



TE'MEXW TREATY ASSOCIATION

Press Release

JUNE 20, 2017

THE TE'MEXW TREATY ASSOCIATION APPLAUDS THE RECOGNITION OF BEECHER BAY FIRST NATION ON NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY

The Beecher Bay flag will be raised at the Metchosin Municipal offices to recognize Beecher Bay's traditional territories and to commemorate the progress that has been made toward reconciliation. The Te'mexw Treaty Association applauds this ceremony as a positive step toward true recognition and reconciliation.

This is a further step in the process of reconciliation following Beecher Bay First Nation, Metchosin and Langford negotiating a historic land and economic development agreement earlier this year. The three communities, Metchosin, Langford and Beecher Bay with different community priorities achieved all of their goals by creating a land deal that will provide greenspace, jobs, and revenue streams. The three community partners will have increased land as protected greenspace; Beecher Bay will have an improved revenue stream, access to jobs for their citizens, and become share-holders in a new business venture. This agreement showed creativity and openness to solutions that are outside of the usual limits imposed by the treaty process.

Frank George, Chair of Te'mexw Treaty Association

"This ceremony is a symbolic but important step forward for Beecher Bay and Metchosin. It is an honor and a privilege to be a part of this historic agreement between Beecher Bay First Nation, The City of Langford and the District of Metchosin. Te'mexw Treaty Association is encouraged that the Beecher Bay First Nation is taking their rightful place in society working together with neighbors and partners in their territory. This is the first time in BC history that a First Nation Community, urban city and a rural municipality have come together with a shared vision for economic development, employment and environmental stewardship. The communities have worked together through lengthy consultations to achieve the goals set out in the Te'mexw Treaty Association Strategic Plan."

Mayor John Ranns, District of Metchosin

"We are coming into a new era when First Nations are taking their proper place as equal partners in governance and business perspectives. It is essential for everyone to accept First Nations as equal partners."



Mayor Young, City of Langford

“This is a historic agreement between the District of Metchosin, the City of Langford and Beecher Bay First Nation that will create meaningful and long-term jobs on the Westshore,” said Mayor Young.

“Having high paying jobs in the community where you live is important to the residents of Langford, Metchosin and the First Nations community.”

For further information:

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Background:

- Three crown parcels of land of approximately 250 acres within Metchosin area that were offered to Beecher Bay First Nation as part of the Treaty Settlement Lands package in the modern treaty process will be transferred to Metchosin for greenspace in perpetuity;
- In exchange, Metchosin agreed to alter their municipal boundaries to accommodate the development of a business park with the new Langford City Boundaries;
- Langford now has expanded boundaries and more business development;
- In exchange Beecher Bay will receive 1/3 of tax revenue from Langford and 1/3 business ownership with the developer and all citizens will have opportunities to work in 4000 new jobs.