



Te'mexw Treaty Association

TE'MEXW TALKS Newsletter

Special points of interest:

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- VISION
- TREATY UPDATE
- TREATY PROCESS
- CONSTITUTION & UPDATE
- ANNOUNCEMENTS

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WHO WE ARE

The Te'mexw Treaty Association is a non-profit society formed by 5 Coast Salish First Nations- Songhees, Nanoose (Snaw-Naw-As), Beecher Bay (Scia'new), T'Sou-ke and Malahat. The five Te'mexw Member First Nations joined together with one common objective; to support one another and to work together under one organization to negotiate a modern treaty with the Federal and Provincial government in the British Columbia Treaty Process.

VISION

We have come together to restore our First Nations and their citizens rightful place in society, by advancing the modern treaty negotiations and protecting our DOUGLAS TREATIES, culture and rights.

Elders Statement:

“The Douglas Treaties are what our elders called unfinished business”. Jackie Albany, Songhees Nation Councillor

July 2017 Summer Treaty Update:

In this summer issue the Te'mexw Talks is written to share with members a Treaty update and information.. Te'mexw Talks will now be quarterly each year. We hope you enjoy Te'mexw Talks. Have a great summer.



TREATY UPDATE—STAGE 5 FINAL AGREEMENT

WHERE WE ARE NOW

We are working very hard to negotiate a modern treaty. The main topics are Lands, Resources, Governance and the processes to manage these lands, resources and governments. So far each of our nations have received three separate Land and Cash Offers and the Te'mexw Treaty Negotiating Team has presented counter offers to the Federal and Provincial governments. You can find out more about what your community has been offered by speaking to your Treaty Negotiator or by attending the next Treaty community meeting.

TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

The Te'mexw Treaty Negotiating Team are negotiating the final stage of our Modern Treaty (known as stage 5). This involves meeting amongst ourselves (Caucus) to discuss our priorities and draw up our treaty language. The Treaty Negotiating Team are all warriors fighting for our aboriginal rights, for reconciliation and for the future of our newborn and unborn members. At each Treaty meeting we need each and everyone to participate in the community meetings. We need your voices and your opinions that tell us what your family needs are: jobs, social, economical means, citizenship and taxation, and other topics.

This is a very important stage as a new formal relationship begins between the Te'mexw Treaty Nations, Federal government and provincial government. We have serious discussions between all parties to resolve treaty issues. Once we have completed negotiations of the Final Agreement, we will separate the treaty into five separate treaties and each Nations' members (who are over the age of 18) will vote on their own treaty. When the members vote in favour of the treaty, then the provincial government will pass it at their level and then the Federal government will pass it at their level as well. Keep in mind we will have five separate treaties—one for each nation.

We Will Have 5 Separate Treaties

What is a Treaty?

The Te'mexw Treaty Association, under the BC Treaty Process, are negotiating our very own Self Government for our communities. With the Te'mexw Treaty Association we will be stepping out of the Indian Act to become self-determining and self-governing. Our Treaty will allow our nations to make decisions about our lives and the future of our five communities. The Treaty will bring us control for law making and things important to us like education, lands, resources (forest/hunting/plants etc.), health, housing, properties, policing and the programs and services our members need. Te'mexw Treaty will provide self governance to those things that matter to us in our community like our culture, identity and language, and will allow us to bring back our relations to the land and

our environment.

Treaties negotiated through the BC Treaty Process are where 3 parties make agreements with the First Nations, Government of Canada and BC Government. The goal of treaties is reconciliation. This means working on a new relationship between all parties and each party must be trustful, respectful, and understanding of each other. Certainty of this relationship is another goal (Certainty means "for real", set in stone).

The Te'mexw Treaties being negotiated, called Modern Treaties, will deal with issues not addressed in historic treaties. The Douglas Treaty rights of our Nations will be protected. It is ours and it will not be given up, changed or ignored in Treaty negotiations.

The Te'mexw 6 Stage Process being followed under the BC Treaty Process

STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	STAGE 4	STAGE 5	STAGE 6
<p><u>Statement of Intent</u> Facts & Maps submitted to support Te'mexw members territory</p> <p>July 15, 1994</p>	<p><u>Readiness Assessment</u> Te'mexw met with Canada & BC Gov't to show we are ready to negotiate.</p> <p>Nov. 2, 1995</p>	<p><u>Framework Agreement</u> Parties agreed to agenda and set a calendar schedule—timelines.</p> <p>Dec. 5, 1995</p>	<p><u>Agreement In Principle</u> Signed and Approved. 3 Land and Cash offers were presented</p> <p>April 9, 2015</p>	<p><u>Final Agreement</u> 5 Treaty documents must be Voted on by each Te'mexw First Nation separately.</p> <p>WE ARE HERE</p>	<p><u>Treaty Implementation of Final Agreement</u> 5 Te'mexw Treaties begin & is implemented in our communities after its accepted by Governments</p>

What is Treaty?

What is a Constitution

A Constitution document explains how the Treaty Government will function. A step towards Self Governance.

Under self government, communities will be independent and can now decide for themselves how their governments should work rather than accepting what has been imposed on us by the Federal government. Under the modern treaty the Indian Act band council system will no longer apply, and instead a new system will be developed that meets the community needs and be run accordingly to community values. The goal of Te'mexw Treaty Association is to ensure that our modern treaty and constitutions are designed well and properly supported. We also want to make sure that our communities have the best possible information to make an informed choice.

The objectives of these projects include:

- MAKING AN INFORMED DECISION
- COMMUNITY INPUT
- ACCOUNTABILITY PROCESS
- POST TREATY CONSTITUTION

As we move forward, information will be presented to community members so that they may make informed decisions in developing their Constitutions. Community members will provide input that will direct and guide the shape of the Constitutions. By building our constitutions using a community based process we believe we will instill a sense of ownership and understanding in our constitutions. The role of the Constitutional Development Team is to facilitate this process.



CONSTITUTION UPDATE

Four of our member nations are currently developing their Constitutions. These will serve as guiding documents for our nations when the Indian Act is replaced. In each community, a Constitution Development Team including a Constitution Committee, Governance Advisor, Fieldworker, negotiators and legal advisors, are working together to incorporate community feedback on many important areas of governance into the draft constitutions. In T'Sou-ke Nation, our draft constitution is almost complete! We have presented sections to the community as they are drafted and we hope to have a community meeting soon to present the completed draft. In Nanoose & Beecher Bay Nations, we are in the middle of drafting major sections describing the structure of our governments and law making powers. We are getting started at the Malahat Nation and have had our first community meeting and we hope to start Malahat community home visits soon to gather input from members. If you are from T'Sou-ke, Beecher Bay or Nanoose and have not yet participated in a home visit or would like an online survey emailed to you, or for more information on Constitutions, please contact:

KATIE JARRETT: 250-360-2202 OR
EMAIL: kjarrett@temexw.org



A constitution can serve as a foundation for our people in consideration of the past, present and the future.



No More Indian Act

Community Input

A constitution is developed by the citizens and will help to establish a solid foundation of self determination for the improvement of social, cultural and economic conditions, and overall health and wellbeing within our community.

Our Own Decisions

Self Governance

Community Needs
Community Values



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TE'MEXW TREATY ASSOCIATION 2017 ELDERS GATHERING

All the Te'mexw Treaty Elders from the Malahat, Beecher Bay, Snaw-Naw-As, Songhees and T'Sou-ke First Nations are invited to come hear about important Treaty information. Our agenda includes guest speakers, treaty updates and activities.

Please come and be our special guests. Contact your Treaty office for registration information and transportation.

The Te'mexw Treaty Association Invites You to the 2017 Elders Gathering

WHEN: September 29, 30 & October 1, 2017

WHERE: Parksville BC, Tigh-Nah Mara Resort Spa & Conference Centre

AGENDA: September 29 Arrive — Supper
September 30 Presentations & Bingo
October 1 Presentations & Video's

MEALS: Meals each day

Future Community Events

Community Treaty Updates Meetings will be coming up in each of the 5 communities at least 4 times a year. Contact your Treaty office for dates.

Annual General Assembly: Fall 2017 TBA

Youth Gathering—Ages 13-18: Date will be announced.

Working Age Members: Date will be Announced.