OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

27 February 2006

Ms. Joanne Gauci
Union of BC Municipalities
Suite 60, 10551 Shellbridge Way
Richmond, BC V6X 2W9

Dear Ms. Gauci:

Re: Final Report - Community to Community Forum
Corporation of the District of Powell River/Sliammon First Nation

I am pleased to enclose the Final Report of the Community to Community Forum held in Powell River on 23 November 2005 and 25 January 2006. It was necessary to hold the forum over to a second date due to unforeseen fog, which prevented both Chief Stewart Phillip and Commissioner Mike Harcourt from attending on the first date.

We appreciate the Committee’s recognition of the importance of this event and wish to extend our thanks for their generosity in approving funding for the event in the amount of $1375.50. We have received your cheque for $687.75.

In light of the unforeseen circumstances and the necessity to continue the event on a second day, unexpected additional expenses were incurred. Therefore, we respectfully request the Committee consider providing additional funding for the event.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,
CITY OF POWELL RIVER

[signature]

Marie Claxton, CMC
City Clerk

/cmg
Enclosures
CITY OF POWELL RIVER
AND
SLIAMMON FIRST NATION

SUMMARY REPORT - 2nd ANNUAL COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY FORUM
Held 23 November 2006 and 25 January 2006

The forum was first scheduled for 23 November 2005; however, due to fog, some of the key speakers were unable to attend and the forum was scheduled to continue on 25 January 2006.

1. OBJECTIVES OF THE FORUM

The main objective of the Forum was to make a commitment to continue to establish respect, communication and cooperation between Sliammon First Nation and Powell River. This forum focused on Intergovernmental Relations, Aboriginal Rights and title, challenges in treaty making and Community Planning for sustainability.

2. PARTICIPANTS AND ATTENDEES

➢ BC Treaty Commissioner Michael Harcourt

➢ Chief Stewart Phillip, Chief of the Penticton Indian Band, President of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and member of the newly created BC First Nations Leadership Council

➢ Sliammon First Nation –
  – Chief Councillor Walter Paul and Sliammon Council
  – Sliammon Honoured Elders
  – Treaty Society Members
  – Murray Browne, Legal Counsel, Sliammon Treaty
  – Sliammon Health Society
  – Program managers

➢ City of Powell River
  – Mayor Stewart Aalsgard and City Council
  – Chief Administrative Officer

➢ Powell River Regional District
  – Chair Colin Palmer and Area A Board member
  – Administrator
  – Planner

➢ Catalyst Paper representatives
➢ Provincial and Federal Treaty Negotiators
➢ Sliammon Negotiators
➢ Lund Community Club
3. ISSUES DISCUSSED AND PRESENTATIONS MADE

➢ Murray Browne, lawyer with Woodward and Company presented an overview on challenges faced with UBCM policies with respect to additions to Treaty Settlement lands and treaty land related issues. Recent court cases were also highlighted.

➢ Roy Frances and Denise Smith, Sliammon First Nation Negotiators gave an overview of the treaty process and the barriers at the negotiating table.

➢ Steve Gallagher, Sliammon First Nation Intergovernmental Relations Manager, and Stan Westby, Chief Administrative Officer for the City of Powell River spoke about intergovernmental relations. They presented an overview of the relationship between the two governments, including a capsule history of the Powell River seawalk, the Community Accord and the Protocol Agreement on Culture, Heritage and Economic Development.

➢ Chief Stewart Phillip, President of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs spoke about the New Relationship negotiated between the First Nations Summit, the Union of BC Indian Chief, the BC Assembly of First Nations and provincial senior officials appointed by the Premier. This relationship is based on respect, recognition and accommodation of aboriginal title and rights, including the inherent right of first nations governance.

➢ Commissioner Mike Harcourt of the BC Treaty Commission spoke about the Intergovernmental Community Planning Pilot Project.

4. ACHIEVEMENTS RESULTING FROM THE EVENT

➢ Broader community has a sense of where Sliammon and local government relations are going and why.

➢ Awareness created on the Intergovernmental Community Planning Project that will evolve over the next year.

➢ Provide intergovernmental Relations 101 to the new composition of the City of Powell River’s Council.

➢ A continued awareness in the community of historic significance of the Sliammon First Nation and the relationship being developed with them.

➢ Community buy-in for supporting the City of Powell River and Sliammon First nation in continuing to focus on developing a meaningful and cooperative relationship based on respective principles.

Appendix A – Agenda
Appendix B – Media Coverage
Appendix C – Financial Summary
APPENDIX A - AGENDA

Community Forum
January 25, 2006
Town Centre Hotel
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

9:30 a.m.  OPENING PRAYER, Councillor Eugene Louie, Chair
WELCOMING REMARKS, Chief Walter Paul & Mayor Stewart Alsgard
INTRODUCTIONS

9:45 a.m.  TREATY OVERVIEW
SFN Negotiators Roy Frances & Denise Smith
Question and Answer

10:15 a.m.  INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
Steve Gallagher, SFN Intergovernmental Relations
Stan Westby, C.A.O. City of Powell River
Question and Answer

10:45 a.m.  THE NEW RELATIONSHIP
Chief Stewart Phillip, President of the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs
Question and Answer

11:20 a.m.  INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMUNITY PLANNING: WORKING TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY
Commissioner Mike Harcourt, British Columbia Treaty Commission
Question and Answer

12:00 p.m.  ADJOURNMENT
War of words heats up in treaty debate

Lund Hotel property at issue

LAURA WALZ
PEAK EDITOR

Fear or prejudice lies at the bottom of opposition to the Lund Hotel property becoming treaty settlement land, according to Sliammon Treaty Society's legal counsel.

Murray Browne, a lawyer with Woodward and Company, made a presentation about the issue at a community-to-community forum on November 23 at the Sliammon Salish Centre.

Sponsored by Tla’amin (Sliammon) First Nation and the City of Powell River, the forum included an overview of Tla’amin land and local government.

LAND cont’d on page 5
'Blanket no' puzzles Tla’Amin lawyer

Impression that ‘fear or prejudice’ may underlie regional district opposition files Area A director

Land

CONT’D FROM PAGE 1

relations, as well as the Lund issue.

Browne explained that historically the land between Lund and Bliss Landing was owned by a chief and his family members and it was a village site. “This wasn’t empty territory,” he explained. “It was known, named, owned. These chiefs were not many generations back.”

The Powell River Regional District (PRRD) board opposes the Lund Hotel property becoming treaty settlement land and the opposition has become a stumbling block in treaty negotiations.

Browne said the problem is Tla’Amin can’t get a fix on what the issues are. “What we get is just a blanket no, no you can not have that land as treaty settlement,” he said. “We ask what the reason is and they say it’s about governance.”

Tla’Amin has probed to define the specific issues, Browne added. “Is it about compatibility with official community plans? Is it about land use regulations? Is it about loss of tax revenue? We cannot get to what the issue is.”

That’s frustrating, Browne said, because if Tla’Amin doesn’t know what the issue is, its negotiators can’t resolve it. “I am left with the impression, and it is a very unfortunate impression, that the real issue has nothing to do with working out issues, but it’s just an issue of fear or prejudice.”

Browne also said that it is not pure racial motivation on the part of the regional district. “The best conclusion that I can come to is that we are frozen somewhere back in time on an issue that I can’t understand, that can’t be fully expressed in any way to deal with. What we really need to do is come to grips with the issue and find some way of moving forward. It’s just not acceptable at this point in our history to have neighbours of a first nation saying, ‘No you can not have a part of your traditional village site back as treaty land.’”

NEW ERA: Councillor Sandi Tremblay [left] presented Tla’Amin (Slammon) First Nation elder Elsie Paul with the first copy of Powell River’s official community plan, the cover of which displays a new drawing of a raven with a pearl in its beak, symbolizing the relationship between the two communities. The presentation was part of a community-to-community forum held in the Slammon Salish Centre last week.

took Browne’s remarks personally.

“To have the motives of the board impugned is one thing,” he said in reply to Browne’s presentation. “To have my personal motives impugned with a suggestion that I am governed by either fear or prejudice is insulting.”

Brabazon said there is a stack of letters and correspondence at the regional district office almost an inch thick from Lund residents who have an interest in the matter. “And I do, and the [PR]RD does, assign a certain amount of weight to those.”

Brabazon also denied the regional district has given Tla’Amin a blanket no and noted a third public meeting we’re going to end up with this one, but it’s an issue, it’s an aggravation, it’s more than an irritant because it is so extremely important to Tla’Amin and it’s so extremely important as a matter of governance to the regional board. But I assure you that there’s no fear, there’s no prejudice, and we will talk and we will come to some sort of conclusion, sometime.”

Mike Harcourt, British Columbia Treaty Commission commissioner, and Chief Stewart Phillip, president of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, were slated to attend the forum but couldn’t because of fog. Another forum has been organized for January and they
Treaty Commission funds planning project

Four-stage project includes community planning over 20 to 30 years

Powell River’s relationship with Tla’amin (Sliammon) First Nation was showcased last week at a follow-up to a community-to-community forum held in November.

Chief Stewart Phillip, Chief of the Penticton Indian Band and president of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and a member of the newly created BC First Nations Leadership Council, and BC Treaty Commission Commissioner Michael Harcourt travelled to Powell River on Wednesday, January 25. They had been scheduled to attend the forum that took place on November 23 but were prevented from flying because of fog.

Powell River Mayor Stewart Alegard and Tla’amin Chief Walter Paul welcomed all participants.

Tla’amin intergovernmental relations manager Steve Gallagher and City of Powell River chief administrative officer Stan Westby presented an overview of the relationship between the two, which included a capsule history of the Powell River seawalk, the Community Accord and the Protocol Agreement on Culture, Heritage and Economic Development and the inclusion of Tla’amin history in Powell River’s revised OCP (official community plan). As well, Powell River’s OCP cover features a drawing of a raven with a pearl in its beak by Shawn Frank, a member of the Nuu Chah Nulth Nation who now lives in Tla’amin.

Westby pointed out the goal of moving forward with mutual respect was reaching a point where it is “no longer us and them. It has become we. When we have a joint voice, we are very powerful.”

Gallagher reported that Tla’amin treaty negotiations will slow down as a comprehensive community planning project starts up, one that will involve the entire community and include topics such as governance, health, land use, infrastructure and culture. “We are in the early stages of community planning,” he said. A planning team has been formed and has been approved by the band council, Gallagher also said.

The BC Treaty Commission has provided seed money for the planning process. Harcourt described it as four-stage project. First, Tla’amin works on its community plan, which looks ahead 20 to 30 years. Then Tla’amin sits down with the city and Powell River Regional District to compare plans. The third stage involves reconciliation of any differences and the fourth stage is implementation.

Phillip spoke about many issues, including the historic leadership accord between the First Nations Summit, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and the BC Assembly of First Nations, signed in March 2005, that committed the three groups to work together for the benefit of all first nations in BC.

These groups negotiated with provincial senior officials appointed by Premier Gordon Campbell to develop a new relationship based on respect, recognition and accommodation of aboriginal title and rights, including the inherent right of first nations governance. Discussions included the need for shared planning and decision-making, as well as benefit and resource revenue-sharing in order to establish an effective government-to-government relationship and a meaningful process for consultation and accommodation.

Phillip said the new relationship document embraces all first nations in BC and holds great promise. “We fought over every word,” he said, adding that Campbell has been a strong supporter of the document and has committed to it. Phillip pointed out when the provincial government announced $100 million to first nations to help them participate, “We realized the new relationship was real.”
APPENDIX C – FINANCIAL SUMMARY

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