



TSAWWASSEN FIRST NATION
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News Release

FOR RELEASE: December 16, 2013

TFN Signs Long-Term Leases with Local Farmers

Tsawwassen, BC. – Tsawwassen First Nation’s vision of building a sustainable community took another major step forward today with the signing of 25-year agricultural lease agreements with three local farmers.

TFN Chief Bryce Williams signed the agreements with Peter Guichon of Felix Farms, Brent Harris of Fraserland Farms and Danny Chong of Bow Chong Farms, in a signing ceremony today on TFN agricultural land.

“The signing of these agreements marks another exciting step in the development of our community,” said Chief Williams. “Under our Treaty, signed in 2009, TFN acquired 217 hectares of agricultural land. Since that time, we have consulted with our Members and local farmers, the Agricultural Steering Committee and Advisory Council, on how to best enhance the productivity of these lands and benefit the community. TFN formally adopted its Agricultural plan in April of this year. This plan is consistent with our Land Use Plan, which sets out how development of our lands will create a sustainable community for future generations. All our developments – commercial, industrial, residential, and now agricultural – work together to support this vision.”

“TFN supports local food production, job creation and stewardship of farmland resources,” said Chief Williams. “Two-thirds of our agricultural land – about 155 hectares – are being committed to the 25-year leases being signed today with farmers from this area. We are looking forward to working with them to building a strong partnership for on-going sustainability.”

Peter Guichon a fourth generation farmer in the area said, “I want to thank TFN for taking this initiative. It’s really exciting having a 25-year lease in that allows us to invest more in longer-term sustainability of the land. We plan on investing in such things as ditching, leveling the land and making it more productive overall. This further builds on our partnership with the TFN.”

Brent Harris a fifth-generation local farmer noted that he would also be investing more in the land and in equipment and infrastructure to enhance its sustainability. “The longer term land lease

allows us the opportunity to bring agricultural land back into production, and improve sustainability for future generations.”

Danny Chong, adding TFN’s land to his successful organic farming business seemed a natural move. “Having an agricultural land lease this long is almost unheard of,” said Chong, “it gives us the incentive to invest more in the land over time. We have been working with TFN for 15 years and are really looking forward to the next 25 years.”

“These farmers have made strong commitments to building agricultural knowledge, skills and appreciation for agriculture within the TFN community,” Said Chief Williams. These leases signify a renewed and strengthened partnership between TFN and the farming community. We welcome this partnership.”

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(Attachment: Backgrounder)