

# Fraser Valley Treaty Advisory Committee

## First Nations Media Monitor - Excerpts

### January 8, 2008

*Summary of news events reported on First Nations, Aboriginal communities, and rights & title issues.*

## TREATIES

### **MLA Urges Open Treaty Process**

In a recent press release, Alberni-Qualicum MLA Scott Fraser noted that too many First Nations are being “left behind” and becoming frustrated with the B.C. treaty process and that only one third of treaty tables are progressing. Fraser also wrote to Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Minister Mike de Jong urging him to increase treaty progress with the First Nations by adopting an “open and inclusive” process that could include common treaty tables.

*(Westerly News, December 13)*

## FOREST

### **First Nations and City Named Forest Capital**

The Lheidli T'enneh First Nation and the City of Prince George have been named the 2008 Forest Capital of B.C. by the Association of B.C. Forest Professionals. The two communities submitted a joint bid to host the Forest Capital in 2008, which will include Earth Day and National Forest Week celebrations and educational events such as mill tours and lectures. The selection committee were impressed with the way both communities rallied together after being hard hit by the mountain pine beetle, and by the community support they received for their bid.

*(Prince George Citizen, December 21; Williams Lake Weekender, December 21)*

### **Tla'Amin Enters Community Forest Agreement**

The Tla'Amin First Nation has received a five-year probationary community forest agreement as part of a Forest and Range Opportunities agreement they signed with the province in 2006. Through the agreement, Tla'Amin Timber Products Ltd. will have rights to an annual harvest of 28,000 cubic metres of timber in the Sunshine Coast Forest District. Tla'Amin has plans for a long-term forest tenure that would incorporate the community forest, Woodlot 1672, a one-time volume of 50,000 cubic metres in the Bunster Hills, and another 22,000 cubic metres in an area yet to be identified. The long-term tenure will enable the band to customize the type of wood harvested to meet the market demands. Tla'Amin is also in the process of providing new faller training and heavy equipment operator training courses for band members.

*(Powell River Peak, December 19)*

### **First Nations Park Plan Includes Selective Logging**

During a recent community gathering for the signing of a protocol agreement between the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation (TFN) and the District of Tofino, TFN councillor Saya Masso announced the band's desire to establish a tribal park in the Kennedy Lake watershed area. Haa'uukmin Tribal Park would be situated within the band's traditional territory and would include some selective logging to be conducted in a style that would ensure clean drinking water and a healthy salmon run. Other activities such as hiking, guiding and micro-hydro energy projects as well as park ranger and monitoring components are also part of the proposal, which is still in the preliminary stages.

*(Westerly News, December 20)*

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*(Westerly News, December 20)*

### **Katzie and Maple Ridge Seek Public Input**

In early 2007, the Katzie First Nation and the District of Maple Ridge signed a memorandum of understanding to create a sustainability plan for Blue Mountain Provincial Park. They have now put together a sustainability plan workbook and are looking for public feedback by January 15 to be followed with a public forum on the plan on January 24. The input will be analyzed and then a final plan will be created after which the Katzie will apply to the province for a Community Forest Agreement. The Kwantlen First Nation also currently have a woodlot proposal in place on the mountain and the Katzie are hoping that they, along with other woodlot operators, BCIT and the Blue Mountain Woodlot Company, would eventually sign onto the plan.

*(Maple Ridge Pitt-Meadows Times, December 18; Maple Ridge News, December 19)*

## FISHERIES

### **Board Waits for First Nation Input**

Clayoquot Sound Central Region Board (CRB) has decided to wait for more input from the Ahousaht First Nation before approving a tenure renewal application by Mainstream Canada for its salmon farm at Dixon Bay. The farm site is located within the traditional territory of the Ahousaht and the band had previously requested a delay in the decision to get input from the community. CRB member Roland Arnet said a “precautionary principle should apply” as the site also lies within close proximity to the migratory route of salmon returning to the Megin River.

*(Westerly News, December 20)*

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### **Snuneymuxw and Nanaimo Sign MOU**

The Snuneymuxw First Nation and the City of Nanaimo signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that will help ensure the band’s water needs are met in the future. Currently Snuneymuxw Reserve #1 is connected to the city’s water supply but a section of the reserve located in Cedar is not. The MOU is a step toward the two groups working together on a service agreement to connect this area to the city’s water supply, with responsibility of the costs going to the band. It will also ensure that the band will be involved in any discussion process related to aquifers, reservoirs and other water-based decisions.

*(Nanaimo Daily News, December 20; Nanaimo News Bulletin, December 22)*

### **City Council Votes to Extend Garden City Agreement**

The Richmond city council voted 7-2 in favour of extending the city’s agreement with the Canada Lands Company and the Musqueam Indian Band until December 31, 2008. The agreement involves an application by the city to the Agricultural Land Commission to remove Garden City lands from the Agricultural Land Reserve and open it to development. The partnership between the three parties was formed after the Musqueam launched a court injunction in 2005 preventing the federal government from transferring the land to the city. The band and Canada Lands propose to jointly develop half of the land into residential apartments. The city plans to create public open space and sports amenities in the remaining half.

*(Richmond Review, December 20)*

### **Tla-o-qui-aht and Tofino Show Respect with Caring**

Six representatives from each of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation and the District of Tofino communities signed a protocol agreement that acknowledges the Tla-o-qui-aht's traditional territory around Tofino, their "unresolved Aboriginal interests and title," right to self-government, and the legitimacy of their hereditary chiefs, people, and chief and council. In return the Tla-o-qui-aht acknowledge Tofino as the governing body recognized by the province. The two groups agree to uphold the Nuu-chah-nulth principles of respect with caring, meet quarterly, hold joint public meetings, and will work together on land use planning and community and infrastructure development.

*(Westerly News, December 20)*

### **First Nations Set for New Political Role**

Alberni Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) administrator Bob Harper says the ratification of the Maa-nulth Treaty will bring about positive changes in local politics that will "cut the bureaucratic inertia" that has prevented development on reserve lands. Following a transition period, each of the four Maa-nulth bands within the ACRD, the Huu-ay-aht, Ucluelet, Toquaht and Uchucklesaht, will appoint a director to the board, providing them with a new political role, says Harper. Huu-ay-aht have already met with ACRD to create a cooperative working relationship for developing a sewage system for the village of Anacia. ACRD was the first regional district to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with First Nations prior to any treaty ratification.

*(Alberni Valley Times, January 2)*

## **EDITORIAL EDITS**

### **Vancouver Sun, December 31 – Miro Cernetig wrote, in part:**

"In a backroom deal – one the premier has more or less told us the courts made him do – our MLA from Vancouver-Point Grey agreed to sign over title to the University Golf Club to the Musqueam First Nation. After some behind-the-scenes wheeling and dealing, the Musqueam promised the premier that the land will be used for golf, as opposed to condos or other more lucrative real-estate developments, until at least 2083. So all seemed well in golfland. But over the holidays, I've been taking a closer look at how things actually lie. And there appears to be an unmarked hazard in this real-estate transaction, one of the largest transfers of public lands in the city since Expo 86. In less than seven years, it turns out, the University of B.C. golf course could actually be privatized and closed to the public. I heard about it from a stranger, David Johannson, a fellow golfer and constituent of the premier. So when the deal was pushed through on November 9, without any public input, Johannson carefully read the few pages in the news release. Quickly, he had a very interesting question which he emailed to the premier on December 9. 'you're announcement does not state that the course will continue to be for public golf course purposes until 2083, only for 'golf course purposes'.' Eight days later, an e-mail came back with the premier's name on it. 'With respect to the question of the public nature of the golf course, as owners of the course the Musqueam will determine the kind of course they wish to operate, once the existing lease expires in 2015.' So, the answer is yes. By 2015 the University Golf Club - once supposedly to be used by the public forever - could be turned into a private course. A more glaring failure is that this transfer of land resulted in no commitment from the Musqueam First Nation to complete a treaty, something that is essential to bring about resolution to its outstanding land claim that covers much of the Lower Mainland. This is in striking contrast to the premier's dealings with the Tsawwassen First Nation. In that case, the public also had to relinquish some significant green space, taking it out of the agricultural land reserve. But that sealed the treaty. That is why the Tsawwassen treaty was a hole-in-one for Gordon Campbell. The Musqueam deal, however, is a murky leap of faith that raises uncertainty. I'd say 2008 would be a good time for a mulligan."