



Legislative Assembly 2009 - 2012

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TSAWWASSEN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FALL 2010 SESSION SUMMARY

The fall session of the Legislature began on November 2, 2010, and came to a close on the 16th. The first two meetings were held in the longhouse, which added a cultural element to the reclamation of Tsawwassen's self-governing rights. The opening meeting was made all the more special in light of the honoured guests who were invited to address the legislature.

Lieutenant Governor Steven Point addressed the Legislature with a passionate speech, praising the courage of the Tsawwassen people for removing the shackles of the *Indian Act*, and taking on self-government in the modern world. The BC Treaty Process Chief Commissioner Sophie Pierre, BC Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Minister Barry Penner, Richmond-East MLA Linda Reid, Delta South MLA Vicki Huntington, and Corporation of Delta Mayor Lois Jackson also spoke on the opening night and spoke highly of Tsawwassen's accomplishments. Herb George (Satsan), the President of the National Centre for First Nations Governance, was an honoured guest at the second meeting, and spoke to the significance of what Tsawwassen had accomplished in concluding its Treaty.

In addition to the ceremony and important speeches, a lot of work was accomplished. The Legislature amended one law, and heard a number of reports that had been called for by the Legislature during the spring session. Specifically, the Legislature

- discussed and passed the *Land Amendment Act, 2010*, which made a number of minor amendments intended to clarify the existing policy intent,
- heard an update on the Neighbourhood Concept Plan, a Financial Management Plan, and a Risk Management Plan, and
- heard a report from Executive Council indicating that the 2009-10 Budget was amended to allow for expenditures for an employment coordinator position with VanASEP (fully funded by VanASEP), and for road works on the 41B Overpass (to be fully funded by the Ministry of Transportation).
- discussed the following reports, which were initially called for by the Legislature during the spring 2010 session:
 - Membership Benefits – a report that set out the distinctions between status and non-status, Members and non-Members, and identifies the services and programming delivered by the Tsawwassen Government that are available to each distinct group,
 - Membership Act – a report that identified Membership eligibility criteria and the conditions under which Membership may be relinquished or revoked.
 - Fees to Members – a report that outlined all fees for services that are being charged to Members, and acknowledged that the Offsite Levy fee would no longer apply to the community zone along Tsawwassen Drive.
 - Community Safety Strategy – a high level report that identified a three-pronged approach to reducing drug activity on Tsawwassen Lands, which includes options for new enforcement tools and new supports for Members trying to overcome addictions.

There were no resolutions that were considered by the Legislature during this session. The next session of the Legislature will begin in mid-February.