



TSAWWASSEN FIRST NATION

TSAWWASSEN FIRST NATION APPROVES AIP: PRESSES ON TO BC'S FIRST URBAN TREATY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DECEMBER 10, 2003**

TSAWWASSEN – In a historic vote held today, members of the Tsawwassen First Nation approved the Agreement in Principle (AIP) initialled this past July. Approved by a final count of 100 to 36, the AIP points the way to BC's first urban treaty.

"The Tsawwassen people have spoken – loud and clear," said a jubilant Chief Kim Baird. "Not only have they endorsed our treaty making, they have given us clear instruction: Get back to the table. Bring home a treaty."

During the past four months, TFN members had many opportunities to examine and discuss every aspect of the AIP. A series of meetings and consultations were held on the reserve.

"This in-depth consultation has been extremely useful," explained Chief Baird. "It provided us with remarkable insights into the feelings and priorities of our members."

Next month, the TFN negotiating team will reconvene with its counterparts from Ottawa and Victoria. Critical issues such as fisheries and taxation, yet to be negotiated, will be top priority.

TFN is also committed to continuing a public education campaign to explain its treaty making to neighbouring non-aboriginal communities and business.

The AIP can be viewed on the TFN web site: www.tsawwassen-fn.org

-30-

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