The BC Treaty Process and Local Government Experience

UBCM Conference Series:
Final Treaty Agreements: Examining Local Government Interests
May 24, 2007

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- 2007 Workplan includes development of a “lessons learned and best practices” paper

- 6 themes examined:
  - Process
  - Policy
  - Financial
  - Capacity
  - Communications
  - Networking
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Theme 1: Process

Best Practices
- Build trusting relationship with provincial teams; seek informal communications for clarification and problem solving
- LMTAC participation with regional perspective; direct provincial consultation with affected municipality/regional district
- Establish confidentiality protocols

Lessons Learned
- Engage in intergovernmental relations work early in AIP
- Balancing local and regional government interests with provincial mandates
- Consistent representation
- Keep informed of bilateral meetings

Theme 2: Policy

Best Practices
- Create policy backgrounders
- Draw upon staff expertise (i.e. TSWG)

Lessons Learned
- Identify and resolve all matters of concern before AIP
- Prioritize issues; focus on issues of key interest to LG
- See potential in new or amended legislation
- Educate parties on local government structures/processes
- Resolution of overlaps; changing SOI maps
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Theme 3: Financial

Best Practices
• Reiterate need for predictable provincial funding for TACs
• Demonstrate positive contributions to provincial negotiation teams

Lessons Learned
• Ad hoc provincial funding poses challenge to effective participation and annual workplans
• Impact of ‘lead table designation’ on workplan priorities

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Theme 4: Capacity

Best Practices
• Share expertise and resources among Board members
• Technical and Strategic Working Group (TSWG) members are an invaluable resource for policy development and interest identification

Lessons Learned
• TACs provide many in-kind contributions to treaty tables
• Encourage greater information sharing among TACs
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Theme 5: Communications

Best Practices
- Regular provincial delegations at Board meetings
- Ensure regular table updates to Board members
- Briefings to member Councils/Boards
- Distribute Update Bulletins; website postings

Lessons Learned
- Greater need for ongoing public information
- Need for greater communications with Federal teams

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Theme 6: Networking

Best Practices
- Presentations to affiliate government bodies
- Develop relationships on an informal level
- Encourage relationship-building events (C2C Forums)
- Seek opportunities for joint policy initiatives

Lessons Learned
- Need for greater dialogue between Local and First Nation governments on issues of mutual concern