

September 28, 2009

Mayor Goldsmith-Jones and Council
District of West Vancouver
750 - 17th Street
West Vancouver, BC V7V 3T3

Dear Mayor Goldsmith-Jones and Council:

Re: Request for Provincial Funding Support to LMTAC

On behalf of the *Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee* (LMTAC), I write in regards to the following LMTAC Board recommendation of September 23rd, 2009:

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the LMTAC Board request that:

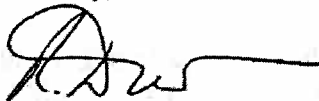
- oo) the LMTAC Executive Committee present to the Ministers their serious concerns related to:
 - i. the withdrawal of committed funding for FY 2009/10, and
 - ii. the impact the withdrawal will have on enabling treaties to go forward; and,
- pp) LMTAC members ask their respective Councils to write to the appropriate Ministers emphasizing concerns related to the withdrawal of committed funding to LMTAC.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

In particular, please find the **attached** LMTAC letter to the Honourable George Abbott, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR). We request that our member jurisdictions write the Minister directly to express support for LMTAC's request that MARR fulfill its previous commitment that LMTAC would receive a \$40,000 grant for the 2009/10 fiscal year.

Thank you for your on-going support to LMTAC and its activities. If you have any questions, please contact me via Regan Schlecker, Managing Director, at (604) 451-6198.

Sincerely,



Mayor Ralph Drew
Chair, Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee

Attachment

cc: LMTAC Members



September 25, 2009

COPY

Honourable George Abbott
Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation
PO BOX 9051 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC, V8W 9B1

Dear Minister Abbott,

Re: Financial Support to LMTAC

I write on behalf of the *Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee* (LMTAC) to convey the deep concerns of the Lower Mainland's 23 local governments regarding the elimination of Provincial funding to *Treaty Advisory Committees* (TACs).

Local governments in BC have committed to participate in the *New Relationship* and *BC Treaty Process*, as reaffirmed through a *Memorandum of Understanding* (MOU) signed in September 2008 between the Province and *Union of BC Municipalities*, yet the Province now refuses to provide adequate resources to local governments to participate in the treaty process.

Although the Province expresses a priority commitment to pursuing the *New Relationship* with First Nations in BC, with treaties being a key aspect of reconciliation, the absence of support from the Province frustrates the ability of LMTAC to effectively represent local government interests in the negotiation of these agreements. The absence of support from the Province for TACs indicates that negotiation of treaties with First Nations is no longer a priority commitment!

Since the Province's core review in March 2003 and subsequent decision to no longer provide consistent funding to *Treaty Advisory Committees*, LMTAC submitted annual funding requests seeking some measure of funding predictability. Finally, under the leadership of your predecessor, Minister Michael de Jong, LMTAC received a commitment for base-line annual funding (of \$40,000 per year) in recognition of the valuable policy advice and research LMTAC provided in support of the provincial negotiation teams.

Based on Minister de Jong's commitment for the current year, LMTAC undertook its 2009 workplan in good faith and, after most of the year has elapsed, is now faced with a significant shortfall with little opportunity to make budgetary adjustments. Despite LMTAC's continued efforts to be fiscally responsible, the loss of the promised provincial funding for the current year will have an immediate and significant impact on LMTAC operations for the remainder of 2009 and through 2010.

...continued, page two

September 25, 2009

In support of LMTAC's commitment to participate in Lower Mainland treaty negotiations and the *New Relationship* in a meaningful way representing the interests of Lower Mainland local governments, LMTAC respectfully requests that your Ministry fulfill Minister de Jong's commitment that LMTAC would receive a \$40,000 grant for the 2009/10 fiscal year.

Your consideration of the foregoing is appreciated, and I look forward to a favourable response.

Sincerely,



Mayor Ralph Drew, Chair
Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee

Cc: Premier Gordon Campbell
Mr. Bob de Faye, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Aboriginal Relations & Reconciliation
Jonathan Rayner, Director, Third Party Engagement, Strategic Initiatives Division, Ministry of Aboriginal Relations & Reconciliation
Chair Robert Hobson, President, UBCM
Councillor Corinne Lonsdale, Chair, UBCM First Nations Relations Committee
LMTAC Member Local Governments

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