

Community to Community Forum
Sto:lo Territory First Nations, City of Chilliwack,
Fraser Valley Regional District

December 1, 2004

Final Report

Report Prepared by:
Sto:lo Nation Lands Department

DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This first Community to Community Forum took place at Shxw̓ha:y Village Community Hall on December 1, 2004 from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm. This was the first time local government and First Nations community leaders met as a group in regards to the Coqualeetza Addition to Reserve Project. The main objectives were:

- To inform all parties involved of the history of the Coqualeetza property;
- The process of Additions to Reserve;
- Establish communications between First Nations and Local Governments.

As this was the first time many people were hearing about the Coqualeetza Reserve Creation Process and the fact they didn't know too much about the services provided by Sto:lo Nation, we decided to create a power point presentation. The presentation included a brief history of the property, current uses of the property and the Additions to Reserve process (Presentation included in Final Report). We also collected several historical and current pictures of the Coqualeetza Property, which we presented as a separate slide show.

PICTURES FROM THE EVENING



Chief and Councillors from the 24 First Nations Communities within the Sto:lo Territory, City of Chilliwack and the Fraser Valley Regional District elected officials and administrators were invited and responded positively.

The following is a list of participants that attended the Forum on Dec 1, 2004.

Present:

City of Chilliwack

Mayor of Chilliwack – Clint Hames

Councillors – Mel Folkman, Sharon Gaetz, Dorothy Kostrzewa

Administrators – Ted Tisdale, Peter Monteith

Fraser Valley Regional District

Director – Mayor of Mission - Abe Neufeld

Director - Mayor of Village of Harrison Hot Springs – John Allen

Director – Terry Raymond

Director – Frank Sobkowich

Sto:lo Nation Lands Department

Manager – Valerie Sam

Lands Officers – Deanna Honeyman, Brenda Isaac, Steven Raphael

Eddie Gardner

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Sr. Lands Officer – Linda Kerr

Arlington Group Planning & Architecture Inc.

Graham Farstad

Sto:lo Nation Territory First Nations

Skowkale First Nation – Councillor Jeff Point

Skwah First Nation – Councillor Dean Williams

Shxwha:y Village – Chief Tina Rabang

- Councillor William Rabang

- Donna Cailing

- Zack Cailing

Squiala First Nation – Chief Sam Jimmie

Sumas First Nation – Councillor Sandra Silver

- Elder Marlene Silver

- Elder Joan Silver

Skawahlook First Nation – Councillor Debra Schneider

Regrets:

Seabird Island First Nation – Chief Wayne Bobb Sr.

- Administrator – Daryl McNeil
- Councillor – Marcie Peters

Matsqui First Nation – Councillor Brenda Morgan

Chawathil First Nation

Shxw'ow'hamel First Nation

Fraser Valley Regional District

Director – Mayor of Abbotsford - Mary Reeves

City of Chilliwack

Councillor – Pat Clark

Sto:lo Nation – Property Management

Murray Ned

Gary Lister

Rebecca Noriega

CONCLUSION:

Although we tried to find a date and time that would allow everyone to attend – this was almost impossible to achieve. There was a death in a community that affected two First Nations and two First Nations had their Annual Christmas Dinner that evening. Regardless, we were pleased with the turnout and we felt this was a successful forum. We now have put faces to names and can begin working with the City of Chilliwack on the Service Agreement required for the Coqualeetza Additions to Reserve Process as well as other land related projects.

We would like to thank those that helped make this event a success. A special thank you to the Union of BC Municipalities for providing the funding to host this dinner.



**Stó:lō Nation Lands Department
UBCM Community to Community Forum
“Working Together”**

**Agenda
Wednesday, December 1, 2004**

- 6:00pm Welcome Song – Eddie Gardner
 Dinner Prayer
 Welcome – Shxwa:y Village
 - Valerie Sam
- 6:15pm Serve Dinner
- 7:00pm Opening Remarks
 - Brenda Morgan
- 7:15pm Introductions
- 7:30pm Presentation – Sto:lo Nation Lands Department
 - Background history of Coqualeezta
 - Additions to Reserve Process
- 8:00pm Questions / Discussion
 Open Forum
- Closing Remarks

Community to Community Forum
Meeting Minutes
December 01, 2004
Shxwha:y Village Community Hall
6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Attended by:

City of Chilliwack

Mayor of Chilliwack – Clint Hames
Councillors – Mel Folkman, Sharon Gaetz, Dorothy Kostrzewa
Adminstrators – Ted Tisdale, Peter Monteith

Fraser Valley Regional District

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Skawahlook First Nation – Councillor Debra Schneider

6:00 pm Valerie Sam introduced herself and welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. She introduced Eddie Gardner to do the Dinner Song.

Eddie Gardner - Sang the Dinner song

Valerie Sam asked Chief Tina Rabang to say a few words.

Chief Tina Rabang – Welcome everyone and thought the attendance was excellent.

Valerie Sam –Invited everyone to enjoy the dinner provided by Sto:lo Catering.

7:00 pm Valerie Sam – Asked if we could go around the room to introduce ourselves.
After the introductions – Valerie also thanked Deanna Honeyman writing the proposal and sending to UBCM for funding. Valerie then started the power point presentation

Presentation – “Coqualeetza Reserve Creation”

Once the presentation was over, Valerie asked if there were any questions.

QUESTIONS

Frank Sobkowich (FVRD)- The history portion of the presentation didn't include the time the military occupied Building 1?

Frank Sobkowich said he knew for a fact the Military was housing students in 1978 as he was teaching Engineering at the time.

Val Sam – We found all our research on the history from the Sto:lo Atlas and we would check our research for any more information.

Mayor Clint Hames –In regards to the timetable for the Vote. The timeframe is the same time as election for Mayor and Council. Suggests holding polling places with Municipal Government Elections. Perhaps this would generate more interest - share polls. The Municipality has two, one-day advance polls. One, 14 days in advance and one, 10 days in advance, prior to the election. It wouldn't be much effort to add another ballot. This is also the first time Chilliwack is using electronic ballots.

Mayor John Allen – Interjected with agreement on the consolidation of vote

Mayor Clint Hames – Wanted to know if the split of Sto:lo Nation would affect the Reserve Creation process?

Valerie Sam – Didn't think this would be an issue. This is between the bands within the Sto:lo Territory – not with Sto:lo Nation. This is the same as St. Mary's ATR and Skwah and Chehalis being independent bands but agreeing to be part owners. The owners of the land will be the bands not Sto:lo Nation. Sto:lo Nation would only be leasing the land.

Mayor Clint Hames- Wondering if Valerie could explain more why Indian Affairs will not grant reserve status if there are occupiers on the land.

Valerie Sam suggested Linda Kerr from Indian Affairs answer this question.

Linda Kerr- The ATR process - requires the existing tenancy to be regularized. Can't have occupiers without a lease. Either have everyone move out - and have land clean or a body is selected (Sto:lo Nation) and given a FRPIA lease, then the tenants are okay.

Mayor Clint Hames - So there is no regularized lease right now?

Linda Kerr – No. The lease will come into effect once the reserve is created, basically at the same time.

Mayor Clint Hames- With regards to the issue of the non-payment of back taxes and the court case. Explained more details of the issue. ****Couldn't hear everything he said here****

The issue seems to be resolved - hopes that something won't mess it up.

Linda Kerr – Explained what happened in regards to Indian Affairs grants in lieu of tax payments. She doesn't believe anything will mess up the resolution of taxes.

Ted Tisdale – With regards to the ATR schedule, March 2005, is the plan for the Service Agreement to be completed. This is the same timeframe as going back to court regarding the back taxes. He suggests having both sides Lawyers talking to each other to change date- to extend the court date six months to a year. That will allow for the Service Agreement to be negotiated.

Valerie Sam – We had a Service Agreement in place with City of Mission, for the St. Mary's ATR which is a little different.

Mayor of Mission – Abe Neufeld – The process went very smoothly.

Valerie Sam – We haven't yet negotiated the Service Agreement with Chilliwack.

Mayor Clint Hames - We will. *(joking – I have it right here - we can do it right now!)

Councillor Dorothy Kostrzewa – Wondering if there are any plans to have the old house renovated?

Valerie Sam – I'm not aware of any. (Ask the room if anyone knows differently?)

Chief Sam Jimmie – He thought there were plans to have something done at one time – but the house is pretty run down now. Also there are a lot of people still very upset of the abuse that went on so perhaps not.

Councillor Sharon Gaetz - Why would anyone vote against having the Coqualeetza added to reserve? What kind of opposition would you get?

Valerie Sam – The only reason I could think of is the lack of understanding of the process, that's why we are doing these presentations. With St. Mary's only 6 or 8 voted no out of about 560. We do not foresee any opposition.

There were no more questions.

Valerie Sam thanked everyone again for coming and asked everyone before they left to make sure they stopped by the table at the entrance for their gifts.

At this point there was networking between individuals for about 20 minutes after while gifts were being distributed.

The following is comments made by some of the participants:

Mayor Hames, Ted Tisdale, Mel Folkman, Dorothy Kostrezwa: *thanked Valerie Sam for the power point presentation. They all really appreciated it!*

Graham Farstad: *Great power point presentation, I think this function went very well, the atmosphere was encouraging and it sounds like they (Chilliwack) are more than willing to settle the issues to enable the reserve creation (Coqualeetza). This was a very good idea, to start the introductory phase with the Mayors and Regional District.*

Mel Folkman: *He liked the presentation, he was glad to be a part of the dinner and discussion that followed. He also thought that the atmosphere was pleasant and a great way to establish a working relationship.*

BUDGET

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|---|-----------------------|
| Dinner for 75 people at \$16.00 per plate | \$1200 |
| Room Rental for day | 600 |
| Organizer/Coordinator | 1500 |
| Facilitators | 500 |
| Preparation of materials – printing costs | 600 |
| Video Presentation and Photo display | 600 |
| Meeting Supplies | 500 |
| Gifts for participants | 300 |
| Audio/Visual equipment rental | 100 |
| Final Report Production | 500 |
| Contingency | <u>200</u> |
| TOTAL | <u>\$6,600</u> |

TOTAL FUNDING REQUESTED (50%) **\$3,300.00**