



BULLETIN

Local Government Interests in BC Treaty Negotiations

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Upcoming PGTAC Meetings

December 15, 2000 | January 26, 2001 | February 16, 2001

Update

► Convention News

The Prince George Treaty Advisory Committee (PGTAC) is encouraged by two developments that took place at the Union of B.C. Municipalities convention in Victoria, Oct. 23-25. One is the Oct. 25 signing of a protocol with UBCM and the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs on the role of local government. The other is a series of UBCM recommendations on land use coordination, servicing and dispute resolution.

► New Protocol

The new protocol on Local Government Role In The Negotiation Of Interim Measures Including Treaty Related Measures sets out clear roles and responsibilities for both local governments and provincial government agencies in a growing area of treaty talks. Interim and Treaty Related Measures are agreements between B.C. and First Nations designed to speed up treaty negotiations and allow First Nations to become more self-reliant. Treaty Related Measures will involve the federal government.

The PGTAC supported the development and implementation of this protocol. It is of particular interest to this area of B.C. with stalled talks resuming on measures with the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council and discussions taking place on other treaty related measures taking place at local treaty tables.

► Policy Recommendations

Also on Oct. 25 at convention, the UBCM membership endorsed a series of recommendations contained in a policy paper "Land Use Coordination, Servicing And Dispute Resolution: Towards Certainty For Local Government Through Treaty Negotiations"

The PGTAC reviewed the recommendations earlier this year in cooperation with the UBCM and endorsed them going into convention. The recommendations revolve around the need for certainty at the local government level and the need for definitions within the treaty itself of the relationships between local governments and First Nations.

Copies of the paper are available from UBCM members or use the links from the PGTAC website www.treaty.bc.ca and go to the UBCM page to find the document.

Negotiation Updates

► Lheidli T'enneh Receive Land and Cash Offer

The first of what is expected to be several land and cash treaty offers in the Prince George Treaty Advisory Committee region took place August 2 with Canada and B.C. making a proposal to the Lheidli T'enneh of Prince George. The First Nation subsequently rejected the package and presented a counter-offer October 4.

The federal-provincial package included 2,903 hectares of land and \$7.5 million. The land included a combination of existing reserves (684.5 hectares), fed

eral lands (240 hectares) and provincial Crown lands (1,978 hectares). The Prince George Treaty Advisory met with both provincial and federal Chief Negotiators one-day prior to the public offering of the package. At the public offering during the Main Table, Steve Kolida of McBride, represented the PGTAC.

Without commenting on the actual size of the offer, Sonny Beck, PGTAC chair, said he was satisfied that both public governments were working to meet the interests of local governments in these talks. Those interests include the provision that no private lands be put on the table.

In addition, the PGTAC urged all parties that events leading up to, as well as the offer itself be conducted in an open, transparent and clear manner. The offer is the result of years of public consultation with groups like the PGTAC and further consultation will be required before an Agreement-in-Principle can be concluded.

Finally the offers gives everyone a view of what the province and federal government envision for a treaty with the Lheidli T'enneh. The Chair of the PGTAC said this should go towards assuring everyone that treaties will be fair and affordable for all.

The joint land and cash offer is not a binding offer but it is considered by both B.C. and Canada as an important step in concluding an agreement-in-principle. This was the seventh such offer made in the B.C. Treaty Commission process. The Yekooche First Nation is expected to receive a land and cash offer early in 2001. Another offer is expected later this fall with the Tsay Keh Dene.

▶ **Lheidli T'enneh (Stage 4)**

The Lheidli T'enneh responded to the land and cash offer with a five-page statement during the August 2 Main Table. A fuller counter-offer was presented Oct. 4. In this counter offer the band said it would require closer to 280,000 hectares of land for a Final Agreement. During this meeting, B.C. Chief Negotiator Nancy Wilkin, Chief Federal Negotiator Tom Molloy and Lheidli T'enneh Chief Negotiator Bill Wilson, postponed the target date for an Agreement-in-Principle to March 2001.

Although the band said the elements of the offer fell short of their interests they held out promise for future negotiations and thanked all parties for the work that has been done to date to achieve common ground.

Part of the land and cash proposal was the inclusion of 240-hectares of the federally owned former agricultural research station. This land is currently occupied by several government offices including B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fish. The Lheidli T'enneh have recently moved their Lands and Resources office to buildings on the site.

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

▶ **Carrier Sekani Tribal Council (CSTC) (Stage 4)**

Talks resumed in early November after almost a yearlong hiatus caused by legal action launched by a CSTC member band against B.C.'s Ministry of Forests. Early in 2000 the Sai'Kuz band near Vanderhoof launched a court case against the province over a timber sale licence in the area.

This has been resolved by a resolution of the CSTC excluding Sai'Kuz from negotiations with the eight-member federation. A first meeting was held November 15 at Stell'aten.

Of concern to the PGTAC is the status of these discussions and whether they are characterized as Interim Measures talks or Treaty Related Talks. The PGTAC has discussed this matter with B.C.'s Chief Negotiator, Nancy Wilkin, and talks to determine the exact nature of talks with the CSTC are still ongoing.

The difference between Treaty Related Measures and Interim Measures is important. Government involvement, levels of funding and whether or not land will be part of these discussions depends on how the talks are characterized.

This spring, Chief David Luggi of the Stellaten First Nation assumed the role of Chief Negotiator for the CSTC.

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)**

The Prince George Treaty Advisory Committee joined British Columbia in a review of a comprehensive Yekooche Agreement-in-Principle July 18. This proposal was submitted by Yekooche to both public governments earlier this year in an effort to streamline talks.

Yekooche re-entered the treaty process this year after Chief and Council changed their treaty team. A Main Table meeting was held July 28 in Yekooche village. Greg Van Dolah representing the PGTAC sat at the table.

These Stage 4 negotiations continue in a positive atmosphere. Both Canada and British Columbia say they are looking at assembling a land and cash offer to Yekooche in early 2001.

The PGTAC has still had no formal word from Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs on advice charts for 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.

Funding News

The operating budget of the Prince George Treaty Advisory Committee comes from matching grants from the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako and the Regional District of Fraser Fort-George. In addition a grant from the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs covers the rest of expenses.

This year the PGTAC did not receive the full funding it requested from the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs. As a result the Chair of the PGTAC said consultation meetings with the province to review and discuss key municipal interests in treaty talks could be curtailed.

As a central body in a key treaty making centre in the Province the demands for time and attention of the PGTAC members are great. In the first six months of this year, the PGTAC held more meetings than for the entire previous year.

Key costs for the PGTAC are travel and honorariums to elected municipal representatives who also monitor the treaty process as part of the B.C. negoti-

ating team at working groups and main tables. Meetings of the PGTAC held in Prince George are daylong events pulling in representatives from across the region from Valemount to Smithers, Mackenzie and Fort St. James.

Additional components of the PGTAC's budget are clerical and administration costs, consultants and public education, including the production of this newsletter. For more information on the PGTAC 2000-2001 budget contact your local PGTAC representative.

Regional Roundup

News from Northern Treaties and Smithers TACs

Members of the Northern Treaties TAC

Mayor **Tom Briggs**, District of Mackenzie, Chair 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 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)**

The Northern Treaties TAC met face to face for the third time this year in Victoria on October 23, 2000 coinciding with the Union of BC Municipalities annual conference. The agenda revolved around review and discussion of sub-agreements for the Tsay Key Dene. The full day session also included updates from the provincial negotiators on the Kaska Dena

Council Negotiations and Northern Regional Negotiations as well as budget discussions. The Northern Treaties TAC continues to hold monthly tele-conference call meetings.

▶ **Kaska Dene Council (Stage 4)**

Activity around this table has focused on governance and general provision aspects of the treaty.

▶ **Northern Regional Negotiations (Stage 4)**

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.

Smithers TAC

Tim Toman, Chair, Alternative Director Area A, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako;

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;

Bonny Hawley, Councillor, District of Houston;

Susan Szufnarowicz, Councillor, Village of Telkwa;

Mayor Pieter Weeber, District of New Hazelton, Smithers TAC rep. to Wet'suwet'en negotiations;

Mayor Paul Jean, Village of Burns Lake;

Mayor Ed Sorge, Village of Granisle;

Eileen Benedict, Representative Area E, Regional District of Bulkley Nechako;

Rosanne Murray, Representative Area B, Regional District of Bulkley Nechako.

▶ **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. Tim Toman was elected as the new chair.

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.

Prince George Treaty Advisory Committee membership

Chair: **Sonny Beck**, Director Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako, and TAC representative to Regional Caucus. TAC representative to Yekooche First Nation and Carrier Sekani Tribal Council.

Vice-chair: **Joan Nordli**, Councillor, Village of Valemount

Maureen Thompson, Director, Area A, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George;

Ron Thiel, Representative, City of Prince George, TAC representative to Northern Interior Regional Advisory Committee.

Steve Kolida, Councillor, Village of McBride, TAC representative to Lheidli T'enneh negotiations.

Tom Briggs, Mayor, District of Mackenzie, TAC representative to Kaska Dene negotiations.

Greg Van Dolah, Councillor, District of Vanderhoof, alternate TAC representative to Carrier Sekani Tribal Council negotiations.

Jim Togyi, Mayor, District of Fort St. James. Alternate TAC representative to Northern Interior Regional Advisory Committee.

Robert Minger, Councillor, Village of Burns Lake

Bonny Hawley, Councillor, District of Houston, member of Smithers TAC.

Linda Mowat, Councillor, Village of Fraser Lake.

What is the Prince George Treaty Advisory Committee?

The PGTAC is one of 11 Treaty Advisory Committees established to represent municipal interests in B.C. treaty negotiations.

Our membership is from the elected municipal councils of the cities, districts, towns and villages 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, read the PGTAC Bulletin or discover links to other aspects of treaty negotiations in B.C. by visiting our website at <http://www.treaty.bc.ca>

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