

TSAWWASSEN FIRST NATION
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JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

FIRST-EVER ABORIGINAL LEADER TAKES A SEAT ON THE METRO VANCOUVER BOARD

The elected chief of Tsawwassen First Nation today joined other community leaders as a treaty First Nation director on the Metro Vancouver Board.

Until today, no other First Nation leader has ever sat on the board of directors.

“Our membership in Metro Vancouver is a historic feat,” Tsawwassen Chief Kim Baird said. “It will allow for the development of new, positive and productive relationships that challenge all municipalities and First Nations to work together and learn from one another through integration, not assimilation. These relationships, and the trust and cooperation we will foster, will lead to true reconciliation.”

Chair Lois Jackson welcomed the Tsawwassen First Nation to its first board meeting in Burnaby. “I want to congratulate Tsawwassen First Nation and Chief Baird on their efforts and hard work over the past 16 years at the treaty table,” Chair Jackson said. “We welcome Tsawwassen First Nation to our table and we look forward to working together as we build a sustainable and livable future for the people of this region.”

Tsawwassen became a treaty First Nation member of Metro Vancouver on April 3, when a treaty signed and ratified by the Government of Canada, the Province of British Columbia and Tsawwassen First Nation came into effect. This is the first urban treaty in the province and the first to be reached under the BC treaty process. The treaty also provides Tsawwassen with self-government jurisdiction, an expanded land base, and the tools to participate successfully in the sustainable economy.

On April 3rd, Tsawwassen also became a treaty First Nation member of the Greater Vancouver Water District after reaching a water servicing agreement, and will also receive other regional services provided by Metro Vancouver, including strategic planning, 9-1-1, and air quality.

Tsawwassen will also receive additional municipal services, such as dike maintenance, library services and parks and recreation after recently signing servicing agreements with the neighbouring Corporation of Delta.

Metro Vancouver is a federation now comprising 22 municipalities, one electoral area and one treaty First Nation. With the addition of Tsawwassen, the Metro Vancouver Board has 37 Directors.

For more information, please visit the respective web sites listed below.

Media contacts:

Glenn Bohn
Media Relations
Metro Vancouver
604-451-6697 (office)
604-314-5964 (cell)

www.metrovancouver.org

Tanya Corbet
Media Liaison
Tsawwassen First Nation
604-948-5205 (office)
604-928-0879 (cell)

www.tsawwassenfirstnation.com