



Osoyoos Indian Band

SOUTH OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN REGION

Community-to-Community Forum

Planning the Future by Listening to the Communities

Tuesday December 9, 2003

Osoyoos, BC

Hosted by:

The Town of Osoyoos

Sponsored by:

Osoyoos Indian Band

Union of British Columbia Municipalities

Destination Osoyoos

Marathon Communications Inc.

Nk'Mip Desert and Heritage Centre

Nk'Mip Cellars

SOUTH OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN REGION

Community-to-Community Forum

Planning the Future by Listening to the Communities

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Background..... 1

Senator Ross Fitzpatrick.....2

Douglas Harvey4

Peter Vranjkovic.....6

Al Price7

Director Aaron Dinwoodie9

Alison McNeil 11

Arnie Marchand..... 14

Panel Discussions..... 16

APPENDICES

Forum Agenda 1

Participants3

SOUTH OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN REGION

Community-to-Community Forum

Planning the Future by Listening to the Communities

Background

In 1997 the First Nations Summit and the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) hosted the first Community to Community Forum where local government and First Nation Leaders from around the province discuss issues of common interest. Since that time there have been a series of community-based forums that share ideas and concerns about local issues.

In 2003 there were community-based 32 forums that were sponsored by the UBCM. The South Okanagan Similkameen Region Community to Community Forum was hosted by the Town of Osoyoos on December 9th, 2003. The focus of this forum was “Planning the Future by Listening to the Communities”.

The following excerpts are from the seven presenters and the closing panel discussion. The presenters for the day were:

SENATOR ROSS FITZPATRICK

The new National Park initiative

DOUGLAS HARVEY, Park Establishment Branch, Parks Canada

The Planning Process for the South Okanagan National Park Reserve

PETER VRANJKOVIC - Negotiator, Specific Claims Branch

Haynes Specific Claims Settlement Agreement

AL PRICE – Department Lands and Trusts Unit

First Nation and Local Government Agreements

AARON DINWOODIE, First Vice President, UBCM

Local Governments and First Nations Relationship Building in BC

ALISON MCNEIL - Senior Policy Analyst, Union of British Columbia

Current trends and future possibilities for Working Together

ARNIE MARCHAND – Three Nation Vacation Association

Canada and United States Three Nation Highway 97 Initiatives

Panel discussion with:

CHIEF CLARENCE LOUIE, Osoyoos Indian Band

and, **MAYOR JOHN SLATER**, Town of Osoyoos

Senator Ross Fitzpatrick

National Park Initiatives and Feasibility Study

Senator Ross Fitzpatrick introduced the new South Okanagan National Park initiative and feasibility study. He expressed his gratitude to the variety of groups and people that have been supporting this initiative, including the Osoyoos Desert Society, the members of the South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Partnership and the Mayor and Councils from Oliver, Osoyoos and Keremeos.

Senator Fitzpatrick acknowledged the Osoyoos Indian Band and chief Clarence Louie for their support and the research work that they have carried out with respect to the proposal. He pointed out that this cooperation builds on “the tremendous strides that Parks Canada has made with cooperative management with first nations such as at the Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve. Where over 50% of the full time positions including the field superintendant are held by

“We enjoyed it all but we probably didn’t appreciate the extent of the species that existed and the richness and the biodiversity that surrounded us. And today we are painfully aware that much of that is in danger.”

First Nations people.” He also said “The Osoyoos Indian Band and the Lower Similkameen Indian Band have invested time and research for preparing the park proposal focussing on protecting their desert lands, protecting the species at risk, recapturing and cherishing their heritage.”

The Senator stressed the important of preservation of endangered species and protecting what “represents probably the richest but also the most threatened ecosystem in Canada.”

He pointed out the benefits of connectivity between the new park and other protected areas, the opportunity for new research, cultural opportunities, and tourism and development opportunities. He pointed to other economic destination tourism examples such as heritage sites being restored and supported like the old town of Fairview in Oliver, the Grist Mill and Red Ridge in Keremeos, and the Haine’s homestead in Osoyoos. These are new economic

“It is no secret to many of you in this room that I have a very passionate desire to protect the area of the South Okanagan Similkameen to ensure that it endures for the centuries to come.”

SOUTH OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN REGION

Community-to-Community Forum

Planning the Future by Listening to the Communities

opportunities for the gateway communities of Keremeos, Oliver, Osoyoos, and even Hedley with heritage sites cultural experiences and other facilities. He mentioned recreational opportunities such bird watching, river rafting, studying astronomy at Mount Cobalt, and trail riding on adjacent private land and properties. Development of shops relating to history, heritage and the environment. Hotels, restaurants, environmental lodges creation of a more

“Economic opportunities for ...development of shops relating to history, heritage and the environment, hotels, restaurants, environmental lodges creation of a more affluent tourist to visit wineries, golf courses, ski resorts and other recreational facilities.”

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Douglas Harvey

The Acting Chief for New Park Proposals for Parks Canada Park Establishment Branch, Parks Canada

The Process of Creating a New National Park

Douglas Harvey of Parks Canada explained the process that is being used in the development of the new South Okanagan National Park. The 41 National Parks in Canada are intended to protect environments that are representative of the different natural regions in Canada, representative of our natural heritage. The new park will represent what is called Region 3 of the 39 different natural regions in Canada. Of those terrestrial natural regions 27 of them are now represented by the parks system. At the end of the feasibility study Parks Canada will prepare a report to Parliament on who they consulted with, what the topics were discussed and how various things were resolved. There is an obligation to consult with Aboriginal people and reach an agreement with them. And in the case of BC where there is a still unresolved land claims the objective would be a National Park Reserve as opposed to a National Park.

Excerpts

“The legislation states that land will not be expropriated; where land is acquired for national park purposes it is done on a willing seller/willing buyer basis. The planning process is now at the feasibility study stage. This stage will include public consultation and assessing park boundaries and there might be some resource assessments, mineral, timber, grazing, etc.”

“On October 3, 2002, a little over a year ago a major announcement in terms of national parks and national marine conservation areas in Canada. The Prime Minister and the Minister of Canadian Heritage announced something that they called an action plan on natural heritage. The objective was to establish 10 new national parks, 5 new national marine conservation areas and 3 park expansions within a 5 year time frame.”

“We have a major role in terms of educating people, informing people, motivating people, teaching people about the natural history of this area, the cultural history of this area.”

SOUTH OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN REGION

Community-to-Community Forum

Planning the Future by Listening to the Communities

“We need to develop and consult on different boundary options so there is no fixed boundary here there is different possibilities. We need to look at protecting representative ecosystems and the ecological health of the area. And we are asked to minimize the long term disruption to the regional economy. And where there would be impacts, we are asked to develop initiatives that would mitigate those impacts.”

“We have a major role in terms of educating people, informing people, motivating people, teaching people about the natural history of this area, the cultural history of this area. That is a huge area for us.

“You don’t want to put a park somewhere and cut somebody off from their home or ranch or their grazing areas, or whatever”

And finally it [the park] results in minimal long-term disruption and social and economic life of the surrounding region. A huge challenge. There won’t be a national park without support from the province, the general public, and aboriginal peoples living here.”

“There are two different tracks we can consider here. We are now launching feasibility studies, but at the same time we recognize we in a land claim environment here. There are ongoing negotiations and discussions and that could affect the establishment process as well. In terms of land assembly we envisage a two-stage process. The first stage would be the province agreeing to transfer certain crown lands to Parks Canada. That could include provincial parks, it could include ecological reserves, it could include some of the grasslands protected areas that were announced fairly recently. Following that parks Canada not starting tomorrow, but in a year or two, Parks Canada could be in a position to begin purchasing land on a willing seller/willing buyer basis. And there are all kinds of considerations that come into this. We of course are looking for lands with certain characteristics and certain ecological values. If some of those lands became available for purchase on the open market we would certainly be interested in doing so.”

“And finally consultation is an important part of the process. We anticipate several rounds of consultations with groups like yourselves, town and council, chief and council, the regional district folks, MLA’s, MP’s, all kinds of people. We are hoping to open an office here in the valley fairly soon. We are about to advertise for a full time position based in the valley. I’d like to see at least a couple of staff based here. I think there is enough work to keep two or three people busy for quite a while.”

Peter Vranjkovic

Negotiator, Specific Claims Branch, Department of Indian and Northern Affairs
Canada

Haynes Specific Claims Settlement Agreement and the additions to reserves provisions in that Agreement

Peter Vranjkovic is a negotiator for the Specific Claims Branch, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. Peter explained the role of his branch of government and the work that they are engaged in for this valley as well as the process they use.

Excerpts

“The Federal Government for which Al Price and I work for is committed to resolving old outstanding lawful obligations that fit into certain criteria’s. And this is different than the comprehensive claims policy. The Federal Government is also committed to resolving comprehensive claims another way to describe them is aboriginal rights and titles claims. The Federal Government through the British Columbia treaty process is negotiating some of those with the British Columbia government and First Nations.”

“We would prefer as much as possible to negotiate settlements. And that is what this policy commits the Federal Government to do.”

“So there have been a number of settlements in the Okanagan already. The Haines claim is one. And this policy explains why the government does it. Sets out the kind of criteria that are applied to determine whether or not we are going to negotiate or not or whether the First Nations have the option, they always have the option to sue the Federal Government and can and will use its defences to try and defend itself. We would prefer as much as possible to negotiate settlements. And that is what this policy commits the Federal Government to do. First Nations filed their claims with us, we have reviewed them and then we send them to our lawyers from the Department of Justice who give us advice on whether or not we should negotiate. The Osoyoos Band did that for the Haynes Claim.”

Al Price

Department Lands and Trusts Unit, Department of Indian and Northern Affairs
Canada

Treaty, Land Claims and the Law

Al Price spoke passionately about both the challenges and the progress being made in ATR's (Additions to Treaty Reserve) Claims. He talked about the inherent challenges of working with existing federal laws and the variety of directions ATR's can progress, based on the assessment of the specific area and the desires of the local governments. He also stressed how pleased he is with the attitude of the local governments towards a cooperative approach to land claims and moving toward agreements.

Excerpts

"Recently the courts have begun to tell us that we have a duty to consult with First Nations whenever their interest might be affected. First Nations have had a responsibility to consult with their neighbours in relation to things like additions to reserves for a great long time. It's quite an awakening to industry and some government organizations to realize that they have to consult someone before they can go ahead and the Parks Presentation was extremely well done in that regard. When we are consulting with First Nations we have to remember that we are not consulting with just another stake holding group, just another interest group. It is a very, very different situation. It is different in law and it is different in fact."

"When you deal with First Nations, when you spend the time and get to know First Nations people and communities you will realize that there very profound differences. In our understandings of who we are, what our relationship to each other is, what our relationships between each other, what our relationship to the land is. It is not the same as consultations or relationships between just ordinary citizens on the street or people who have a similar frame of reference. And that creates challenges."

"When we are consulting with First Nations we have to remember that we are not consulting with just another stake holding group; just another interest group. It is a very, very different situation."

"When this piece of land is being moved from provincial crown land to reserve, there are some fundamental changes that are happening. It may or may not come out of a regional tax base depending on whether or not the Band assumes taxation. It may or may not be subject to all of the same codes and regulations,

SOUTH OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN REGION

Community-to-Community Forum

Planning the Future by Listening to the Communities

building code, fire code, they still apply as often as not. Chief Louie I am sure will tell you First Nations when they want to do development have to meet or beat both federal and provincial standards so it can be very difficult to do anything with reserve land.”

“There is no statutory authority to add land to reserve or create reserve, there is no act that governs it. The reason for that is that the act of creating a reserve is royal prerogative. It is not done by the Queen anymore it is done by cabinet, by governor and council. And as royal prerogative it is the highest standard of jurisdiction that her majesty has. It cannot be contained by statute, it cannot be bound, and it cannot be fettered. Cabinet, even parliament cannot bind itself. The act of creating a reserve is the highest level of government act that we do. That being the case it is extremely onerous.”

“The Spotted Lake property is now a federal real property act

it is not yet reserve, it should never become reserve. When land comes into the federal real property act, into our jurisdiction, and before that, we have to know certain things. We need to know the environmental state of the land, we need to know the title state of the land, surface and sub-surface. If there are any

“One of the reasons I love coming to this part of the country is because these land claims can actually happen here and in a relatively easy way. You are very, very fortunate to live where you do.”

“...until people are willing to sit down and legitimately hear each other’s issues and try to find ways to go forward in a way that benefits everyone and addresses those issues to the greatest extent possible, there is no potential for success.”

interests, easements, leases, any such thing over it. We also need to be able to manage those through the process of it becoming reserve and transition them into the new system. It is not always analogous so it can be very difficult to do. When a First Nation owns a piece of land and are trying to have it added to reserve, dealing with those type of criteria can be very, very difficult.”

“One of the reasons I love coming to this part of the country is because these land claims can actually happen here and in a relatively easy way. You are very, very fortunate to live where you do. There are other parts of the province and other parts of the country where it is nightmarish. These people will never see eye-to-eye, will never cooperate. My experience in this part of the country is that the people will certainly have to debate and have to heartily but the agreements happen and the people move forward together. That’s a really fortunate thing.”

Director Aaron Dinwoodie

Second Vice President, UBCM

Local Governments and First Nations Relationship Building in BC

Aaron Dinwoodie, Second Vice President, UBCM spoke about the impetus behind the community to community forums and how he sees that the process is working. He shared his observations of how the ideas discussed in some of the forums are starting to appear in treaty negotiations. He mentioned that the UBCM is involved in creating a 'best practices' tool kit and workshop process with respect to helping local governments and First Nations understand where their common interests intersect within ATR processes. And he announced that the UCBM will be introducing a new set of rewards programs here called the Community Excellence Awards.

Excerpts

"But the core foundation of the C2C forums is building relationships and UBCM realizes the long-term effort that is required to foster relationships between adjacent jurisdictions so that we can work together on our mutual interests and find that particular common ground. I think that is really what has been fostered within the community-to-community process."

"In fact we are starting to see some of the ideas that are discussed in community-to-community forums starting to appear in such things as the first set of treaties that are starting to be initialled across British Columbia. We are also starting to see it in land management processes where local governments and First Nations are sitting down identifying their interests and entering into protocols with one another. Trying to figure out, 'hey how is this going to work'. When the provincial and governments go their ways after a process, how are we here in the community going to make all this work? And that's really what the community-to-community forum process is all about and centred around."

"When the provincial and governments go their ways after a process, how are we here in the community going to make all this work?"

"At UBCM we are working right now with the Land Chief's Advisory Board, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and Indian Northern Affairs Canada. To put together our best practices, a tool kit and a workshop process with respect to helping local governments and First Nations understand where their common interests intersect within ATR processes and how to streamline this particular process. These things have taken forever and trying to figure out a way to streamline that and really get to the heart of the issues so that we can foster those relationships and try to figure out how to make them work."

SOUTH OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN REGION

Community-to-Community Forum

Planning the Future by Listening to the Communities

“What we are really trying to do is move it from a perspective where First Nations and local governments aren’t so much reacting to one another, more along the lines of trying to develop a framework to identify those interests and figure out how to work together and how to make the future work with one another.”

“UCBM will be introducing a new set of rewards programs here called the Community Excellence Awards. We are looking into building a component into that that will recognize the section where there is best practice examples where First Nations and local Governments support together. We are working in partnership with Indian Northern Affairs Canada, the First Nations Summit and all partners that we work together with in that.”

“What we are really trying to do is move it from a perspective where First Nations and local governments aren’t so much reacting to one another”

Alison McNeil

Senior Policy Analyst, Union of British Columbia Municipalities

Current Trends and Future Possibilities

Alison McNeil, Senior Policy Analyst with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, presented thoughts on what she sees as five trends relating to community-to-community forums and to First Nation and local Government working relationships. As an observer of the progress of the community-to-community forums, Alison remarks on the growth of the forums across the province. And she also notes the trend toward improved working relationships and more formal agreements between First Nation and local Government. The five trends she talks about are:

1. an increased number of community-to-community forums held annually.
2. the number of repeat applicants and multiple events for community-to-community forums is increasing.
3. relationship building and the discussion of the more difficult issues as time goes on.
4. the increasing use and number of formalized agreements like protocols and MOU's.
5. increased work done on structuring relationships on a coast treaty context, managing inter-governmental issues.

Excerpts

“There is an increased number of community-to-community forums held annually. This is not UCBM money but money contributed by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, the Department of Indian Affairs federally, and by the provincial government. There were eight events in 2000, 20 in 2001, and 15 in 2002. It was a local government election year so there wasn't as much time to get these sorts of things off the ground. And this year 2003, we have had 32 events funded to date. So you can see the kind of stepped increase and number of events annually.”

“There are greater powers coming both our way in local government and in First Nations... hopefully we won't go in different directions”

“The other thing that is changing is the legislative environment - and that is both for First Nations and for Local Government. There are greater powers coming

SOUTH OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN REGION

Community-to-Community Forum

Planning the Future by Listening to the Communities

both our way in local government and in First Nations. Aaron mentioned the First Nations Land Management Pact, what that means I think in a nutshell that some First Nations will be able to manage their affairs in respect with land use and development on reserve land without a lot of Indian Affairs involvement. So there is greater independence coming up. Certainly for local governments with a community charter, there is greater autonomy and greater powers available to us as well. This means that hopefully we won't go in different directions, but it is causing people to look more at their present governmental relationship and the local context."

"How do we solve a problem together, how do we deal with inter-governmental issues that are causing tension or potential conflict, relating to land issues or servicing? And then how do we set ourselves up to resolve disputes effectively in the future?"

"Individuals first get to know each other, personal relationships build, then they get to know about their respective communities aspirations, goals, issues, concerns. Then people tend to work through maybe a workshop on learning, but on how the other organization works.

A show and tell of who we are and what we do. And then the dialogues tend to progress into how can we get something done together, how can we lobby the federal government, there needs to be drudging of gravel, how do we work on this sort of thing together. How do we solve a problem together, how do we deal with inter-governmental issues that are causing tension or potential conflict, relating to maybe to land issues or servicing? And then how do we set ourselves up to resolve disputes effectively in the future? Those are some of the things that people tend to get into as time goes on and as more dialogues, more meetings happen."

"My observations are that ultimately local governments and First Nations are working in the same direction with respect to meeting the needs and aspirations of their communities. That is a good starting place."

"There is an increasing use and number of formalized agreements like protocols and MOU's. There is a handy dandy compilation of a bunch of MOU's guidebook for local governments produced by the lower mainland, their web address is www.lmtac.bc.ca. This is protocols from different areas, different jurisdictions and it is quite interesting reading."

SOUTH OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN REGION

Community-to-Community Forum

Planning the Future by Listening to the Communities

“Increased work done on structuring relationships on a coast treaty context, managing inter-governmental issues. What I have seen at the Nanaimo Indian Band Table - they have produced a government AIP (agreement in principle) towards a final treaty. It has a lot to say about local government and First Nation relationships that represent a lot of work done by the politicians involved and the directions that they have given to staff to say go away form a technical committee and tell us if there are any barriers in the legislation. For example the First Nation becoming part of the Regional District Board. Developing staff-to-staff working relationships, as well as council-to-council, council-to-board. For example you could have band managers talking to the local government administration more, you have a First Nation land manager talking to a local government planning more and more regular contact. Those kind of linkages need to be made at the political level, yes, at the staff level ad that really makes a difference.”

Arnie Marchand

Three Nation Vacation Association

Canada and United States Three Nation Highway 97 Initiatives

Arnie Marchand, of the Three Nation Vacation Association, provided an energetic and creative proposal for connecting tourism development along the Highway 97 corridor under one theme. He also revealed a new logo for the theme representing the interest from both sides of the border.

Excerpts

“In 1999 in a place called Oliver, politicians, ministry of tourism, regional representatives from governments in Canada, tourism people from Chambers of Commerce up here. Down there they are called county elected officials, commissioners, down there they are called volunteers. And we had a state representative there. So we had almost an equal amount of baloney throwers and baloney eaters at this meeting. The bottom line is that in Okanagan County there are 53 ways to spell that word and you go to Canada and they found another one. We at the Three Nation Vacation Association decided to spell it this way. It is a better way, even elected officials understood this. We think this is the best way to spell that word.”

“Some of them said it was too Canadian, some of them said it was too American some of us said it was too damn Indian, go figure.”

“This logo was a Three Nation Vacation Association logo, we have been trying to force it upon every tourism group, municipality in Canada, county, regional organization, city tourism group. Some of them said it was too Canadian, some of them said it was too American some of us said it was too damn Indian, go figure.

“The bottom line is that in Okanagan County there are 53 ways to spell that word and you go to Canada and they found another one.”

“It took a lot of pushing politicians, a lot of phoning, a lot of meetings a lot of working with Indians and the community and the regional group. But within the year we got a scenic byway established. We are going to work with the State Parks Department and we are going to reopen a thing called Fort Okanagan at the end of this valley.”

SOUTH OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN REGION

Community-to-Community Forum

Planning the Future by Listening to the Communities

“Every minute you are driving up this corridor, you are driving by the Columbia River, the Okanagan River or a lake. This is a pretty neat place. In the year 2010 three ways by car, by foot or by bicycle. You can go 3, Highway 97 or I-5 a thing called the Olympics, something about the winter Olympics. Three ways to get there. In the year 2005, CNN, the Canadian stations, MTV are going to be flying over this place saying ‘Gees we got to take advantage of this’. National television is going to be coming through here looking at us.”

“This organization is working at every level. You just don’t see it, you don’t hear about it. When somebody asks me well how is it really going you have to describe it it’s between a race riot and a Tupperware party. Sometimes it is exciting and sometimes its not. But it is what tourism is.”

“When somebody asks me well how is it really going you have to describe it - it’s between a race riot and a Tupperware party.”

Panel Discussions

Chief Clarence Louie, Osoyoos Indian Band

Excerpts

“A few things I would like to cover up on are our current relationship with Oliver and Osoyoos. The Osoyoos Indian Band has waters and service agreements with both towns. We have fire protection agreements with both towns. Our economic development projects up until the last three or four years have always been on what we call the north end of the reserve which is in Oliver. That is where the majority of our people live, our band office is, our pre school, daycare, our golf course, our subdivision is all on the north end.”

“Having a poor neighbour doesn’t do anybody any good.”

“Our campground down here has been here since the late 60’s early 70’s and of course we have gone further than that with our winery now and our new cultural centre and there is a new golf course being built up there right now. And we are proud of the fact that we’re becoming part of the economy of this town.”

“I think the town of Oliver mayor and council would vouch that the Osoyoos Indian Band plays an important role in Oliver in creating jobs. We play an important role in providing services. Every time we do a project the entire town of Oliver benefits from it. And having the only winery in the south, which is the Osoyoos’s first and only winery and our campground being there and our heritage centre. We are now doing what we have done in Oliver that’s becoming a major player in the economics.”

“With our Nk’Mip Project, which we hope most of you will take the time to come up and see our heritage centre after this session. Having a poor neighbour doesn’t do anybody any good. And the fact is most First Nations across Canada have been left out of the economy. But the Osoyoos Indian Band we are fortunate to be in the South Okanagan. We are fortunate in so many ways and I guess we are just proving the point that First Nation business is good for everybody.”

“We are fortunate in so many ways and I guess we are just proving the point that First Nation business is good for everybody.”

“And we have bought two pieces of parcels in the Oliver area. We bought two pieces of parcels of land in the Osoyoos area. And we are currently going to go through the additions reserve process with all four of those pieces of property.”

SOUTH OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN REGION

Community-to-Community Forum

Planning the Future by Listening to the Communities

We hope we have the support of the mayors and councils and hope we have the support of all the off reserve agencies in the South Okanagan.”

“I think it has been proven over and over again. When First Nations become part of the economy everybody benefits. The Osoyoos Indian Band in those pieces of property that we hope to add to the reserve. Sure you might lose some taxation benefits. You are going to lose your jurisdiction over those pieces of property. But I guess that’s where it comes from.”

“To me saying we are neighbours, we are good neighbours and support one another in all of those verbal things we all say because they are politically nice things to say. And I said this when we were at the UBCM. The proof to me is going to come when either we see or don’t see the support of the off reserve agencies. Because that is where the proof is going to come on whether or not we do have a relationship here in the South Okanagan.”

“We make no bones about that that is what they are bought for. First Nations have a right to be a part of the economy and with these pieces of property we are going to create jobs in this area.”

“I don’t have to go into the history of what happened with the Osoyoos Indian Band in the loss of our best land I have covered some of that earlier. In this we have till 2007 under the Haines to buy additions to reserve property. We bought these four pieces. We are going to look to purchase more. But the pieces of property we will be buying will be a mix of traditional pieces. We bought a 200-acre piece off the reserve, which we don’t want to touch. We actually bought it to stop the owner of the property was going to subdivide that property and put housing up there. It was our only access to the north area, which is one of our major hunting areas. So we bought that 200 acres not to do anything with, we bought it preserve our hunting ground.”

“But the other pieces of property we bought we bought for economic development purposes. We make no bones about that that is what they are bought for. First Nations have a right to be a part of the economy and with these pieces of property we are going to create jobs in this area. And just like some of the people in this room, some of them work at our heritage centre or campground or work at our cellars. Non-native people work in every one of our businesses. When the Osoyoos Indian Band creates companies it creates jobs for everybody. And with these pieces of property we bought we have plans for them. In creating jobs in adding to the economy of the South Okanagan.”

Mayor John Slater, Town of Osoyoos

Excerpts

One of the advantages of going last is a lot of things have been said, I am very encourage what Chief Phillips has said. It shows how we can turn a volatile situation into a positive situation relatively short term considering that we have been having troubles for hundreds of years between the native owners of land and the whites that have moved in. Clarence has basically outlined some of the relationships with the town of Osoyoos town of Oliver and the Osoyoos Indian Band. But I think we do need to get to the next step.”

“It shows how we can turn a volatile situation into a positive situation relatively short term considering that we have been having troubles for hundreds of years between the native owners of land and the whites that have moved in.”

“As Clarence said these four properties are going to be applied for to add the reserve status which would effective remove any control called control that municipal politicians whether they are regional district or municipalities have over those properties. Municipalities don’t make money off taxes. We provide services, 10, 12, 20 services to a specific piece of property. The 200 acres that is undeveloped obviously has very little taxes on it because it is not necessary to service it.”

“I admire what you guys are doing with the property. I think it is very good to let it remain in its natural state and use for your traditional uses. The other three properties are developed somewhat. Two in Osoyoos, and one in Oliver. But they are not developed into current hotels or anything very expensive that does cost municipalities quite a bit of money to service. When we go onto a piece of property we have an assessment roll as most people are aware and that is how we charge our service fees on that property. We did take some for administration and it doesn’t matter whether it is the Osoyoos Indian Band or the town of Osoyoos or the Regional District, it does cost money to operate your offices, have staff and vehicles and equipment to do it.”

“It would be nice to come up with an ideal formula between the bands of the South Okanagan as well as the municipalities to say yes this is how we are going to treat any additions to reserve in the future.”

SOUTH OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN REGION

Community-to-Community Forum

Planning the Future by Listening to the Communities

“We feel very strongly that with the two additions to reserve that are coming in Osoyoos that we will be able to negotiate service agreements on anything that the town of Osoyoos does provide to those properties. Whether it is water or fire protection, sewer, anything like that. Obviously there is other issues in municipal taxes such as library fees, dump fees, school taxes, hospital taxes and those items would all have to be negotiated by the Osoyoos Indian Band with those respective agencies if there is a residential component.”

“Elected councils are only the temporary help. Every three years or so the temporary help is removed, so it would be good to have policies in place so we don't have to go through this every five years and changing the goal post to move around, move around. It would be nice to come up with an ideal formula between the bands of the South Okanagan as well as the municipalities to say yes this is how we are going to treat any additions to reserve in the future. I know the upper and lower Similkameen Bands are looking at additions as well as Penticton and the other nations of the Okanagan Nation Alliance. Those are all still just words, I am here to say to Clarence that I know our council is very supportive of the economic initiatives that are occurring in the Osoyoos area and we wish them the best of luck and we will certainly cooperate in any way we can in coming up with mutual agreements.”

Forum Agenda



Osoyoos Indian Band

South Okanagan Similkameen Region Community-to-Community Forum

Planning the Future by Listening to the Communities

Tuesday December 9, 2003 ~ 9:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Cactus Springs Restaurant, Osoyoos, BC

8:30

Registration and Continental Breakfast

09:00 Welcome and Introduction

- Chief Clarence Louie – Osoyoos Indian Band
- Mayor John Slater – Town of Osoyoos
- MP Jim Gouk – Kootenay-Boundary-Okanagan

Opening prayer

09:30 Planning for Success

- Hugh Culver – Marathon Communications

09:45 National Park Initiatives and Feasibility Study

- Senator Ross Fitzpatrick - introducing
- Douglas Harvey, Park Establishment Branch, Parks Canada

Questions and Answers

10:30 First Nation and Local Government Agreements

Haynes Specific Claims Settlement Agreement and the additions to reserves provisions in that Agreement

- Peter Vranjkovic - Negotiator, Specific Claims Branch
- Al Price – Department Lands and Trusts Unit

Questions and Answers

11:15 Group Discussion Session

12:00 **Lunch break**

12:45 **Local Governments and First Nations Relationship Building in BC**
Current Trends and Future Possibilities

- Director Aaron Dinwoodie, Second Vice President, UBCM
- Alison McNeil - Senior Policy Analyst, Union of British Columbia

Municipalities

Questions and Answers

01:30 **Canada and United States Three Nation Highway 97 Initiatives**

- Arnie Marchand – Three Nation Vacation Association

Questions and Answers

02:00 **Panel Discussions – Town of Osoyoos and Osoyoos Indian Band**

- Hugh Culver – Marathon Communications

Summary discussion

3:00 **Tour of Nk'Mip Desert and Heritage Centre**

- Brenda Baptiste – Manager, Nk'Mip Desert and Heritage Centre

3:45 **Nk'Mip Cellars Wine and Cheese Social**

- Donna Faigaux – Manager, Nk'Mip Cellars
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*The Town Of Osoyoos would like to thank the following
sponsors for their generous support for this conference:*

Osoyoos Indian Band

Union of British Columbia Municipalities

Destination Osoyoos

Marathon Communications

Nk'Mip Desert and Heritage Centre

Nk'Mip Cellars

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Participants - continued

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Tony Baptiste Osoyoos Indian Band RR3, S20, C1 Oliver, BC V0H 1T0	Mrs. Phillips Penticton Indian Band RR2 S80 C19 Penticton, BC V2A 6J7	Stuart Phillips Penticton Indian Band RR2 S80 C19 Penticton, BC V2A 6J7
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