



Legislative Assembly
2009 - 2012

Chief Kim Baird

Laura Cassidy

Andrea Jacobs

Marvin Joe

Bryce Williams

Ken Baird

Sheila Williams

Tony Jacobs

Loretta Williams

Louise Ahlm

Kathy Genge

Andrew Bak

Nikki Jacobs



TSAWWASSEN FIRST NATION
s̓əwəθən məsteyəx™

LOCATION:

Tsawwassen Longhouse
2148 Tsawwassen Drive
Tsawwassen, BC V4M 4S6G2

Phone: 604-943-2112
Toll Free: 1-888-943-2112
Fax: 604-943-9226

info@tsawwassenfirstnation.com
www.tsawwassenfirstnation.com

TSAWWASSEN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

SPRING 2011 SESSION SUMMARY

The spring 2011 session of the Legislature began on February 15, 2011, and came to a close on the 15th of March. The first two meetings, as well as the closing meeting, were held in the longhouse, and the other meetings were held in the Tsawwassen Recreation Centre.

We had a lot of important work to accomplish in this session. The focus was on a number of important items – including the 2011-12 budget, and the Neighbourhood Concept Plan.

All told, the Legislature amended two laws, including the budget, approved the Neighbourhood Concept Plan, heard a number of reports, and passed some resolutions dealing with a wide variety of issues. It was truly a productive session!

2011-2012 APPROPRIATIONS ACT

The budget was discussed in great detail, and was passed on March 7th. Highlights include a provision to purchase parcels of the Brunswick Point Lands (lands we have rights of refusal over), which are expected to become available by March, 2012. This is very exciting, as we are adding to our treaty land base. There was also a significant increase in funding for post-secondary education – a direct response to the unprecedented demand we witnessed last year.

LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS

The Legislature discussed and passed the *Education, Health, and Social Development Amendment Act, 2011*, which made an amendment to permit the Executive Council to extend funding for school supplies, and youth grants to Members of school age living off Tsawwassen Lands. While this benefit was extended, it remains only available to Members living in Canada at this time – although there was clearly a will to further extend the benefits to those living in the U.S. as soon as funding levels permit.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD CONCEPT PLAN

The Neighbourhood Concept Plan is a document that was developed with planning consultants Jordan Cook and Associates, in concert with the Membership. There were many consultation meetings, including family meetings, with the community. There was also a public open house attended by people from Delta and surrounding neighbourhoods. The Plan, is comprehensive, and provides a detailed framework of how the TFSI lands will develop.

10-YEAR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT MODEL

A 10-year Financial Management Model was reviewed, which sets out revenue and spending projections over the next 10 years. The Legislature



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also held preliminary discussions on the best ways to provide the Membership with benefits from the Treaty. The advice of the Membership will be sought in summer 2011 on a detailed set of options to provide Treaty benefits to Members.

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

The Legislature heard updates from staff on ways to protect TFN from liability issues that may arise in the post-Treaty world, and on how confidential issues may be discussed at the Legislative meetings – which are currently always open to the public. The Legislature also heard an update from Robin Sylvester, the CEO of the Port, who presented on the Port's long-term plans.

LEGISLATOR'S RESOLUTIONS

Finally, there were a number of resolutions that were introduced by individual Legislators themselves. These were discussed and ultimately passed by the Legislature. They include:

1. A request to review the TFN Economic Development Corporation's (TEDC) shareholder's letter of expectations – which sets out the expectations that the shareholder has of TEDC. These expectations will be reviewed to ensure that the goals continue to be aligned.
2. A request that physical activity grant initiatives for adults be explored over the next fiscal year.
3. A statement that the terms "Indian", "Band", and "Reserve" are offensive when used to describe TFN and no longer politically correct in the Treaty context, and that the TFN administration should examine ways of eliminating its usage from official dialogue.

If you are seeking any additional information regarding this session, please do not hesitate to contact the administration office. A Record of Proceedings of each meeting will be posted on the TFN website as soon as they become available.

NEXT MEETING

The next session of the Tsawwassen Legislature will be held in the Fall, likely in November 2011.

"The Tsawwassen People exist as part of two worlds: traditional and modern-day. We now institute the system where our two worlds can co-exist. We have connected our fundamental teachings together with universally held principles of responsible government to establish the Tsawwassen Government and to enact Tsawwassen Laws for the betterment of our People."

Excerpt from Tsawwassen's Declaration on April 3, 2009, Treaty Effective Day