

Kitsumkalum Moves into Final Treaty Negotiations

April 11, 2013

Kitsumkalum is pleased to announce the approval of their Agreement-in-Principle treaty vote held on April 10, 2013. Once the polls closed at 8p.m. 298 ballots were counted with 190 members voting yes to proceed into final treaty negotiations with Canada and British Columbia while 108 members voted no.

97 of the 298 total were mail in ballots with the remainder voting in person at the Kitsumkalum Community Hall.

TFN Treaty Society Chief Negotiator Gerald Wesley says the vote result provides the formal mandate from membership to move into Stage 5 - Final Treaty Agreement negotiations and meetings will be convened with Canada and British Columbia within the next few days to determine immediate next steps. Wesley says "he is pleased with the results but is also very conscious of the fact that not everyone has supported the effort - it will be a priority to work with all of our membership if we want a successful final treaty agreement. There is much work to be done but for this moment, we can enjoy a level of success!"

For further information/interview, please contact Chief Councillor Don Roberts 250-635-6177 or Gerald Wesley at 250-635-5511.

Kitsumkalum AIP-Treaty VOTE

On April 10, 2013 membership of the Kitsumkalum Band will go to the polls once again. This time they will be voting to approve the continuation of treaty negotiations or not. The Kalum Treaty team has finalized Stage 4 (Agreement-in-Principle negotiations) and is now seeking authority to move into Stage 5 (Final Agreement Negotiations) of the BC Treaty Commission process.

Kitsumkalum has retained an independent Electoral Officer to oversee the voting process.

The following question will be asked of the Eligible Voters by ballot:

"Based on the AIP dated JANUARY 22, 2013, do you agree to give the treaty negotiating team authority to negotiate a Final Agreement with Canada and British Columbia?"

Band members who are 18 years of age and older on voting day are eligible to vote in person at the Kalum Hall or by mail in Ballot if they live away. The Electoral officer will be providing formal notice and ballots in advance of the official voting date.

Alex Bolton, Treaty Negotiator advises that their Treaty & Communication Team members will continue to meet with membership and provide information as much as possible in the days ahead. He urges all Kitsumkalum members to become informed by contacting the treaty office at 250-635-1718 or e-mail kalum.treaty@kitsumkalum.bc.ca
Related information can be seen on the BC Treaty Commission web-site www.bctreaty.net

KITSELAS FIRST NATION AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE VOTING RESULTS

February 20th 2013

(Terrace, BC)- Today on February 20th 2013, the Kitselas First Nation membership voted in favour of their Agreement in Principle(AIP). The results have been counted and the outcome is a resounding 'yes' to continue towards Final Treaty negotiations.

"The Kitselas people made history today," said Kitselas Chief Judy Gerow. "And that is very good news day for Kitselas, Terrace and the region. It is humbling to be part of this."

"This will be a huge benefit to the City of Terrace and to the region," said Chief Gerow. "Our many nonaboriginal business partners, friends and neighbours stand to benefit directly from this economic certainty."

"This overwhelming "yes" vote signals a major step towards a final treaty, a way for us to break free from the Indian Act," she said.

Official AIP Vote Results:

434 - is the number of eligible voters;

226 -is the number of total ballots cast;

64 -of these were cast by mail-in ballots;

161 -of these ballots were cast by voting in person at a polling station;

97 -Votes at Gitaus

64 -Votes at Queensway Drive

149 -ballots were marked "YES" for the question; and

76 -ballots were marked "NO" for the question.

1 -cast ballots were rejected.

-Loreen Suhr, Electoral Officer

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Gerald D. Wesley, Chief Negotiator

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Judy Gerow

Chief Councillor

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KITSELAS VOTES ON TREATY AIP

February 20, 2013

Kitselas members 18 years of age and older vote on their treaty process today.

The Kitselas First Nation has been actively engaged in Agreement-in Principle negotiations which has resulted in Chief Negotiators for Kitselas, Canada, and British Columbia initialing and Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) in order that Kitselas members can vote on the AIP.

Kitselas is urging the membership to give authority to move forward into the final stage of negotiations.

The Band has appointed an independent Electoral Officer to oversee the voting process which is based on the Band Council Election process.

The following question will be asked of the Eligible Voters by ballot:

"Based on the AIP dated September 10, 2012, do you agree to give the treaty negotiating team authority to negotiate a Final Agreement with Canada and British Columbia?"

To All Kitselas Members:

As Chief Councillor I urge all of our voting age members to come out and vote on the Kitselas Treaty AIP process. Our treaty team has worked long and hard to bring us to this point of our history. It is now our responsibility to direct our next steps.

The AIP is the framework for a final stage of negotiations. It sets out the principles agreed to by Kitselas, Canada and British Columbia for negotiating a Final Treaty Agreement – if we say yes!

The AIP has identified benefits to Kitselas that will be expanded upon for the Final Treaty, including:

- Ownership of lands – approximately 89,350 acres of land (36,158.7 hectares) as compared to 2,642 acres of existing Indian Reserve Lands owned by Canada;
- The early transfer of approximately 618 acres of Crown Land upon community approval of the AIP while negotiations continue;
- We will own mineral and sub-surface resources within the treaty lands;
- We will have a dedicated Water Reservation that will provide for domestic, industrial and agricultural purposes as well as separate provisions to address hydro-electric developments for Kitselas;
- Kitselas will own the forests on our treaty lands. The AIP provides for further negotiations for long-term forest tenure licenses;
- Fish is not yet included however the AIP does commit Canada and BC to address, and from our Kitselas perspective, to finalize requirements that are so fundamental and necessary to Kitselas. In the meantime, we continue to fish and harvest as we do now;

- The AIP provides that Kitselas members will continue to hunt, to trap and gather as we do now. We will be able to play a direct role in stronger management of wildlife and natural resources,
- The AIP assure that Kitselas will have the Right of Self-Government which includes a greatly enhanced law-making authority.
- We will develop our own Constitution to ensure stability, authority and accountability. The Constitution will clearly state who Kitselas citizens are today and into the future;
- Existing programs and services will continue along with funding that we are eligible for right now which includes Health, Education and Social Services;
- The AIP provides that Kitselas will receive a Capital Transfer from Canada and BC totaling \$34.7million.
- There will be other fiscal relations and provisions that address Resource Revenue Sharing, Economic Opportunities, Transition and Implementation funding as well as Taxation. There are other benefits and key areas of course, but I feel these capture the highlights. Our journey has been long, it has been difficult. And it is not yet over! Join us in directing our future, vote on February 20, 2013.

Chief Councillor Judy Gerow

Message from Chief Negotiator

To Our Kitselas Members,

I have been Chief Negotiator for Kitselas, Kitsumkalum, Metlakatla, Hartley Bay and Kitasoo since 1994. I have worked with strong leaders, very capable staff and the strength of the Kitselas membership over all of these years. Your negotiating team has framed up a mechanism to move forward. Now it is up to you to VOTE on February 20, 2013

A Final Treaty Agreement will be good for Kitselas. While we are not there yet, the Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) is a key step for us to overcome. We need the AIP in order to reach a treaty.

In order to secure the lands already identified and to expand that land base even more, we must forge ahead into the last phase of negotiations. This same principle applies to provisions for Self-Government, for improved service delivery to membership and to the financial package.

I have consistently heard the Kitselas people say we want our land, we want the right to look after our own affairs, we want to be able to do more than is possible under the influence of the Indian Act. We cannot afford to sit back and wait for government to come to us as care-givers and rulers of our future. Existing Indian Reserve lands, which are owned by the federal government, cannot provide an economic base nor a satisfactory livelihood for the future. I feel the AIP gives us our best chance to reach out and correct the weaknesses binding us and to build for our own requirements.

I urge all Kitselas members who are 18 years of age and older to come out and vote on February 20th. It is our time to finish what our ancestors started. It is our destiny to be self-sufficient and self-sustaining once again!

Join us in building for our future, Vote on February 20th – say yes!

Gerald Wesley, Chief Negotiator