



TSAWWASSEN FIRST NATION
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News Release

For Release: November 8, 2011

Senator Larry Campbell, Minister Mary Polak Address the Opening of the Tsawwassen Legislature

Tsawwassen – Senator Larry Campbell and B.C. Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Minister Mary Polak brought greetings and recognition of significant progress by Tsawwassen First Nation (TFN) as it opened its fifth legislative session of Canada's first urban First Nation Government last night.

TFN Chief Kim Baird recognized the long-standing and committed support Senator Campbell had given the Tsawwassen People as they worked over 14 years to negotiate a Treaty. "Senator Campbell was always there for us," said Chief Baird. "He was instrumental in helping us with our Treaty in Ottawa."

"A long time ago, when I was Mayor of Vancouver, I watched in awe as the Tsawwassen people worked on their Treaty with a young Chief Kim Baird", said Senator Campbell. "Today they are a good example for other First Nations, especially in areas such as education and housing. My hope is that TFN will continue as a leader for other First Nations who have unique strengths and needs too."

"I am pleased that Minister Polak is also with us today, representing the government of Premier Christy Clark," said Chief Baird. "It means a lot to our People what the B.C. Government has done to make our government a reality. We have a good relationship. We appreciate that Minister Polak and the B.C Government have become partners in a number of our endeavors."

Minister Polak congratulated the TFN for achieving major successes in becoming a new government. "The value of your Treaty and self government is the empowerment it gives you to multiply opportunities for you and your children," said Minister Polak. "Your goals are similar to our goals in the Provincial Government -- using economic development and job creation to support your families and your community. We are happy to partner with you on some significant files as you continue to develop your government and your future. "

Chief Baird expressed gratitude for other friends being on hand for the opening ceremony, including B.C. Government Deputy Speaker Linda Reid. "You honor us with your presence and support," she said.

The opening ceremonies began with the Members of the Legislature being drummed into the longhouse, along with the distinguished guest speakers. The current session of TFN's Legislature is scheduled to close on November 23, 2011.

For More Information: Tanya Corbet 604-928-0879

Attachment: Fact Sheet – "TFN: Current Appropriate Terminology"



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May 10, 2011

FACT SHEET:

TFN: CURRENT APPROPRIATE TERMINOLOGY

BACKGROUND:

The Tsawwassen Legislature unanimously approved a motion, sponsored by Legislative Member Ken Baird, to examine strategies to reduce and remove the use of certain incorrect and potentially offensive terms in reference to Tsawwassen First Nation. The Legislature expressed a concern that certain terms used under the Indian Act are no longer appropriate or correct. Terms specifically referenced in the motion included 'Indian', 'band', and 'reserve'.

"We have escaped the terrible repression of the Indian Act, but its words became part of our language, and they are hard to erase", said Chief Kim Baird, "It is still a learning process, both within our own community and around the country. We hope to change the words that are used to refer to Tsawwassen First Nation and its Members. It is one more step in getting away from the Indian Act, which kept us apart and separate, and one more step towards reconciliation."

GUIDE FOR USE:

Incorrect Term	Correct Equivalent Term
Indian Band	First Nation <i>or</i> Treaty First Nation
Tsawwassen Indian Band	Tsawwassen First Nation
Tsawwassen Indian	Tsawwassen Member*
Tsawwassen Reserve	Tsawwassen Lands
Reserve	First Nation Lands
Band <i>or</i> Band Council	Tsawwassen Government (<i>general term</i>) <i>or</i> Government <i>or</i> Legislature (<i>specific body, if required</i>) <i>or</i> Executive Council (<i>specific body, if required</i>)
Band Office	TFN Administration Office

*Certain Tsawwassen Members, if eligible under the *Indian Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c.1-5, continue to be status Indians for the purposes of that legislation. Despite its legal significance, the resolution in the Tsawwassen Legislature expresses a desire to no longer be known by the term 'Indian'.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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