

Treaty News

Federal Treaty Negotiation Office



*Providing general news and
Canada's views on BC treaty negotiations.*

June 1999

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Sechelt Agreement-in-Principle signed

The Sechelt Indian Band, Canada and British Columbia laid down a new milestone in the British Columbia Treaty Commission (BCTC) process in mid April with the signing of the Sechelt Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) at the Sechelt Longhouse on the Sunshine Coast. The AIP is the first to be completed under the BCTC process.

The Sechelt AIP provides that upon completion of a Final Agreement, the Sechelt Indian Band will receive approximately 645 hectares of urban lands, approximately 228 hectares of rural lands, and a cash component of \$42 million. The AIP also contains provisions for matters such as taxation, certainty, ratification, eligibility to receive treaty benefits, forestry management, fish, wildlife, environmental management, subsurface resources, water, culture, treaty implementation and land use planning. The agreement further acknowledges the success of Sechelt self-government, in place since 1986 under the *Sechelt Indian Band Self-Government Act*, and provides that Sechelt's current self-government authorities will continue post-treaty.

In order to assist the Sechelt Indian Band in preparing to assume the new responsibilities it will acquire under a treaty, Canada provided a one-time payment of \$1.5 million for economic development initiatives and planning.

In addition, British Columbia will provide Sechelt with a \$4 million loan guarantee, to be in place on the effective date of the treaty. Repayment of the loan will be secured by Sechelt's share of forestry and gravel revenues from a parcel within the settlement land package.

Minister Jane Stewart greets Sechelt elder at the AIP signing ceremony

The four years of negotiations that led up to the completion of the AIP included over 100 consultation meetings with local Sunshine Coast interests. As negotiators work towards a final treaty, the Sunshine Coast Local Advisory Committee, the Sechelt Treaty Advisory Committee and local community members will continue to be consulted by federal and provincial negotiators.

Speaking at the signing ceremony in Sechelt on



April 16, **Jane Stewart**, Minister of Indian Affairs

and Northern Development, took the opportunity to thank all of those who took a hand in negotiating the Agreement.

"The negotiators, together with the consultation and advisory committees, have worked long and hard hours to ensure that this agreement meets the interests, needs and goals of everyone living in the Sechelt area," said Minister Stewart.

Sechelt Chief **Garry Feschuk** said, "It is fitting that the Sechelt Indian Band, first to have assumed every available authority under the *Indian Act*, first Band in Canada to have achieved self-government, first to have settled all of its specific claims, should be the first to enter BCTC Stage 5. I attribute this continuing level of achievement to the determination and perseverance of my people, and I thank them all, particularly the Elders, for their unfailing support. This success is also a manifestation of our good relations with all our neighbours, both native and non-native."

In his comments at the ceremony, Premier **Glen Clark** said the AIP "clearly demonstrates that governments and First Nations can work together to settle land claims and achieve economic and land-use certainty for all British Columbians."

Negotiations towards a Final Agreement are now underway. These negotiations build on the commitments made by the Parties during the AIP stage. The main goal is to resolve outstanding technical and legal issues in order to achieve a workable treaty.

Once a Final Agreement is reached, all Parties will need to ratify the Agreement before implementation can occur.

For more information on the Sechelt AIP, contact Diane Gielis at FTNO at (604) 775- 8144 or toll free at 1-800-665-9320. A full text version of the document is available on the B.C. Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs web site at www.aaf.gov.bc.ca/aaf/

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In brief:

Highlights of the Sechelt AIP:

- 933 hectares of new land will be added to the Sechelt's existing land base, resulting in a total of approximately 1,988 hectares of Sechelt Treaty Land on the effective date of the treaty
- \$40 million will be paid to the Sechelt Prosperity Fund and \$2 million to a Sechelt Transition Fund
- existing interests on Sechelt lands will be protected under their current terms
- Sechelt will own surface and subsurface resources on Sechelt Lands
- the Final Agreement will be the full and final settlement of all Sechelt Aboriginal rights and title claims
- Sechelt will receive 11 existing fishing licences to assist Sechelt participation in the general commercial fishery. Sechelt members will have rights to harvest fish and marine plants for food, social and ceremonial purposes
- *Indian Act* taxation exemptions will end
- federal and provincial laws will apply on Sechelt lands
- B.C. will return specified cultural artifacts to Sechelt



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\$15 million invested in B.C. Capacity Initiative

On April 15, **Jane Stewart**, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, announced an investment of up to \$15 million, over the next three years, to fund initiatives aimed at enhancing First Nations' capacity to participate in land and resource management negotiations and consultations. First Nations in B.C. with an unresolved land claim, whether part of the British Columbia Treaty Commission (BCTC) process or not, are eligible to apply for funding.

The Government of B.C. also committed \$2 million to the federal initiative for the 1999 - 2000 fiscal year.

Capacity Initiative Council to review proposals

Proposals for capacity-building projects will be reviewed by the newly-formed Capacity Initiative Council (CIC). The Council, which includes representatives from B.C. First Nations, industry and labour organizations, will assess proposals and make recommendations to departmental officials on funding allocations.

CIC members get down to work at their first meeting in April.

Following a call to B.C. First Nations for project proposals, the Council will review the proposals and recommend funding.

Projects which may be considered for funding will fall under the following categories:

- individual capacity enhancement, e.g. training of a First Nations member;
- institutional capacity enhancement, e.g. establishment of land and resource management structures within the First Nation; and
- business capacity enhancement, e.g. joint ventures.



Report led to establishment of Council

The need to enhance the capacity of First Nations to participate in land and resource management negotiations and consultations became clear in the context of a tripartite review of the BCTC process that was undertaken after the Supreme Court of Canada delivered its decision in *Delgamuukw*.

Canada's highest court provided a detailed description of the nature and scope of Aboriginal title in *Delgamuukw*, and set out the legal test to establish the existence of Aboriginal title. The court also stated that the federal and provincial governments have a legal duty to consult with Aboriginal groups about activities which could infringe on any Aboriginal title they may have.

The issue of capacity enhancement was addressed by Minister Stewart in July 1998, with the formation of a Capacity Panel charged with making recommendations on the subject.

The Panel approached the issue of capacity enhancement from a holistic perspective, incorporating factors relating to the social, political and economic development of First Nations within its definition of capacity building.

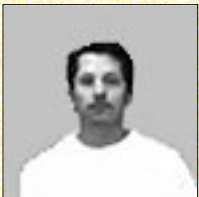
The creation of the current CIC was recommended by the Capacity Panel. In partnership with DIAND, the CIC will implement those recommendations from the Capacity Panel related to lands and resources. The balance of the Capacity Panel's recommendations will be addressed by DIAND through other existing fora.

For more information on the B.C. Capacity Initiative, telephone Bonnie Larush, Secretariat, CIC at (604) 775-5118; or e-mail larushb@inac.gc.ca

Meet the Capacity Initiative Council members:



Cliff Atleo is the Chief Treaty Negotiator for Ahousat, part of the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council. He worked for 11 years with the Native Brotherhood of B.C. and was a Commissioner to the Pacific Salmon Treaty. Mr. Atleo was past President of the Aboriginal Business Assoc. of B.C. and has served with the Native Peoples Credit Union.



Robin Billy is the Environmental Coordinator for the Kamloops Indian Band. He has developed several environmental assessment processes and is currently working on by-laws and enforcement procedures for the Band. He also works with the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council. Mr. Billy is a graduate of the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources in Winnipeg.

Graham Dallas is Director of External Relations for Canadian National Railways (CN), based in Vancouver. A graduate of the Universities of B.C. and Western Ontario, he has worked in the field of communications for leading corporations involved in forest products, coal mining, oil and gas and industrial chemicals. Mr. Dallas is actively involved in developing programs to improve relations between the rail industry and First Nations communities across Canada. He is also active in the treaty advisory process in B.C. as a member of several regional advisory committees, and an alternate member of the Treaty Negotiation Advisory Committee.



Lydia Hwitsum has been Chief of the Cowichan Tribes since 1997. She is also actively involved with the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group. Ms. Hwitsum holds a Certificate in Administration of Aboriginal Government, a Diploma in Public Sector Management and a LLB from University of Victoria.



Peter Lusztig is a Commissioner of the B.C. Treaty Commission. Formerly the Dean of Commerce and Professor of Finance at the University of B.C., he holds a PhD from Stanford and an MBA from the University of Western Ontario. Mr. Lusztig has served on a Royal Commission, a Commission of Inquiry and is on various community and business boards. He was also a member of the post-*Delgamuukw* Capacity Panel.



Nathan Matthew B.Ed, M.Ed, a Shuswap, is Chief of the North Thompson Indian Band. Mr. Matthew facilitates education and community development workshops for First Nations, including a course for principals of First Nations schools at the University of B.C. He sits on First Nations education committees at the local, provincial and national levels.

Hilarie McMurray is Counsel and Director, Environment, Resource Management and Treaty Negotiations for the B.C. Federation of Labour. Involved in Aboriginal issues for 15 years, she is currently a member of the Treaty Negotiation Advisory Committee. Ms. McMurray was Chief Negotiator, Aboriginal Gaming, B.C. and Asst. Chief Negotiator for 1993 Clayoquot Interim Measures Agreement.



Frank Parnell has been President and CEO of Tribal Resources Investment Corp. since its inception in 1989. He previously served as President of the North Coast Tribal Council and has over 20 years experience in executive management and economic development. He recently served on the team that established the Gwaii Trust Society. Mr. Parnell is now heading an effort to research and recommend a new governance structure for the First Citizens' Fund of B.C.



Justin Wilson serves as General Manager for the Heiltsuk Economic Development Society in Bella Bella. He has worked in various capacities as a community economic development advisor. Mr. Wilson is a past Director of CANDO and past Vice President for the National Aboriginal Capital Corp. Assoc. He is now Director of the Western Diversification/ Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans Community Economic Adjustment Initiative and is currently studying for an MBA. He holds a BA from Trent University.

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Negotiator's News: Wendy Porteous

Wendy Porteous is Chief Federal Negotiator in the mid-Coast, northern B.C. and the Kootenays.



The Federal Treaty Negotiation Office (FTNO) began 1999 knowing that this would be a big year. By the end of 1998, the Nisga'a Nation had ratified the Nisga'a Final Agreement. Soon after, the Agreement was before the B.C. Legislature. This fall, federal ratification legislation will be introduced in Parliament.

The public debate generated by the Nisga'a Final Agreement has sent a clear message to those of us who negotiate treaties. We understand that British Columbians care passionately about treaty negotiations, no matter where they stand on the issues.

For this reason, FTNO takes seriously the task of ensuring that all Canadians have access to accurate information about the Nisga'a Final Agreement and British Columbia Treaty Commission negotiations.

Advisory committees meet regularly throughout B.C. to study draft treaty proposals. At information meetings, negotiators discuss the substance of negotiations with members of the public. All agreements are negotiated in open sessions, and the details of every draft treaty are available for scrutiny.

We know that there is more to do, and we try to improve the quality and quantity of information available to you.

Media also have a critical role to play in expanding discussion of the treaty process. Negotiators working at the treaty table count on newspapers and electronic media to deliver timely information across the province.

Careful, sustained coverage of treaty issues and balanced editorials are critical. Each Canadian must ultimately decide on what he or she wants to see in treaties, and good reporting will help us develop our vision.

This is the bottom line: all residents of B.C. will be touched by the outcome of treaty negotiations in one way or another. So, we all have a responsibility to actively seek the information we need to knowledgeably participate in public debate.

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Policy: Accelerating the treaty process

In *Delgamuukw*, the Supreme Court of Canada confirmed that Aboriginal title continues to exist in B.C., without specifying to what extent geographically. The court encouraged First Nations and governments to settle land issues outside of the court system through negotiations.

In response, Canada, B.C. and the First Nations Summit met to consider the implications of *Delgamuukw* for the British Columbia Treaty Commission (BCTC) process. In frank discussions throughout 1998, a working group formed by the three parties identified impediments to progress at treaty tables. The BCTC assisted the parties throughout these discussions.

In a report tabled in January 1999, the working group's members agreed that the timely conclusion of treaties is a benefit to all British Columbians. They also stressed that, despite a number of challenges, there is goodwill on all sides to improve the treaty process.

The key resolutions in the report focus on finding ways to speed up negotiations on substantive issues (land, resources and cash) and address the need for capacity building, where possible. For example, the report recommends that:

- governments make settlement offers of land, resources, and cash more quickly, where the parties at the negotiating table agree to do so;
- the parties undertake further analysis on how treaty benefits might be implemented in stages, how interim measures may be useful, and how the benefits of business arrangements may be shared; and
- the parties examine the possibility of concluding agreements on land, resources, cash, and some aspects of governance, while deferring discussions of other, less pressing, issues.

The working group's report is now being considered by the governments and the First Nations Summit.

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Chief Federal Negotiators:

Vince Collins

Eric Denhoff

Tim Koepke

Pauline Tassone

Tom Molloy

Wendy Porteous

Public Information and Consultation Advisor:

Marc Sanderson

Status report:

Stage 2: Haïda Nation

Stage 3: Cheslatta-Carrier Nation

Stage 4: Carrier Sekani Tribal Council

Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs

Gitxsan (suspended)

Haisla Nation (Kitimaat)

Heiltsuk Nation

Kaska Dena Council

Lake Babine Nation

Lheidli T'enneh Nation

Northern Regional Negotiations Table

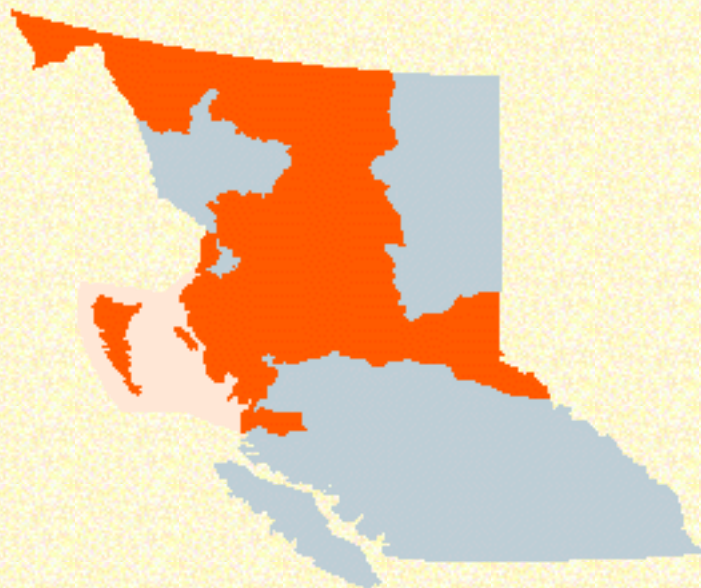
Oweekeno Nation

Tsay-Keh Dene Band

Tsimshian Nation

Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs

Yekooche Nation



South

Chief Federal Negotiators:



John Bell
Vince Collins
Robin Dodson
Pauline Tassone
Tom Molloy
Wendy Porteous

Public Information and Consultation Advisors:

Chris Corrigan
Diane Gielis

Status Report:

Stage 3 : Katzie Indian Band
Musqueam Nation
Squamish Nation

Stage 4 : Cariboo Tribal Council
Esketemc First Nation (Alkali Lake)
In-SHUCK-ch N'Quat'qua
Ktunaxa-Kinbasket Nation
Nazko Indian Band
Sto:lo Nation
Tsawwassen First Nation
Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nation (Pavilion)
Tseil Waututh Nation (Burrard)
Westbank
Xaxli'p (Fountain Band)
Yale First Nation

Stage 5 : Sechelt Indian Band



Vancouver Island

Chief Federal Negotiators:

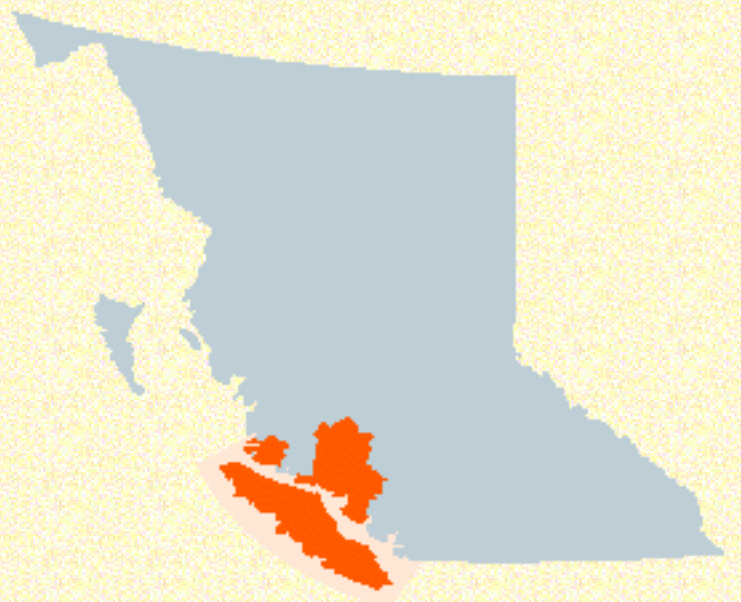
Vince Collins
Eric Denhoff
John Langford

Public Information and Consultation Advisor:

Jonathan Rayner

Status Report:

Stage 3 : Gwa-Sala-Nakwaxda'xw
Kwakiutl First Nation
Namgis First Nation
Quatsino First Nations
Tanakteuk First Nation
Tlatlasikwala First Nation



Stage 4 : Ditidaht First Nation
Kwakiutl Laich-Kwil-Tach Council of
Chiefs
Homalco First Nation
Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group
Klahoose First Nation
Snuneymuxw (Nanaimo) First Nation
Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council
Pacheedaht First Nation
Sliammon First Nation
Te-mexw Treaty Association

Update on the

Nisga'a Treaty

Treaty legislation to be introduced in Parliament

The introduction of ratification legislation is planned for the fall session of the House of Commons. Federal ratification legislation is the final step in ratifying the Nisga'a Treaty. Once this ratification process is complete, the Treaty will be implemented.

Court affirms validity of ratification process

In February, the B.C. Supreme Court adjourned a constitutional challenge to the Nisga'a Treaty ratification process brought by B.C. Liberal Party members Gordon Campbell and Geoffrey Plant. Among other things, Mr. Campbell and Mr. Plant argued that it is

The six stages of the B.C. treaty process:

1. Submitting a statement of intent
2. Preparing for negotiations
3. Negotiating a framework agreement
4. Negotiating an agreement-in-principle
5. Negotiating a final agreement
6. Implementing the treaty

unconstitutional to ratify the Treaty without a referendum.

The Hon. Mr. Justice Williamson stated in his decision that it is essential for Canadian courts to respect the right of Parliament and the legislative assemblies to exercise unfettered freedom in the formulation, tabling, amendment and passage of legislation.

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"Opportunities for Information Sharing" builds networks

As both treaty negotiations and wider land use planning exercises continue across B.C., First Nations are building considerable expertise in addressing resource management challenges. At the "Opportunities for Information Sharing Workshop" held in Victoria this February, representatives from First Nations across the province met to share this wealth of knowledge.



Members of the Dzunugwungis Dancers open the workshop with a performance

The workshop was co-ordinated by **Brian Olding** from the Federal Treaty Negotiation Office and **Haly Hofmeyr** from the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs. "We hoped this workshop would provide First Nations with a forum to share their experiences and expertise," said Olding. "The workshop presented an opportunity for First Nations to form networks so they can continue to benefit from their collective pool of knowledge and information."

More than 190 people attended the event. The large turnout is evidence of the mounting need for sharing information management techniques in both treaty and resource planning processes.

Miles Richardson, Chief Commissioner of the British Columbia Treaty Commission, emphasized the vital importance of information sharing in his keynote address at the workshop. "Managing information is an essential part of creating effective resource management strategies," he said. "First Nations have many success stories to share and common challenges to face in managing resources for the future. In the interest of efficient use of resources, understanding each parties' information resources and sharing those resources is crucial."

During the workshop, small discussion groups investigated key issues such as managing information about natural resources, collecting data and evaluating community and traditional land use practices.

Once workshop participants began interacting, conversations expanded to encompass such issues as how to build trust between negotiating parties and how to build capacity for new information management

responsibilities in First Nations communities.

Participants responded positively to the event. **Dan Smith**, Treaty Manager for the Oweekeno First Nation and former president of the Native Council of Canada said, "Information sharing among First Nations allows them to network. It is very important to see the results of expertise, and to see them in action."

Given the forward-looking nature of the event and the enthusiasm and hard work of those who attended, benefits of the workshop will continue to accrue. A task group has already been established to expand and implement the ideas discussed at the workshop. Congratulations to the organizers, speakers and especially the participants of the workshop for their participation and contributions!

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You said it about the

Sechelt Agreement-in-Principle ...



"It was a decade ago that the Sechelt first tabled their original negotiating position publicly. I think it can fairly be said that they have

made genuine efforts to ensure that their negotiations were ... open."

- **Michael de Jong**, MLA,
Aboriginal Affairs Critic,
B.C. Liberal Party



"The Sechelt Indian Band accepts the same economic values we do. It's still a small town. We've lived together for almost 100 years, gone to school together, played basketball together."

- **Bruce Milne**, Mayor of
Sechelt

"I don't think the contents become a template but I think the process does. I think all First Nations who are in the process accept the openness of the process. I think a critical factor also is the role of the municipality. ... And it's certainly my view that many of problems come about if the local neighbours are not involved and don't support the process."

- **Paul Tennant**, Professor of Political Science, University of British Columbia

"It has been a public, highly consultative journey which has allowed non-Sechelt to observe, comment on and influence the content [of the AIP]. This is how the treaty process should work."

- *Vancouver Sun* editorial,
Thursday, January 28, 1999

"If everyone will focus on the opportunities this treaty is going to create, we will have come a long way."

- **Garry Feschuk, Chief,**
Sechelt Indian Band



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In-SHUCK-ch N'Quat'qua treaty negotiations have AIP in sight

When the British Columbia Treaty Commission (BCTC) began accepting First Nations into the treaty process in December, 1993, the In-SHUCK-ch N'Quat'qua Nation was first through the door. In-SHUCK-ch N'Quat'qua Chief Negotiator **Eppa (Gerard Peters)** says that filing the first statement of intent to be received by the BCTC was not only a starting point for the current treaty process, but a continuation of his people's long term struggle for a treaty.

"Around 1987, myself and my friend **Pah-EE (Ron Gabriel)** started talking seriously about getting the governments of Canada and British Columbia to deal with our claims. We'd been talking about this kind of thing from the 1970s on, but 1987 was really the key year," Eppa told *Treaty News*.

"But it's important to remember that the efforts of our people go right back to 1911 and the *Declaration of the Lillooet Tribe*," Eppa continued. The *Declaration*, signed by 16 Chiefs of the Indian Bands that made up the Lillooet Tribe, asserted rights to the traditional territories that Lillooet communities had occupied "from time out of mind."

Members of the In-SHUCK-ch N'Quat'qua Nation have ethnic and cultural origins in the Stl'atl'imx (Lillooet) tribe whose representatives penned the *Declaration*. They also share the same language, although there are differences in dialect among In-SHUCK-ch N'Quat'qua and Lillooet communities.



In-SHUCK-ch N'Quat'qua Traditional Territory

In-SHUCK-ch N'Quat'qua is an alliance of three In-SHUCK-ch communities, Douglas, Samahquam and Skatin; and N'Quat'qua (the original name for the Anderson Lake Band).

The traditional territory encompassed by the First Nation lies in the valley behind Whistler, and at its southern boundary, touches the northern shores of Harrison Lake. Despite this apparent proximity to

basic services, In-SHUCK-ch communities, in particular, must be virtually self-sufficient. Regular electrical and telephone services are not available to the In-SHUCK-ch communities, which are only accessible by a rough logging road. Even in N'Quat'qua, which is connected to the outside world by a paved highway and the BC Rail line, many commercial and medical services are only found in Pemberton, 45 minutes down the highway.

Despite a total population of about 1,050, only about 250 In-SHUCK-ch N'Quat'qua live in the traditional territory. Most have relocated to the Fraser Valley to access jobs and services. However, 80 percent of those living away from home have indicated a desire to return to their communities post-treaty.

An AIP on the horizon

At present, negotiators for the In-SHUCK-ch N'Quat'qua, Canada and British Columbia are looking forward to the completion of an Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) in the fall of 1999. The AIP will provide a basis for improving life for In-SHUCK-ch N'Quat'qua members.

AIP negotiations have progressed quickly since they began in 1997. At present, 15 of the approximately 30 chapters expected to make up the total document have been released for public consultation. Seven of those chapters were initialled by Chief Negotiators in late November and five additional chapters are expected to be initialled later this spring. Other chapters are in draft stages.

"This is a very focussed and productive table," said **Robin Dodson**, Canada's Chief Negotiator since 1994. "We have learned how to talk to one another in ways that emphasize solutions, rather than problems."

The seven chapters already initialled will, if approved as part of a Final Agreement, recognize the self-government powers of the In-SHUCK-ch N'Quat'qua Nation. The four separate Band governments now in existence will be replaced with a single First Nation government, which will operate under a constitution that the First Nation is currently developing.

The initialled chapters also address correctional services and policing, the structure of In-SHUCK-ch N'Quat'qua government, child protection, ratification and dispute resolution. Chapters dealing with all of these issues are available to the public.

In touch with the community

Keeping the lines of communication open between negotiators and the various communities affected by the In-SHUCK-ch N'Quat'qua treaty negotiations is a priority for all parties in the process. Eppa says that special attention to relationships has allowed the various groups involved in negotiations to maintain a high degree of trust towards each other throughout the process.

"We have indicated to our neighbours that we and they must come to terms with what the In-SHUCK-ch N'Quat'qua reality will be post-treaty," Eppa said. Accordingly, In-SHUCK-ch N'Quat'qua negotiators have reached out to other communities within their traditional territories and to third parties with interests on In-SHUCK-ch N'Quat'qua lands.

"Our elders have also been very important in keeping In-SHUCK-ch N'Quat'qua members informed about the progress of negotiations," said Pah-EE, Senior Manager of the In-SHUCK-ch Services Society.

The elders participate in community meetings within the First Nation's traditional territory and accompany negotiators to meetings with In-SHUCK-ch N'Quat'qua community members in the Lower Mainland.

On the federal and provincial side, consultations with the Pemberton Regional Advisory Committee ensure that others affected by the negotiations have a say in their progress. Said Dodson, "Local third parties have taken these negotiations very seriously, and are a vital part of our ability to find solutions that will work for everyone."

For more information on In-SHUCK-ch N'Quat'qua treaty negotiations, contact Chris Corrigan at FTNO (604) 775-7016; Tammy Peters at In-SHUCK-ch N'Quat'qua (604) 894-5262; or visit the In-SHUCK-ch N'Quat'qua web site at www.inshuckch.com.

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On the Web

Government of Canada: includes a summary of the Final Agreement, fact sheets, background documents on the history of Nisga'a negotiations, speeches and other materials.

Government of British Columbia: gives you online access to the text of the Final Agreement, information sheets and other materials.

Nisga'a Tribal Council: includes news releases, a range of material about the Nisga'a Nation and information on eligibility and enrolment in the treaty.

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Q & A: How do Canada's negotiators approach urban treaties?

A modern urban treaty has not yet been concluded in this country. For the first time, negotiators in the British Columbia Treaty Commission process are embracing the challenge of responding to the aspirations and concerns of modern, urban First Nations and other urban dwellers.

Crowded spaces and overlapping government jurisdictions are key characteristics of the environment in which urban treaties are being made.

Cities, municipalities, regional districts, and the provincial and federal governments all have an interest in the negotiations. Quasi-governmental organizations dealing with such things as ports and water districts also add to the complex milieu of urban governance.

Against this complicated backdrop, First Nations have clearly expressed their desire to participate in land and resource management issues. They have also stated their desire to pursue economic development opportunities. Other urban communities have just as forcefully expressed their need to ensure that First Nation developments are in tune with the aspirations of their constituents.

The goal of urban treaty negotiations is to develop arrangements that will allow First Nations and other communities to pursue their interests within this complex and congested urban environment.

Canada's approach in these negotiations is to look for ways to accommodate First Nations' aspirations within the existing framework of urban governance structures, wherever possible. In meeting this goal, Canada's negotiators seek the participation of all who have an interest in the outcome of urban treaties.

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et du Nord Canada

NUNAVUT

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[The Government's Response to RCAP](#)



Nisga'a
Information



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Aboriginal
Day
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Autochtones*

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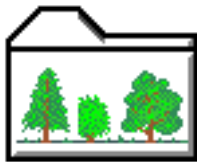
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