



NEWS RELEASE

Attention News Editors:

TSAWWASSEN FIRST NATION MAKES BC HISTORY; VOTES 'YES' TO RATIFY PROVINCE'S FIRST URBAN TREATY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 25, 2007

TSAWWASSEN, July 25 - In a historic vote held here today, members of the Tsawwassen First Nation (TFN) voted "yes" to ratify British Columbia's first urban treaty.

Of 187 registered voters, 130 voted in favour (about seventy per cent). Ratification required a positive endorsement of 50 per cent plus one of TFN members on the official voters list. The poll on the Tsawwassen reserve closed at 8 p.m.

A tired but exuberant Chief Kim Baird announced the results from the recreation centre on the reserve, thanking Tsawwassen members for providing clear direction.

"Our members were very brave," Chief Baird said. " Today, they have decided that this treaty is our way forward."

"This was a hard-fought vote," she said. "But now we have to put it behind us. Now, more than ever, we're going to have to work together to implement the treaty – to create and manage new laws and services to directly benefit our community."

Chief Baird says the "yes" vote clears the way for the next step in the long and arduous treaty-making process: debate in the B.C. Legislature, perhaps this fall.

Chief Baird will host a Media Backgrounding Session tomorrow, July 26, at 10 a.m. in the Administration Building on the reserve.

Details of the Final Agreement have been posted on the Tsawwassen web site.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Tanya Corbet
Communications Coordinator
Tsawwassen First Nation
604-928-0879
tcorbet.tfn@dccnet.com
<http://www.tsawwassenfirstnation.com>