



Room 205B-2005 Eagle Drive
Quinsam Hall

Phone: 250-287-9460

Email: info@lkts.ca

Hours: M-F 8:30-4:30

Laich-Kwil-Tach Treaty Society

April 2019



Important Dates

Meet the Treaty Team

May 22, 2019

6:00 pm

Quinsam Hall Boardroom

Light refreshments provided

Treaty is Transitioning to Stage 5

In the January 2019 newsletter we updated the community on an opportunity for us to transition from Stage 4 (Agreement-in-Principle) to Stage 5 (Final negotiations) through a “Commitment Agreement” with Canada and BC. This is part of an effort by We Wai Kai to improve our treaty negotiations. This agreement will move discussions to Stage 5 where we will be better positioned to negotiate fiscal relationships, treaty lands and fisheries, three key parts of the treaty that have only limited discussions in Stage 4. It is here where we will continue to explore options to maintain our tax exemptions.

The Commitment Agreement builds on the progress we have made on our Incremental Treaty Agreement for almost 7000 acres in the Campbell River watershed. In this negotiation, we worked hard to remove negotiation barriers and build relationships. Although we recognize that the government process continues to move slowly, we will use this framework to advance negotiations as quickly as possible and expect the Commitment Agreement to remove approximately three years from the process.



Projectile point found during archaeological work in Tika.



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www.lkts.ca



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Treaty is Transitioning to Stage 5, con't

The Commitment Agreement is currently being approved at the highest levels by Canada, BC and We Wai Kai. On April 8, 2019, We Wai Kai Council voted to approve the Commitment Agreement. We anticipate Canada and BC approval within days. These approvals enable all three parties to sign the agreement.

We are pleased with the success of this negotiation that will advance We Wai Kai treaty negotiations and we look forward to sharing more information at our upcoming meetings. Please watch newsletters, Facebook and our website for meeting dates and times. We look forward to seeing you.

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Question From a Recent Meeting

What are the significant issues that still need to be negotiated in Stage 5?

The way the treaty process is designed makes it very difficult for tables in Stage 4 to have substantive discussions on several issues. This is largely due to the limited resources that Canada and BC assign to these particular negotiations. By transitioning to Stage 5 we can engage with the government on fisheries, fiscal relationships and on a full lands package; negotiations that were largely unavailable to us in Stage 4. Accordingly, when the time comes for the community to review the chapters and the treaty, we will have more complete answers to many questions and it will be possible to see how the package is comprehensive and how its parts are interconnected.

Changes to the Treaty Process

In March the Federal Government released its 2019 budget, which states that 1.4 billion dollars will be used to erase treaty loans. This is a fantastic step towards moving the treaty process forward and towards continued reconciliation. As a result, many communities, including We Wai Kai, will benefit from this decision. At the end of March 2019, \$938 million was forgiven. This means that We Wai Kai's treaty debt is now \$0. Furthermore, going forward Canada has committed to fully funding negotiations, with no further debt being incurred. This ensures We Wai Kai can negotiate a full treaty package to consider without financial risk.

At the treaty office...

Treaty Board of Directors:

Brian Assu
Ted Lewis
Ted Assu

Chief Negotiator

Bram Rogachevsky

Office and Communication

Support - Nadgelin Cliffe

Office Support - Dani Assu

Lands - John Munro

Forestry - Rod Visser

Research & Support -

Dee Cullon

Email info@lkts.ca

Call or email with your questions. We can also arrange to meet to ensure your questions are answered!

We want to talk...

Please complete our communications survey to help us communicate better and you could win a Visa gift card.

Local Campbell River members:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CRarea-LKTSCommunications>

Outside of Campbell River members:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Urban-LKTSCommunications>