

# **MOUNT WADDINGTON REGIONAL DISTRICT/WINALAGALIS TREATY GROUP REPORTING ON PROPOSAL FOR A REGIONAL FORUM ON POST-TREATY ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES**

## **1. FORUM OBJECTIVES**

The long-term strategic objective of this forum is to explore regional impacts of treaty settlements and to make the community more aware that treaty settlement is likely to improve the overall business climate of the region, and create economic opportunities for the entire region – not just for First Nations beneficiaries.

The immediate goal in the past year has been to capitalize on the momentum from a Community-to-Community public meeting last year and develop a detailed proposal for a professionally conducted regional economic study that mirrors the Treaty Commission's province-wide studies of a post-treaty economy.

The follow-up plan includes four stages:

- Develop a proposal for a regional study of prospects for the post-treaty economic climate in the North Island to be conducted by a professional economist
- Secure funding for the economic study
- Conduct the economic study
- Hold a follow-up Community-to-Community forum to share the results of the study with the community – local governments, First Nations, business, community groups and institutions – and with representatives from the province and the federal government

The community is currently engaged in the first stage – and have hired a consulting economist and a writer to assist in preparing terms of reference for the study and a funding proposal for presentation to senior governments, foundations and corporate sources. The February 20, 2006 forum provided the opportunity for local First Nations, government, business and industry to identify key issues and parameters for development of terms of reference and funding proposal, and to develop proposal for review.

## **2. PARTICIPANTS**

Please see list of meeting participants (Appendix 1).

## **3. ISSUES DISCUSSED**

Please see meeting notes (Appendix 2).

## **4. RECOMMENDATIONS/OUTCOMES**

### **Outcomes**

**Fall 2005/Winter 2006:** Planning for February 2006 meeting, selected a consulting economist for preliminary work on a study – defining terms of reference for the main project

**February 2006:** Community to Community Forum held a steering committee session with the economist and a proposal writer to equip the consultants to put together a detailed proposal for an economic study with terms of reference, a budget and a funding proposal suitable for presentation to senior governments, foundations and potential corporate partners.

**March 2006:** Preliminary draft of terms of reference received from economist (to be completed by March 31/06).

**March 2006:** Forum follow-up activities include a support letter and joint statements under review by Winalagalis Treaty Group and Mount Waddington Regional District.

**April 2006** Forum steering group review of proposal and terms of reference by April 2006.

### **Recommendations**

The Forum steering group, comprised of local First Nations, business and industry, has identified the need to reconvene to review the proposal and terms of reference for an economic study by April 2006.

The final detailed proposal for a regional study of the anticipated post-treaty economic climate will be used to secure funding to carry out that study. The findings of the study will be shared on a community-to-community basis, as well as presented to senior governments and the treaty commission.

## **5. FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

### **Event Expenditures**

Consultant Fees & Travel	8,500.00	*
Meeting Expenses		
Lunch	230.00	
Venue	<u>114.85</u>	
Total Meeting Expenses	344.85	
Miscellaneous	<u>12.35</u>	
<b>Total Actual Expenditures</b>		<b>\$ 8,857.20</b>

**In-Kind Contributions:**

Conference Organization	2,983.41	
Disbursements (phone, supplies, courier, incidentals)	<u>250.00</u>	
<b>Total In-Kind Contributions</b>		<b>\$ 3,233.41</b>
<b>Total C2C Forum Costs</b>		<b>\$ 12,090.61</b>

\* Actuals to-date = \$6,563.

Projected expenditures to complete follow-up = \$1,937

WTG is not anticipating a surplus. Any overage to be absorbed by the Winalagalis Treaty Group

**Economic Study Steering Committee  
February 20, 2006**

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**North Island Economic Study – Steering Committee**  
**February 20, 2006 ~ Port McNeill**  
**Agenda**

- Introductions
- Questions/Assumptions
- Over-arching objectives of study
- Substance of study and approach
- Process issues
- Next steps

**General Issues:**

- First Nation concerns regarding ↑ pre-treaty alienation
- First Nation concerns regarding formula-driven settlements
- First Nation commitment to process
- local government concern regarding lack of involvement in process in terms of information and consultation
- concerns regarding process:
  - ~ government mandates (Governance, Co-Management)
  - ~ operational levels of government slow to respond to courts
- need to face economic realities of North Island, First Nations and non-First Nations
- Regional District of Mount Waddington – economic development strategy as reference point 2004

**Study Objectives**

- look at regional economy through treaty-lens
- establish historical context → Aboriginal Title
- impact on North Island business climate
- identify regional strategies to ‘hit the ground running’
- study audience:
  - ~ local community/public support
  - ~ economic decision makers
  - ~ Province
- known benefit to region: ↑ certainty (already established)
- look at opportunities in different sectors
- look at resource management
- look at benefits from resource extraction – keep money in North Island
- education – keep youth in North Island. Education opportunity in North Island
- explore opportunities for 2<sup>o</sup> processing post-treaty.
- royalty benefits – keep in North Island

- How to improve North Island infrastructure. Much money flows south. Need to improve investment climate – banks. Communication infrastructure
- impacts of environmental changes on resource – based sectors
  - ~ protection
- no frame of reference for emerging industry may be models elsewhere
- identify new economic potential
- need input into development of emerging industries
- look at BC Study on North Island economy. Look at all relevant studies
- need ↑ First Nation involvement in regional decision-making
- tourism is a key emerging industry BUT need clear understanding on actual economic benefits
- need better listing of regional resources, companies etc
- clear process for doing business in North Island (e.g. First Nation protocols)
- enhanced relationships with First Nations
- enhanced economic opportunities. Need clear basis for dialogue
- explore inter-government relations
- look at pre-treaty and post-treaty
- partnerships/joint venture opportunities
- impact of cross-cultural communication on economic activity. Impact on trust
- need studies and recommendations for pre-treaty activities in region that will lead into treaty environment
- common goal-sustainable economic development
- need to find efficiency and avoid duplication of First Nation and local government activities
- consultation required by First Nation and other interests
- need report to deal with cultural as well as economic aspects
- look at impacts and implications of various co-management models
- look at ways to facilitate economic activity in North Island through appropriate protocols and communications
- structure of economic report
- look at integration of First Nation and non-First Nation economic activities
- document economic opportunity opened by treaties
- create regional support for treaties based on facts to facilitate conclusion of treaties

## **STUDY OUTLINE**

- statement of objectives dealing with transition from pre to post treaty
- Area of study includes Regional District of Mount Waddington and Smiths Inlet
  - ~ some First Nations in area not in BCTC process
- recommendations regarding potential pre-treaty regional activities
- identify present economic potential
- factor in economic development plans that will be realized post-treaty
- development of institutions and training in North Island
- quantify local First Nation spending post-treaty
- look at current state of fishery and forestry. Job displacement vs job creation
- qualification of person conducting study:
  - ~ local knowledge
  - ~ readable product

- need for second or parallel report to address cross cultural issues
- economic development challenges in region
- economic and social indicators need to be identified (tools for evaluation over time)

## **NEXT STEPS**

- one month to develop draft (Geoff Young & David Reilley)
- need to sign off on draft (Steering Committee)
- identify funding sources
  - ~ BCBC and records from BCBC
  - ~ coast sustainability trust
  - ~ Community Futures Development Corporation
  - ~ North Island Trust
  - ~ TRM \$\$
  - ~ BCTC \$ ?
  - ~ Large corporations active in region

Target: End of March