

Ground broken on industrial park

Tsawwassen First Nation uses National Aboriginal Day to launch Tsawwassen Gateway Logistics Centre

BY JESSICA KERR, THE DELTA OPTIMIST JUNE 23, 2010



Tsawwassen First Nation Chief Kim Baird called the logistics centre the first step in the band's industrial lands strategy.

Photograph by: Chung Chow, Delta Optimist

The Tsawwassen First Nation marked National Aboriginal Day this week with a major announcement.

On Monday, the community celebrated the groundbreaking of its new industrial park -- Tsawwassen Gateway Logistics Centre.

The groundbreaking marks TFN's first major economic initiative following its treaty coming into effect last year.

"We are excited to see this as a first step of our industrial lands strategy that we developed last year after becoming a treaty First Nation in 2009," said TFN Chief Kim Baird. "Celebrating the beginning of building our economy with the groundbreaking of the Tsawwassen Gateway Logistics Centre on National Aboriginal Day is very fitting."

In 2008, the TFN approved a land use plan for the community and designated 135 hectares (333 acres) of its 724 hectares (1,788 acres) for industrial development.

The industrial park is adjacent to Roberts Bank and abuts road and rail networks.

"We are looking forward to seeing the Tsawwassen Gateway Logistics Centre play a significant role in the transportation and supply chain sectors," Baird said.

The TFN received federal funding from the \$4 billion infrastructure stimulus fund. The province provided matching funding and the TFN financed the remaining one-third of the \$9 million project.

"The Tsawwassen Gateway Logistics Centre is a significant economic achievement for Tsawwassen First Nation since becoming a true self-governing nation in 2009," said B.C. Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Shirley Bond, who was on hand for the groundbreaking.

"The government of B.C. is proud to be a partner in the development of this key project. We want to congratulate TFN Chief Kim Baird for her leadership and commitment to this important economic stimulus project."

The funds will finance the extension of municipal infrastructure to the initial 40 hectares (99 acres) of the industrial land, which will be completed by 2011. Construction of a new entrance to the industrial land will be done by 2012.

The TFN has already started marketing the initial 40 hectares (100 acres) of the project and is inviting expressions of interest for the development and operation of the centre.