



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA



Canada

**Northern Secwepemc te Qelmucw  
Treaty Negotiations**

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**PROGRESS REPORT TO  
THE MAIN TABLE**

**February 25, 2004**

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## **Northern Secwepemc te Qelmucw Treaty Negotiations Progress Report to the Main Table February 24, 2004**

### **Overview:**

Negotiators for Northern Secwepemc te Qelmucw (NStQ), Canada and British Columbia (BC) have worked collaboratively to make progress since the last Main Table meeting in June 2002. This report provides the Chief Negotiators with a summary of the work accomplished since that meeting, as well as an overview of the current status of each topic.

Since the last Main Table meeting, the Side Table Working Group has focused negotiations on land, fish, culture and heritage, and governance, working towards the goal of showing substantive progress by February, 2004. The Parties recognize that an agreement on Role on the Territory is another topic that needs to be given priority.

The Parties are committed to completing an AIP in a timely manner. To support that goal, the Side Table developed a substantial work plan through to December 2004. All three Parties have been meeting on a regular basis and there have been several bilateral meetings between Canada and NStQ, with the approval of BC, to work on Fisheries, Migratory Birds and process chapters.

Negotiations have slowed to some degree over the last 18 months. The Parties have had changes in their negotiating teams and several topics have been set aside while the table focused on other topics.

### **Key Milestones for 2004:**

- Completion of Land and Governance Chapters by July 2004.
- Commence identification of core lands for statusing by April 2004.
- Completion of process chapters by July 2004.
- Completion of Fisheries Chapter by October 2004.
- Agreement regarding Role on Territory by September 2004.
- Completion of land statusing by October 2004.
- Exchange of offers in December 2004.

### **Current Status of Topics:**

The following summarizes in greater detail the current status of each topic, including specific progress achieved in the various topic areas since the last Main Table meeting on June 26, 2002:

## **ACCESS**

Since the last Main Table the Parties have started work on this topic and are currently on draft 2 of the Principles.

## **APPROVAL OF THE AIP**

The Side Table Working Group recommends this chapter to the Main Table for approval for public release.

## **CAPITAL TRANSFER AND NEGOTIATION LOAN REPAYMENT**

To be started in 2004.

## **CULTURE AND HERITAGE**

The Side Table Working Group recommends this chapter to the Main Table for approval for public release.

## **DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

The Parties have made considerable progress on this chapter and are now on Draft 4. The work remaining is mainly procedural in nature.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

This topic is in draft 2 of the Principles and may also be included in other relevant Chapter(s).

## **ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLMENT**

This Chapter has been developed bilaterally between Canada and NStQ with the approval of BC. BC is currently reviewing this Chapter.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

The Parties have a first draft of a chapter on environmental protection and conservation.

## **FISCAL RELATIONS**

At this point this Chapter consists of a few provisions that have been transferred from another Chapter as markers for further development of language.

## **FISHERIES**

At the last Main Table the Chief Negotiators approved the Fisheries Principles for public release. The Parties are on draft 1B of the Fisheries Chapter.

The Parties agree that additional research into Freshwater Fish may be necessary. The potential for a Treaty Related Measure (TRM) for research and a pilot management project will be explored.

## **FORESTRY**

At the June 2002 Main Table the Chief Negotiators approved Forestry Principles for public release. No further language has been developed since that time.

The Parties continue to discuss NStQ roles and responsibilities throughout NStQ's Statement of Intent area and NStQ is currently in year two of a three year Economic Measures Fund forestry project, which has been supported by the BC Economic Partnership Initiative in 2003/04.

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

At this point this Chapter consists of a few provisions that have been transferred from other Chapters as markers for further development of language.

## **GOVERNANCE**

The Parties are engaged in working on a fairly comprehensive Governance Chapter which is currently in draft 6A.

Further work is required on the following governance subtopics:

Health Chapter – in draft 1,  
Education K-12 Chapter – in draft 6,  
Child and Family Service Chapter – in draft 5,  
Solemnization of Marriages – in draft 4,  
Corrections – in draft 1.1,  
Police Services – in draft 3,

NStQ has drafted a Constitution which will be reviewed by their communities soon.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

The Side Table Working Group recommends this chapter to the Main Table for approval for public release.

## **INDIAN ACT TRANSITION**

The Parties agree on the topics that have been covered and that it is too early in the process to complete the chapter; the majority of these issues are typically completed at Final Agreement.

## **LANDS**

The NStQ delivered a lands presentation in September 2003. BC and Canada responded to that presentation, expressing concerns that the land package was larger than previously explored through the Natural Resources Technical Working Group, when they were expecting further focus on priority lands so that land statusing could begin. NStQ is consulting with their communities on this matter.

The Parties have completed draft 3 of the Lands Chapter.

## **LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

A first draft of the chapter is being reviewed by the Parties.

## **MIGRATORY BIRDS**

The Parties are currently reviewing the first draft of a Migratory Birds Chapter.

## **NSTQ ROLE ON NSTQ TERRITORY**

BC presented their interests in Natural Resource Management Principles in September 2003 and NStQ will be presenting their interests early in the new year.

Role on Territory is a key interest of the NStQ and closely linked to their ability to develop a satisfactory land package.

## **PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS**

At the last Main Table the Chief Negotiators approved the Parks and Protected Areas Principles for public release. No further language has been developed since that time.

## **PREAMBLE**

To be started in 2004.

## **RATIFICATION OF THE FINAL AGREEMENT**

The Side Table Working Group recommends this chapter to the Main Table for approval for public release.

## **ROAD AND RIGHT OF WAYS**

To be started in 2004.

## **SUBSURFACE RESOURCES**

This topic is in Draft 2 of the Principles.

## **TAXATION**

To be started in 2004.

## **WATER**

The Parties are on draft 5 of an Interest Comparison Checklist. This topic has not been addressed since January 2001.

## **WILDLIFE**

The Parties are on draft 2 of the Wildlife Principles. This topic was temporarily set aside to allow the table to focus on Culture and Heritage, Land and Fish.

## **TREATY RELATED MEASURES AND ECONOMIC MEASURES**

This is the final year of a two year Sustainable Resource Management Plan and Access Management Treaty Related Measure that is incorporating the NStQ land interests into land use plans developed under the umbrella of the Cariboo Chilcotin Land Use Plan.

This is the second year of a three year Comprehensive Forestry and Tourism Strategy through the Economic Measures Fund which has been jointly funded by the BC Economic Partnership Initiative in 2003/04.

The Forestry project has undertaken a number of successful initiatives, including test runs at Sugarcane Wood Products that have helped keep the mill operational for the last several months, provided new jobs and opened new markets. NStQ communities have also entered into a joint venture agreement with West Fraser to help control the pine beetle problem and are working on an NStQ Strategy for Forestry. The Province and NStQ are scheduled to meet via conference call on February 26th to discuss the project deliverables.

The Tourism project has increased NStQ's participation in the tourism sector by building on existing tourism related processes and structures, identifying opportunities and developing strategies and capacity to pursue these employment creation opportunities. Project to date include:

- Developing an NStQ Tourism Strategy.
- Tourism training for 20 band members (First Host, First Aid, Pleasure Craft Operator Safety etc.). This led to 4 full-time and several part-time summer jobs for the students, so far.
- Marketing support for Xats'ull Heritage Village, including expenses to attend trade shows with Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Tourism Association in order to advertise and obtain bookings for 2004 and 2005.
- Business development assistance for band members interested in commercial recreation, including horse-pack trips.

- Business development costs for a proposed 9-hole golf course.
- Feasibility studies for forest recreation sites to be operated by band members, with the potential for business expansion.
- Tourism workshops and other information/application/proposal assistance.

## **CONCLUSION**

Despite the challenges of the last year and a half, all Parties have worked collaboratively since the last meeting of the Main Table to make progress. NStQ is committed to reaching an AIP by the winter of 2004/05 and has made a concerted effort to involve their membership in the treaty process by carrying out extensive community consultation.

The research, negotiation and consultation requirements for achieving the tables' goals for 2004 are ambitious, and the Parties have committed to exploring creative means to achieve their objectives.

Over the next several months, the Parties need to focus on the key components to ensure progress. These include:

- Key Land Parcels
- Governance
- NStQ Role on NStQ Territory
- Resource Revenue Sharing
- Fisheries
- Developing a Public Information Plan

The Side Table recommends to the Main Table that this report be accepted and released for public information, along with the chapters that have been completed since the last Main Table meeting.