elections.

This initial discussion identified that a key priority is to ensure that local government Councils and Boards fully appreciate the importance of supporting the treaty process and New Relationship negotiations. In this respect, Terry Burgess, PGTAC Chair will be contacting Mayors and Board Chairs following the November elections to discuss appointments of PGTAC representatives. A more detailed summary of the role of PGTAC appointees is available by contacting Mr. Burgess or the PGTAC Administrator.

PGTAC Chair, Terry Burgess, will propose a meeting schedule for 2009. The frequency of meetings will likely be increased in the New Year due to the current emphasis on reaching a Final Agreement with the Yekooche First Nation.