

## **Government Organization Act Summary**

This Act is the foundational law that establishes the components and functions of the Tsawwassen Government. In addition to the Constitution, it sets out additional authorities, responsibilities and rules that govern the following government bodies:

**Chief** - the head and official representative of the Tsawwassen Government, oversees day-to-day operations of Tsawwassen Government, and carries out other duties as required by Tsawwassen law.

**Tsawwassen Legislature** - composed of the Chief and 12 elected legislators, it votes on and approves Tsawwassen laws and the annual budget.

**Executive Council** - composed of the Chief and the four legislators with the highest number of votes in a general election, it approves the policies and programs of the Tsawwassen Government, prepares proposed laws for consideration by the Legislature, appoints officials, and enacts regulations.

**Advisory Council** - advises the Legislature and Executive Council on the ideas and concerns of Tsawwassen Members and reviews proposed Tsawwassen laws before they are finalized.

**Judicial Council** - determines the validity of Tsawwassen Laws, resolves legal disputes that fall under the jurisdiction of a Tsawwassen law, and hears appeals of administrative decisions.

The Act establishes and sets out the authorities and responsibilities of the following important Tsawwassen Government officials:

**Squigel (Speaker of the Legislature)** - responsible for chairing sittings of the Legislature, maintaining order, and ensuring that legislators have a fair opportunity to speak.

**Chief Administrative Officer** - responsible for the management and administration of the Tsawwassen Government.

In addition to the authorities and responsibilities, the Act establishes rules for determining compensation (salaries and/or honoraria) for certain elected and appointed officials, as well as the rules for these officials to claim expenses.

The Act also establishes the registry of laws, which is the official repository for all authoritative copies of the Treaty Final Agreement, the Tsawwassen Constitution, all Tsawwassen laws and regulations, and every final decision of the Judicial Council. The registry must be kept on Tsawwassen Lands and must be made available for public inspection during normal office hours.