UPDATE, MILESTONES, AND WORK AHEAD

CHIEF COMMISSIONER CELESTE HALDANE
BC TREATY COMMISSION | MAY 28, 2020
The BC Treaty Commission advocates and facilitates for the recognition and protection of Indigenous Title and Rights, and the implementation of the UN Declaration, through modern treaties.

The only legally established tripartite body in Canada whose mandate it is to support reconciliation.

3 part mandate:
- Facilitation
- Funding Allocation
- Public Education
Modern treaties are the highest form of reconciliation, and are a constitutionally protected sharing of sovereignty.


Key Messages from legal opinion by constitutional experts:
Peter W. Hogg, C.C., Q.C., and Roy W. Millen
“We are in an era of Indigenous rights recognition. The burdens of extinguishment and treaty loan debt are gone, and negotiations are entering a period of renewed government-to-government-to-government relationships and recognition of Indigenous titles and rights.”

Celeste Haldane, Chief Commissioner
Annual Report 2019
“Negotiations in our view will not be based on that tired old notion of extinguishment. We will not tolerate the extinguishment of our collective Aboriginal rights. Let us set that clear today.”

— Joe Mathias, BC Treaty Commission Agreement signing speech, September 21, 1992

bitter winter, and it is now time for us to walk in the warmth of the summer light. We offer Canada coexistence, not confrontation. We offer British Columbia prosperity, not destruction. We view the treaty making process as the most civilized way to establish new relations between our people and non-Indian society, to address the truth of our histories, our cultures, our institutions, our lands, our seas and our resources. Negotiations in our view will not be based on that tired old notion of extinguishment. We will not tolerate the extinguishment of our collective Aboriginal rights. Let us set that clear today. Rather, we approach the negotiations with the view of sharing and coexistence. Those two notions are tied deep in our history, in our people's history. That is why when that man got lost in the woods and bumped himself into this country so long ago, it was such a great, wealthy, beautiful land because we as human beings made this earth with all God's creatures. We did not exploit. We did not destroy. That's why it was surviving so well in those days. Today, there is wealth enough for all people in this great land. Our aim is to share and commit to the bounty that this earth offers to all people. It has been said that one learns nothing from success. That one only learns from failure. Experience is a cruel teacher. With the signing of the Treaty Commission Agreement today, we now have the opportunity to turn that saying around. Indeed, we have the opportunity to turn history around. The process we have put into motion today offers us the chance to learn all about success for all people. Not only for the First Nations peoples, but for the people of British Columbia and Canada, if you think of this, hold up the mirror and look into that mirror today. And look closely, and beyond your own face, look beyond your own face. You will see the faces of all those people that have gone before you, looking back at you today. All your leaders and elders, young people, helpers. Today they would be proud and full of joy in their heart for what you have witnessed here today. And we commit you, that when you get old, you must witness what you have seen here. You earned in your mind and in your heart on into the future. That is our record that is our document. Continue being a good witness today. There is wisdom in our old people. Let us learn from them, and let us do what is right. The challenge is new before us. We must now reach a new level of understandings. We must now educate each other, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, as to our culture, social and political beliefs. We must become the true educators and light up the dark corners and lead the path for coming generations. And together.
2019 TREATY UPDATE

**Sto:lo Xwexwilmxew**
Sto:lo Xwexwilmxew Treaty Association Stage 5 Treaty Negotiations Memorandum of Understanding

**Ktunaxa Kinbasket**
Ktunaxa Nation Rights Recognition & Core Treaty Memorandum of Understanding

**Mettekatla**
Mettekatla Transition to Stage Five and Treaty Revitalization Agreement

**Laich-Kwil-Tech**
Tripartite Commitment Agreement: Wei Wai Kum Transition to Stage 5 Negotiations under the BC Treaty Process

**Wel Wai Kum and Kwisahk**
Wel Wai Kum First Nation/Kwisahk First Nation Transition to Stage 5 and Treaty Revitalization Agreement

**Hul’qumi'num**
Hul’qumi’num Treaty Group Transition to Stage 5 and Treaty Revitalization Agreement

**Ditidaht and Pachecdah**
Agreement in Principle
BUILDING ON SUCCESS

• Expanded mandate
• Contribution funding
• Creativity and collaboration
• Advancing negotiations
• New policies
• Opportunities for stronger governance, better infrastructure, and long-term economic development
• Treaties as flexible, living partnerships
MOMENTOUS LEGISLATION

Bill 41: Declaration Act on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
• Treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements
• Era of Indigenous rights recognition
(1) District of Ucluelet and Yuułuʔiłʔath First Nation
- Ucluelet Volunteer Fire Brigade (UVFB) will provide structural fire support to the First Nations community of Hitacu, located across the harbour from Ucluelet.
- The term of the agreement is for a period of two years, and renewable afterwards.
- Yuułuʔiłʔath First Nation to compensate the District of Ucluelet $5,000 per year for fire protection services.
- Option for YFN member to train with UVFB, building capacity and strengthening the relationship between both governments.

(2) Pitt Meadows and Katzie First Nation sign agreements on water, sewer and fire protection services
- Both took part in the Federation of Canadian Municipalities First Nations – Municipal Community Infrastructure Partnership Program.
- Developed agreements for shared communications initiatives, water, sewer, fire protection.
- Collaboration between two has led to joint lobbying for changes to transportation in region.
- Land use discussions including discussions about the Official Community Plan update, land use tools for zoning, building permitting, subdivision and associated processes.
- Staff-to-staff discussions about land assessment processes, taxation, collection and the best practices.
STEPS TO RECONCILIATION FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

- Start Somewhere
- Foster a Relationship Built on Mutual Trust
- Support Treaty Negotiations
- Adopt and Implement UNRIP
- Establish and Maintain Regular Meetings
- Involve and Inform Others
- Establish Protocols, Agreements, or Guiding Principles
- Be Creative
- Fair Service Agreements
- Share and Celebrate Success