
Treaty Process Update

January 19, 1995 ♦ Issue #1-95

From: Winnie Wells - Treaty
Process Office

Attention: Kitselas Members

The Treaty Process is now in
operation at 1581 Kulspai Cres.
635-1280.

We hope that your Christmas
holiday was a happy one. and
that the New Year is prosperous
for all.

We would like to invite you to
visit the Resource Management
Office any time.

During the week of January 9 to
13, 1995, Winnie & Jacqueline
attended a Tsimshian Treaty
Orientation Session.



*The Orientation workshop was
very informative and is going to
require a lot of work from all the
Members Of Kitselas.*

*The workshop was hosted by the
Tsimshian Tribal Council -
Treaty Coordinator/Chief
Negotiator-Gerald Wesley. I will
be sharing all the information
that I collected at this workshop
and setting up meetings
involving the Members of
Kitselas along with the Kitselas
Band Council and the Tsimshian
Tribal Council in the near
future. Times & dates will be
posted and hope that there will
be a good turn out.*

**Tsimshian Treaty Process
Objective:**

To seek changes to the
Tsimshian way of life within
our traditional territories and
for our membership through
negotiations with the federal
and provincial governments.

To determine what changes
are to take place for the
Tsimshian First Nations, how
those changes may take place
and when those changes will
occur.

Dates to remember:

July 28, 1983: the Tsimshian
Nation declared the Tsimshian
Declaration and Claim to
territories;

December 24, 1986: the federal
government, under Minister of
Indian Affairs, Bill McKnight
accepted the comprehensive land
claim of the "Coast Tsimshian".
This acceptance was for
conditional agreement to negotiate
under existing policy;

February 11, 1991: the
Tsimshian Nation endorsed the
Northwest Tribal Treaty In Prince
Rupert stating the Tsimshian shall
continue to enter into relationships
with neighbouring Nations to
strengthen and assist in settling
matters and common concerns
including common boundaries.

Also endorsing the Northwest Tribal Treaty were:

- the Haida Nation
- the Nisga'a Nation
- the Lake Babine Band
- the Haisla Nation
- the Wet'suwet'en Nation
- the Gitksan Nation
- the Gitanyow Nation
- the Carrier Sekani Nations
(and: Tahltan Nation; Taku River Tlingit; Kaska Dene Nation)

April 7, 1991: Kitselas, Kitsumkalum, Lax Kw'alaams, Metlakatla, Kitkatla, Hartley Bay and Kitasoo endorsed a Memorandum of Understanding to mandate the Tsimshian Tribal Council to pursue the Tsimshian Claim on behalf of all Tsimshian;

June 28, 1991: The B.C. Claims Task Force report was presented to B.C., Canada and the First Nations of B.C. Chief Joe Mathias, Chief Ed John and Miles Richardson represented First Nations in developing this tripartite report and its 19 historic recommendations.

The Task Force Report set the stage for a process to allow B.C., Canada and First Nations of B.C. to begin negotiations and what those negotiations should include. It also recommended the formation of a B.C. Treaty Commission;

September 21, 1992: at the Squamish Nation's community recreation centre, the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of B.C., and the First Nations Summit signed the British Columbia Treaty Commission Agreement.

This is the vehicle which will facilitate the negotiations of treaties and other related agreements in this province.

- B.C. and Canada shall share the operating costs of the Commission for at least the first 5 years;
- the Commission in turn, shall receive statements of intent to negotiate from First Nations; shall receive and consider requirements for negotiations funding and shall allocate funds to First Nations to allow them to participate in negotiations;

1992-93: on an on-going basis, the Province, Canada and the Summit have been involved in discussions and negotiations to develop mutually suitable policy and criteria to allow funding for the Treaty Commission and in turn under what conditions the Commission can fund First Nations.

1992 & 1993: the Tsimshian Tribal Council has received loan funding from Canada to carry out research and development work on the Tsimshian Claim. The emphasis for the funding has been to address final determination of our traditional boundary with the Nisga'a Nation.

December 15, 1993: the Tsimshian Tribal Council submits the Statement of Intent on behalf of the Tsimshian Nation to the British Columbia Treaty Commission.

Note: the Statement of Intent was revised and resubmitted on February 2, 1994 with additional signatures.

These dates are recorded at the Tsimshian Tribal Council office and now at the Kitselas Resource Management Office.

I will keep you informed through monthly newsletters and we are currently working on a pamphlet regarding the Kitselas Treaty Process.

What we have found out is the amount of work that has to go into the Treaty Process. What I'm going to be doing is setting up community meetings and meetings with the Kitselas Elders. I will be mailing out information packages keeping all members of Kitselas informed.

What I would like from the community is to get updated addresses of relatives who are Kitselas members living off the reserve, so I can keep mailing updated information.

All information that I will be mailing are from the Tsimshian Tribal Council - British Columbia Treaty Commission. I have been attending a lot of meetings regarding the Process. And what I'm finding out is that I will be working along with the members and elders of Kitselas on a regular basis.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Kitselas Treaty Process please feel free to call the office and find out if our resource library is ready.

Please call Winnie @ 635-1280 or come to see me @ 1581 Kulsapai Cres. Kitselas.

To the Kitselas Elders:

From: Winnie Wells, Kitselas Treaty Coordinator/Researcher

Re: Researchers' Report

This form "Tsimshian Membership-List Survey Form" was designed originally as a census form and to ensure that you are registered formally as a Kitselas Tsimshian. Then the form was redesigned to have access to information that is important the the Kitselas Treaty Process .

Since I was hired as the Treaty Researcher I have taken formal training as how to record and research material already on hand and material that has to be accessed from the recollection of Kitselas History by our Kitselas Elders and Members. The first training session involved the following Tsimshian Bands: Kitselas, Kitsumkalum, Kitkatla, Lax kw ' alaams, Metlakatla, Kitasoo and Hartley Bay; these are the Tsimshian Bands that are involved with the Tsimshian Treaty Process. What the Kitselas Band has to ensure is that the Kitselas Band is represented properly at all meetings that are

called at the Tsimshian Tribal Council level. The Kitselas Members have to ensure that our best interests are met and dealt with and to ensure that although we are Tsimshian People also, the coastal Tsimshian Bands do not have the same concerns as the Kitselas Band and Kitsumkalum Band because of location. Even though the Kitselas Band is not in isolation such as Hartley Bay we do have the concerns that deal with problems that interfere with operations that are a problem with the Kitselas Band that are not of any concern to Coastal Bands. Problems such as public highways, and railroads that go through our Reserves that endanger the traditional fishing territories as well as hunting territories. The more training I recieve the more I am realizing that this process does not only involve the Treaty Staff but the importance of the Membership of Kitselas is also needed.

I am encouraging those that have visited the Resource office that in the next couple of weeks to a month I will be carry out the researching of the history of Kitselas Villages as well as recording all stories that I will be accessing through those Elders' that are willing to sit down and share their information with me.

I would also like to express the importance of identifying the two representatives selected from each of the Laxkiik, Laxgibuu, Gispudwada and Ganhada Clans. Maybe Clans meetings should be held once again to formally record and report this information to the Tsimshian Tribal Council so that the Kitselas Band has addressed the importance of having not only the Band Elected Chief and or Council being representatives but also recognizing and acknowledging those that have been selected at the Clan Level to be the Kitselas Treaty Committee.

What each member of any Nation should realize that we are not only negotiating the past that would be dealt with but also the Medical, Health, Social Programs, the Economic Development Programs,

Education, the Optical Program, all these programs are right now being effected by the Treaty Process and this is happening through cutbacks in all these programs. What we need to do is start negotiating and voicing our concerns as to who will be ensuring that we are going to be taken care of in all these areas.

The sooner that we have our selected members in place for the Treaty Committee the more ensurance we have that we are going to properly be protected. There are so may other areas that we should be focusing on such as forestry and fisheries, mapping out our Traditional Territories of where we went hunting, fishing, berry picking, traplines and many others that have been forgotten over the years that should be recorded.

I can go on and on but I have to stop and start listening to you and recording your concerns and memories of the Kitselas History.