



Information Bulletin

This Information Bulletin provides facts and general information on Tla-o-qui-aht (TFN) Treaty negotiations to help our members learn more about the Treaty and other Agreements. There are four essential components to TFN negotiations. These four pieces work together as a comprehensive package to benefit TFN:

1. Incremental Treaty Agreement – A process for early transfer of lands and cash before the effective date of a Treaty
2. Agreement in Principle (AIP) – The Tla-o-qui-aht Treaty with Canada and BC
3. Reconciliation Protocol – An agreement with BC alone
4. Tla-o-qui-aht Constitution – Our own process, without Canada or BC

Future Bulletins will provide more detailed information on all of these components and provide an overview of the AIP.

Why is it important for you to become educated on the Treaty? Because you are in control and you will decide on the Treaty.

TLA-O-QUI-AHT NEGOTIATING FOR OUR PEOPLE

In 2008, Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations (TFN) made the decision to continue negotiations on our own, mandating the Negotiation Steering Committee to lead the negotiations. This followed on the instructions of TFN members to leave the Nuu-Chah-Nulth Agreement In Principle (AIP) negotiating table. We are Tla-o-qui-aht negotiating for our people.

WHY A TREATY?

Tla-o-qui-aht authority over our people, lands and resources have been compromised for more than 150 years. These negotiations are an opportunity for us to take back control.

By controlling our future, we will restore our historic rights. The negotiations are an opportunity to take back, take control and protect our rights, lands and resources. A treaty will provide TFN with tools to build our future, ensuring our path will be defined by us and never again decided by others.

AGREEMENT-IN-PRINCIPLE NEGOTIATIONS

An AIP is the fourth stage of a six stage process for negotiating a Treaty with Canada and BC. Our mandate is to negotiate a strong foundation in an AIP that will form the basis of a Final Agreement. Our work has progressed and we are now achieving results on key issues.

The AIP focuses on four key areas:

1. Governance authority and citizenship
2. Lands and resources
3. Fisheries and wildlife
4. Economic benefits and cash

The AIP is not legally binding; it is the starting point for negotiating a Final Agreement.

WHERE ARE AIP NEGOTIATIONS NOW?

The Negotiating Steering Committee continues to meet with the Governments of Canada and BC to reach an AIP on your behalf. We have made solid progress on many difficult issues and aim to conclude an AIP by Spring 2012, although there are still some areas that need to be addressed.

In some instances, we have agreed on the core issues and are simply working to find acceptable language. There are also a few substantive issues where TFN continues to press government. These include issues such as control of submerged lands and environmental clean-up of future Treaty Settlement Lands.

Importantly, TFN has agreed to negotiate all matters related to "Fisheries" between the AIP and Final Agreement. Our position is clear: There will be no Treaty without fisheries. We will negotiate a guaranteed right to fish for all species for food, social and ceremonial purposes, along with greater access to the commercial fishery.

All Treaty meetings are open to the entire membership to participate. A schedule of Negotiation Steering Committee meetings (TFN alone) and Main Table sessions (with Canada and BC) is on page 2.





WHAT OPPORTUNITIES DO YOU HOPE A TREATY WILL BRING?



“A Treaty will bring me freedom.”
Reg David, Elder

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Community Information Meetings

TFN Members are encouraged to participate in the upcoming community meetings in order to be able to make an informed decision when a vote is held. Meetings will be held from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Dinner will be served and childcare will be provided. A summary of the AIP progress will also be provided.

The Community meeting schedule is:

- Oct 25 – Victoria – Accent Inn
- Oct 27 – Seattle – Seattle Indian Commission Building Conference
- Nov 10 – Port Alberni – Hospitality Inn
- Nov 23 – Nanaimo – Coast Bastion Inn
- Dec 1 – Tofino – Tin Wis Conference Centre

Negotiation Meetings

- Negotiation Steering Committee
- Oct 19, Nov 10, Nov 23, Dec 1, Dec 15
- Main Table – Nov 2, Nov 24, Dec 15

QUESTIONS?

Many people have questions about the Treaty and what it means for you. Our job is to try to answer every question you have. Please come to a Community Information Meeting and ask your questions, email us at treatyquestions@tla-o-qui-aht.org, or call 250-725-3350 or 1-888-425-3350. We want to hear from you.

WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER AGREEMENTS?

There are other important agreements connected to Treaty negotiations. Our commitment is to ensure TFN members have complete information about the Treaty and these agreements.

The Incremental Treaty Agreement

An Incremental Treaty Agreement (ITA) is the process for early transfer of lands and cash benefits to TFN before the effective date of a Treaty. This means we receive parcels of land and lump-sum cash payments at regular or planned stages. These early transfers provide TFN with complete ownership of a number of parcels regardless of whether a Treaty is ever concluded.

The Reconciliation Protocol

The Reconciliation Protocol is an agreement TFN is negotiating with BC alone. The Protocol will maximize our decision-making authority throughout our entire Hahoulthee. Decision making authority will include land use planning, resource development, cultural and environmental protection, and economic development.

The Tla-o-qui-aht Constitution

The Constitution is about taking back our governance authority over our lands and people. It means ensuring our Ha’wiih have a role in a modern TFN government that is legally recognized. A Constitution is the voice of our people and will set out traditional values, describing our citizens, government powers and TFN lands.

A Constitution will establish the institutions of our government, how each branch is organized and their relationship with each other. Canada and BC do not participate in drafting our Constitution. The Constitution Committee will provide regular updates as this important work continues. Once concluded, a vote will be held. Only TFN members can approve the Constitution.



HOW WILL THE AIP BE APPROVED?

Once the AIP negotiations have concluded, there will be a vote. The treaty team will take several months after negotiations conclude to talk with the TFN people. We will answer questions and ensure everyone has information to be able to decide whether to accept the AIP. If the Tla-o-qui-aht people vote ‘yes’, TFN will use the AIP as the starting point for Final Agreement negotiations. Only TFN members can approve the AIP. You are in control. You will decide.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Many Tla-o-qui-aht have questions about the Treaty and related agreements. Our team will make an effort to answer all questions verbally and in writing. We also commit to answering your questions in a timely manner. We will be keeping track of frequently asked questions and will include them in future bulletins.

