

Ratification and Implementation

The Tsawwassen Final Agreement was negotiated by the Government of Canada, the Government of British Columbia and Tsawwassen First Nation. It is the second Final Agreement reached in the province under the British Columbia treaty process. The Final Agreement provides Tsawwassen First Nation with certain rights and benefits regarding land and resources, and self-government over its lands and resources and its members. It provides certainty with respect to ownership and management of lands and resources and the exercise of federal, provincial and Tsawwassen governmental powers and authorities.

The negotiation of a Final Agreement marks Stage Five of the six-stage British Columbia treaty process, and is the conclusion of substantive treaty negotiations. Once ratified by all parties, the Final Agreement will become a treaty through legislation. It will be a constitutionally-protected legal agreement that creates mutually binding obligations and commitments.

RATIFICATION

By initialling the Final Agreement, the chief negotiators for Canada, British Columbia and Tsawwassen First Nation recommend the agreement to their respective principals for ratification.

Through the Tsawwassen First Nation community approval process, Tsawwassen members will ratify the Final Agreement through a community vote. If the Tsawwassen community ratifies the Final Agreement, British Columbia will then proceed through its ratification process. A Minister from the provincial Cabinet must recommend

the agreement for approval, and settlement legislation will then be introduced into the Legislative Assembly, where it will be debated.

If British Columbia ratifies the Final Agreement, Canada will proceed through its ratification process. A federal Cabinet Minister must recommend the Final Agreement and once the Final Agreement is signed by all parties, settlement legislation will be introduced in Parliament for debate. Once enacted through legislation, the Final Agreement will become a treaty and will be brought into effect on a date agreed to by the parties.

IMPLEMENTATION

During the process of negotiating the Final Agreement, the parties also negotiated an implementation plan. The implementation plan identifies each party's obligations and responsibilities in implementing the treaty. Some parts of the treaty will be implemented on the day the Final Agreement comes into effect or shortly thereafter. Some parts, such as taxation provisions, will be implemented according to a predetermined schedule over a number of years. Other parts of the Final Agreement may not be implemented until a later date to be determined by the parties.

An implementation committee comprised of a representative from Canada, British Columbia and Tsawwassen First Nation will be established on the effective date of the treaty. This committee will oversee and monitor the implementation of the treaty.

TSAWWASSEN FIRST NATION – LAND FACING THE SEA

The Tsawwassen are proud, sea-faring Coast Salish people who have long travelled and fished the waterways of the southern Strait of Georgia and lower Fraser River.

The main Tsawwassen community is located on the waterfront adjacent to Delta. Tsawwassen First Nation lists its membership at 358 people, about half of whom live on reserve.

If you would like more information about the Tsawwassen Final Agreement, contact:

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