

The BC Treaty Process and Local Government Experience

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

LMTAC Experience at Tsawwassen

- 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

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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