

Kitsumkalum's TREATY TIMES

Together, Getting It Right



A free publication produced by the Kitsumkalum Treaty Office - informing the Kitsumkalum people of our treaty process.

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Photo contribution made by Biggie Bartlett

THIS MONTH'S WINNER OF THE PHOTO CONTEST CONGRATULATIONS ROB GEROW!



ENTER TO WIN A GETAWAY FOR 2! SUBMIT YOUR SURVEY!

(Location: Vancouver & two tickets to the Canucks Game)

- Step 1: Attend the next community treaty meeting
- Step 2: Complete & submit your treaty survey
- Step 3: Enter your contact information in our draw box

Increase your chances to win by completing the survey at every meeting! One entry per person per meeting. Draw will take in August 2009.

TREAT TIMES PHOTO & STORY CONTEST

The Kitsumkalum Treaty office is looking for story or photo submissions - anything goes! ...A story that you would like to share, a picture of a community event you recently attended, a scenic shot of our Territory are just a few ideas to consider. Send your story or photo to the Treaty Times, and if featured, you will receive a promotional gift.

Send your story or photo to:

Fax (250) 635-6196

Email: npeden@kitsumkalum.bc.ca

Mall: P.O. Box 544 Terrace B.C. V8G 4B

TREATY TRIVIA | SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY TO WIN A PROMOTIONAL PRIZE

Bring this ballot & submit at the next community meeting.

Q: How many stages are there in the Treaty Process?

Answer:

Your name:

Phone:

One entry per person. Winner must be present in order to claim prize. Draw will take place in August 2009.

Didn't receive any treaty information? Treaty Times is published by the Kitsumkalum Treaty Office and distributed to anyone who we have contact information for. If you are not on our mailing list but would like to be contact us.

KITSUMKALUM TREATY



INVOLVE • INFORM • INSPIRE

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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

PAST, PRESENT AND THE FUTURE Welcome to the 6th edition of the Treaty Times!

The land and resources that surround us are a living part of our rich heritage and culture. Currently, we have been left in a situation of uncertainty in regards to lands and resources and this is what modern treaty's are looking to resolve.

"The Treaty process should not be about what the federal or provincial governments are willing to grant First Nations through negotiation. Treaties should be a negotiation of what First Nations are willing to share with everyone else."

I read this quote in a meeting minutes report from a treaty conference that was held in BC. I agree with the speaker and feel this was very meaningful and thought provoking. This is the type of attitude that is increasingly leading today's modern treaty negotiations.

Current negotiations are part of our journey to achieve the rights, lands, and resources that we have always been entitled to.

The treaty is also an opportunity for us to become self-governed people. It's important to resolve issues of land ownership and usage, management and regulation of lands and resources, and the application of laws to our people.

We are a culture that is still a vibrant and lively force in this world. I am proud to acknowledge that the place we inhabit is still very much a domain of First Peoples, where art, ceremony and a connection with our rich spirit realm combine to honour our past, celebrate our present and direct our future.

In keeping with this sense of pride and liveliness, the Treaty office now has a line of clothing available that will allow us to wear our Kitsumkalum pride on our sleeves. T-shirts, baseball caps, fleece vests, and sweatshirts bearing the Kitsumkalum crest are all available for purchase by contacting our Treaty office at 250-635-1718. We have seen other First Nation proudly bearing their band's crest and we wanted to instill the same pride in our people.

Proud to proud,
Alex Bolton



HAVE YOU SEEN THIS?

Watch for your Treaty Book 2 which will be mailed out this month. This book is a series that outlines details for specific chapters. Book 2 address Chapter 23 [Implementation] and Chapter 22 [Eligibility and Enrolment]. If you did not receive your copy, please contact the Treaty Office.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 1 - Ongoing: Skeena Native Development will be hosting drop-in tutoring sessions for students in preparation for Provincial Exams. Tutoring will take place at the education centre at Kitsumkalum daily from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm beginning May 1st and running through August. Our tutor can assist students on a variety of subjects, but specializes in Biology, Physics, Chemistry and Math. To utilize this valuable service simply come to our office during the hours specified.

TBA - May: Kitsumkalum Treaty Office would like to invite all Kitsumkalum Members to the Community Treaty Meeting Dinner – Everyone Welcome: youth, elders and all Kitsumkalum members. Enter to win a trip for 2 to Vancouver to see the Vancouver Canucks!

EDITORIAL TEAM

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NEW TO THE EDITORIAL TEAM WELCOME!

Photo & Editorial Contributor: Heather Bohn

Photo Contributor: Rob Gerow

Photo Contributor: Birgitte Bartlett

This month's special contributions made by:
Glenn Bridges, John Munro and Gerald Wesley



Photo Credit: Birgitte Bartlett

CHAPTER 24: APPROVAL OF THE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE QUESTION & ANSWER SHEET

When is the Agreement in Principle considered complete?

Answer: The AIP is considered complete when the Kitsumkalum Negotiator, the Chief Negotiator for Canada and the Chief Negotiator for BC, all agree that the AIP is complete. Once they agree they will initial the agreement but they will not sign it.

How will the AIP be approved?

Answer: The People of Kitsumkalum will decide for themselves how the AIP will be approved. It could be as simple as a motion to accept at a community meeting or a vote by referendum by all Kitsumkalum members.

Canada will approve the AIP when it is agreed to by the federal Cabinet.

British Columbia will approve the AIP when it is agreed to by the Provincial Cabinet.

If the Kitsumkalum people approve the AIP and Canada and BC Cabinets approve, it will be signed by the Kitsumkalum negotiator and the Tsimshian Chief Negotiator and Cabinet Ministers from Canada and British Columbia.

WHAT ARE THE STAGES OF THE BC TREATY PROCESS?

- Stage 1** → First Nations start the negotiation process when they file a statement of intent to negotiate a treaty.
- Stage 2** → At stage 2 of the process, federal and provincial governments and the First Nation ready themselves for negotiation by establishing negotiating teams, preparing background information, identifying preliminary topics for negotiation and setting up consultation mechanisms.
- Stage 3** → The three parties negotiate a framework agreement – an agenda that sets out the topics, process and timing for negotiations.
- Current Stage 4** → At stage 4, the three parties negotiate an agreement-in-principle (AIP) – negotiators discuss each topic listed in the framework agreement and this forms the basis of the treaty.
- Stage 5** → At stage 5, the parties negotiate a final treaty using the AIP as a working document.
- Stage 6** → Finally, in Stage 6, the three parties work co-operatively to implement the treaty according to the plan set out in the treaty.

ABOUT THE B.C. TREATY COMMISSION PROCESS (BCTC)

In 1993, the federal and provincial governments and the First Nations Summit launched the B.C. treaty process and established the B.C. Treaty Commission which is referred to as "the keeper of the process." The BCTC coordinates the start of negotiations, monitors progress, keeps negotiations on track, provides information to the public and allocates funds to support First Nations' participation.



DISCUSSIONS WITH TSIMSHIAN FIRST NATIONS CHIEF TREATY NEGOTIATOR GERALD D. WESLEY

TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: WHY?

"Status Quo or the way things are right now doesn't really mean standing still and things will stay the same – it means going backwards. We are too locked into set systems and standards that are only going to decline in the days ahead. I feel this means if we don't continue to progress, we will be going backwards in service and potential benefits to the membership. For example, in recent years, we've seen a diminishing perspective in health care with fees being charged for basic services and increased expense to patient transportation requirements with no increase of funding. And as long as there isn't a change in systems, it's never going to improve. The treaty process and a successful agreement is an effort to provide change for First Nations."

"The road ahead must allow the Tsimshian First Nations to achieve certainty—to confirm our rights as a people. I have the right to fish, to hunt, to trap, to travel the lands of our traditional territories. We need to ensure these rights are there for future generations; to limit encroachments on these rights."

We are doing this as a collective through the TFN Treaty Society, representing our communities as we continue to find ways to work together in supporting ourselves as First Nation people and our communities as much as possible."

"Our young people are our future, and we can't assume or take for granted our youth are grasping the critical elements of our lives. For this reason, we must very conscientiously and consistently say to our youth: this is what it means to be a Tsimshian First Nation person, this is where you're from, here's what we are trying to achieve through treaty and other efforts, here's why we are doing it and here's how you might contribute in some fashion. These messages aren't limited to our youth, this message is for our elders too. It is for all members of the Tsimshian First Nations and we've got to do a better job of getting messages out and communication with the membership! Communication involves the treaty teams, Chiefs and Council, hereditary leaders and our family groups."

What is Tsimshian First Nations (TFN) Treaty Society?

The Tsimshian First Nations (TFN) Treaty Society is comprised of five Tsimshian First Nations in Northwestern British Columbia in effort to achieve a treaty agreement(s) with Canada and British Columbia under the British Columbia Treaty Commission process. The purpose of the Society is to administer funds for treaty negotiations received on behalf of the Kitselas, Gitga'at, Kitsumkalum, Metlakatla, Kitasoo/Xaixais First Nations.

KITSUMKALUM LAND ANALYSIS PROJECT

BY JOHN MUNROE AND GLEN BRIDGES (LAND ADVISORS)

The objective of this project is to value a selected land parcel from the Areas of Interest that have been presented to BC and Canada as possible Treaty Settlement Land (TSL). The parcel selected for this project is approximately 1,000 hectares (2,500 acres) between IR #1 and IR #2. This has been identified as 'Parcel A - Old Nass Road'.

This land parcel will be valued according to the cost sharing model or arrangement which Canada and British Columbia use to determine the value of the land in a land-cash offer as well as how much land will be offered.

The outcome of this work may be applied to additional land parcels, which will help with land negotiations and with the internal land selection processes at the community level. This work will also help assess the 'land-cash offer' expected later this year.

Glenn Bridges and John Munro will be doing this work, summaries of which will be presented at future community meetings.

SELF GOVERNANCE: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

(SOURCE: BC TREATY COMMISSION)

First Nations were self governing long before Europeans arrived in Canada. In 1876, The Indian Act came into effect, dismantling traditional governance systems and imposing regulations on aboriginal peoples' lives. Today, the federal government recognizes that aboriginal people have an inherent, constitutionally-protected right to self government—a right to manage their own affairs.

First Nations have long demanded the right to govern themselves according to their own traditions—to be free of the Indian Act. A poignant example of this struggle is the plight of the Nisga'a Nation.

As far back as 1887 Nisga'a and Tsimshian chiefs travelled to Victoria to press for treaties and self government. It would take more than a century before the Nisga'a Treaty was signed in 2000.

The government of Canada recognizes that the Indian Act system needs to change. Under the BC treaty process, self-government arrangements will be designed, established and administered by aboriginal peoples. Through self government, First Nations can again become self determining and self sufficient.

COMMUNITY PROFILE

HEATHER BOHN & JEANETTE SPALDING

KITSUMKALUM MEMBERS RIDE TO CONQUER CANCER IN 2009



Terrace, B.C. April 3, 2009 – **Jeanette Spalding** and **Heather Bohn** of **Kitsumkalum** have committed to conquering cancer by participating in **The Ride to Conquer Cancer®** benefiting the **BC Cancer Foundation**. They will join thousands of other men and women in a history-making ride from June 19th to 21st, 2009. **Jeanette** and **Heather** will take part in a two-day ride from Vancouver to Seattle, and a night of camping in between, in support of research and the discovery of new cancer therapies at the BC Cancer Agency.

With one in three British Columbians diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime, **Jeanette** and **Heather** are rallying for the cause and cycling in **The Ride to Conquer Cancer** benefiting BC Cancer Foundation, because ...

In my personal experience, my family has lost many loved ones to cancer. My ride is going to be dedicated to all of those that have suffered from cancer and didn't make it, including my father Jeff Spalding. I have to say that the day that I pull into Seattle, after cycling for two full days, will in fact be "fathers day". This will be the weighing in my heart as I cross the finish line. I will also be motivated with feelings of hope for those that are currently battling this disease.
- Jeanette

To cross that finish line, after two days of bike riding, I have to be fit, so training begins! And by improving my physical fitness, I'm not only

improving my health but lowering my risk my getting cancer as well. There are little things we can do everyday to help make a big difference, to help prevent and fight cancer and other illnesses. So your donations big or small, will be going a long way, over 280 kilometers! As well, I know my family is not alone in seeing first hand the affects of cancer on the lives of loved ones, so I will be riding for them. - Heather

For real impact, **Jeanette Spalding** (participant ID # 231016-1) and **Heather Bohn** (participant ID #231015-0) has set a personal fundraising goal of \$ 2,500 each. Watch out for their fundraiser event being held May 23 at Tempo Gas Station in Kitsumkalum. To help them reach this goal, visit www.conquercancer.ca to make a donation online or call 888.771.BIKE.

Please keep in mind the commitment their making to help end this heartbreaking disease, as cancer touches the lives of everyone. They hope that you'll share this incredible adventure with them by supporting their fundraising efforts, and thank everyone in advance for their generosity and support.

This is the inaugural Ride to Conquer Cancer event in British Columbia. Funds raised will go to the BC Cancer Foundation to support research conducted at the BC Cancer Agency throughout B.C. Riders will be supported by hundreds of volunteers and crew members who will provide meals, water and snack

stops, gear transport, portable restrooms, safety on the streets, comprehensive medical services and an overnight campsite complete with tents, massages, and hot showers. For more information on the event please go to www.conquercancer.ca or call 888.771.BIKE. All you need is a bike, a helmet and motivation.

ABOUT THE BC CANCER FOUNDATION AND THE BC CANCER AGENCY

The money you raise for **The Ride to Conquer Cancer®** will go to the BC Cancer Foundation, which was established in 1935 and raises funds to support research and enhancements to patient care at the BC Cancer Agency, an agency of the Provincial Health Service Authority. With cancer survival rates better than any other province in Canada, the BC Cancer Agency has become a model for cancer care and control around the world. The BC Cancer Agency operates five regional cancer centres in B.C. (with a new centre scheduled for completion in Prince George in 2012), and a network of 19 Community Cancer Centres, six Community Cancer Services and 10 Consultative Clinics across the province. The network also supports delivery of cancer patient care and support in the other community hospitals across the province.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

HAVE QUESTIONS OR FEEDBACK FOR US?

Write us at npeden@kitsumkalum.bc.ca. We're committed to responding to all your letters promptly and thoroughly, and once a month we will select one letter to be featured in the Treaty Times.

Dear Treaty Team,

Are treaties final? What will happen if a First Nation changes its mind after treaty is signed?

Sincerely,
Cindy

Dear Cindy,

Treaties are legal agreements which create mutually binding obligation and commitments. As in any complex legal agreement, disputes over application or interpretation may arise. Therefore, modern treaties will also contain provisions to resolve these differences.

Sincerely,
Treaty Team



The new Kitsumkalum band council during the inaugural ceremonies that took place on Saturday, March 14. Don Roberts was re-elected as Chief. The six councillors elected: Cynthia Bohn, Wayne Bolton, Ed Brown, Troy Sam, Lisa Wesley and Steven Wesley



Local Kitsumkalum youth dress up for Rock'em Sock'em Hockeyville Rally. Brittany & Sarah Peden.