



BRITISH COLUMBIA
ASSEMBLY OF
FIRST NATIONS

507-100 Park Royal South
West Vancouver, BC
V7T 1A2

Ph: 604-922-7733
Fx: 604-922-7433



FIRST
NATIONS
SUMMIT

1200-100 Park Royal South
West Vancouver, BC
V7T 1A2

Ph: 604-926-9903
Fx: 604-926-9923
Toll Free: 866-990-9939



500-342 Water Street
Vancouver, BC
V6B 1B6

Ph: 604-684-0231
Fx: 604-684-5726

Recognition and Reconciliation Regional Session Update

TO: BC First Nations

From: BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN), First Nations Summit (FNS) and Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC)

Date: May 26, 2009

Re: Update on Regional Sessions on the proposed Recognition and Reconciliation Legislation and Agenda for the May 28, 2009 Prince George Regional Session

Purpose of Regional Sessions

In February 2009, the First Nations Leadership Council and the Government of British Columbia released an outline of the proposed Recognition and Reconciliation Legislation. This outline was discussed at the All Chiefs meeting on February 25, 2009, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs meeting on March 2, 2009 and the First Nations Summit meeting held March 4-6, 2009. The First Nations Leadership Council received a considerable amount of valuable feedback at those sessions and through subsequent meetings and correspondence with First Nations.

Following the discussions and resolutions at the assemblies, the First Nations Leadership Council requests and invites further First Nations input and direction on this important initiative at each stage of the process. We are therefore holding regional sessions over the next three months to seek advice and direction from First Nations on the key issues of “indigenous nations” and “comprehensive agreements”. These issues are important, as one of our main objectives is to establish a framework for the negotiation of comprehensive agreements that fully implement BC’s commitment to recognition of Aboriginal title and rights in the legislation.

In particular, the First Nations Leadership Council would like your advice on:

- Who should the BC government negotiate comprehensive agreements with?
- What should be the elements of comprehensive agreements? In particular, what provisions should be included with respect to shared-decision making and revenue and benefit sharing?
- What should be the role of an indigenous nations commission?

The First Nations Leadership Council will be presenting a number of options and considerations for review in relation to each of these questions. The advice provided by First Nations during these regional sessions will be used to inform the further development of the legislative proposal. Following the regional sessions, the First Nations Leadership Council intends to bring the legislative proposal to an All Chiefs meeting for review by the Chiefs.

Updated List of Dates of Regional Sessions on the proposed Recognition and Reconciliation Legislation

Regional Session #1:

Date: May 28, 2009

Location: Prince George Civic Centre

Regional Session #2:

Date: June 16 & 17, 2009

Location: St. Eugene Mission Resort, Cranbrook

Regional Session #3:

Date: June 24 & 25, 2009

Location: Kitsumkalem Hall, Terrace, BC

Regional Session #4:

Date: July 8 & 9, 2009

Location: Campbell River, Location TBC

Regional Session #5:

Date: July 15 & 16, 2009

Location: Vancouver, Location TBC

Regional Session #6:

Date: July 29 & 30, 2009

Location: Fort St. John, Location TBC

Regional Session #7

Okanagan Date and Location TBC

If you wish to participate in this process but you are unable to attend the regional session being held in your area, please feel free to attend a session held in another region.

We hope you can join us at these important sessions. Please do not hesitate to contact any of our offices if you have any questions.



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UNION OF
BRITISH COLUMBIA
INDIAN CHIEFS

500-342 Water Street
Vancouver, BC
V6B 1B6

Ph: 604-684-0231
Fx: 604-684-5726

Regional Sessions on proposed Recognition and Reconciliation Legislation

Objectives & Agenda

**PRINCE GEORGE CONFERENCE CENTRE
808 CIVIC PLAZA, PRINCE GEORGE, BC
May 28, 2009**

MEETING OBJECTIVES:

To convene regional sessions to seek advice and direction from First Nations on two key issues in the proposed Recognition and Reconciliation legislation - "indigenous nations" and "comprehensive agreements".

AGENDA

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2009

- 8:00 a.m. *Registration*
- 9:00 a.m. *Opening Prayer*
- 9:05 a.m. *Opening Comments (media present)*
- 9:20 a.m. *Welcome & Review of the Agenda (in-camera)*
- *Co-Chair, Leah George-Wilson*
 - *Co-Chair, Lynda Price*
- 9:25 a.m. *Political update by the political executives of the First Nations Summit and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs*
- 10:00 a.m. *Recognition Working Group Report – Overview of issues arising from the Discussion Paper and issues requiring direction from First Nations*
- 10:30 a.m. *Health Break*

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2009 Continued...

- 10:45 a.m. Overview of issues arising from the Discussion Paper and issues requiring direction from First Nations (continued)
- 11:45 p.m. Presentation by Tribal Chief David Luggi, Carrier Sekani Tribal Council
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch (provided)
- 1:00 p.m. Participants' Discussion
- Under **what circumstances** should the BC government be required to negotiate comprehensive agreements, and **with whom**?
 - What arrangements could work for your region in terms of indigenous nation building and the conclusion of comprehensive agreements?
 - Do you want to see an Indigenous nation commission established, and if so, what should its role be in terms of indigenous nation building or in shared territory or overlap dispute resolution?
- 2:45 p.m. Health break
- 3:00 p.m. Participants' Discussion
- What do we need to do to **prepare** for comprehensive agreement negotiations?
 - What has been your experience and your goals, with respect to shared decision-making and revenue and benefit sharing?
 - Are there any **lessons learned** and **best practices** that you can share with us about your experiences?
- 3:45 p.m. Wrap-up and Next Steps
- 4:00 p.m. Adjourn