



BC Treaty Commission

203 -1115 W. Pender Street
Vancouver B.C. V6E 2P4
Tel 604 482 9200 Fax 604 482 9222
www.bctreaty.net

July 24, 2008

News Release

Mood upbeat as common table talks conclude

VANCOUVER, BC – There is optimism in treaty talks among BC First Nations and senior officials for the governments of Canada and BC following thirteen days of discussion facilitated by the Treaty Commission.

On the final day of talks the parties identified a number of opportunities for further exploration. Any potential changes in approaches to treaty negotiations would have to be confirmed by the decision-makers in Ottawa and Victoria and by First Nations, a policy process that could take some time. Then, negotiators for each of the parties would have to weigh the options in their negotiations at individual treaty tables.

“The discussions at the common table ended on a positive note because there is agreement among First Nations and senior government officials on a number of areas where progress may be possible,” said A/Chief Commissioner Jody Wilson.

At the last of five sessions the First Nation negotiators and senior officials for the other two governments talked candidly about their views on recognition and certainty, including shared territory issues, and the constitutional status of land. Also on the table for discussion were governance and co-management, including structures for shared decision-making; fiscal relations, including own-source revenue and taxation; and fisheries.

The treaty talks involving 64 First Nation communities at a common table which ended Friday are being watched by many more First Nations that want to see more progress in their treaty negotiations.

- 30 -

About the BC Treaty Commission

The Treaty Commission is the independent body responsible for overseeing treaty negotiations among the governments of Canada, BC and First Nations in BC. It has three roles: facilitation, funding and public information and education.

Established in 1992, the Treaty Commission and six-stage treaty process are designed to advance treaty negotiations. The Treaty Commission comprises a provincial appointee, a federal appointee, two First Nations Summit appointees and a chief commissioner chosen by agreement of all three parties. For more information about the BC Treaty Commission, please visit bctreaty.net.

For more information, please contact:

Brian Mitchell

Communications Manager

604-482-9215 or 604-788-5190

info@bctreaty.net