



# Tsawwassen First Nation Agreement-in-Principle Intergovernmental Relations

## Building Treaties in Developed Areas

The Tsawwassen First Nation has one Indian reserve, which straddles the highway that leads to the B.C. Ferry Terminal and encompasses the area between the highway and Deltaport Way. The region is urban and agricultural. The land offer in the AIP consists of provincial Crown land, most of which is adjacent to the reserve. The Tsawwassen First Nation has a business relationship with over 200 lessees who reside or conduct business on the Tsawwassen reserve. Given the region's urban and agricultural characteristics, neighbouring governments and the First Nation will need to build co-operative working relations in order to address jurisdictional matters of mutual interest.

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The provincial government seeks to negotiate treaties that include mechanisms for harmonizing land-use planning between Aboriginal governments and neighbouring local governments.

The Tsawwassen First Nation, the Corporation of Delta and the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) will have the opportunity to establish co-operative working relationships. Local and regional governments currently have mechanisms to work together collaboratively on land-use plans. The provincial government expects that the Tsawwassen government will begin working with its neighbouring governments on matters such as harmonizing land-use planning and service delivery. A project to support developing intergovernmental relations, including options concerning membership in the GVRD, will begin after the AIP is ratified.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1) How many local and regional governments are affected by the Tsawwassen treaty negotiations?

Tsawwassen First Nation's asserted traditional territory covers all or parts of Delta, White Rock, Surrey, Richmond, Burnaby, New Westminster, Port Coquitlam, Langley, Pitt Meadows and Coquitlam. The Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee (LMTAC), which has 26 members representing local and regional governments throughout the region, has been closely involved in negotiations from the outset.



2) **Where will the Tsawwassen First Nation lands be, and how do the boundaries of the local and regional governments relate to it?**

Tsawwassen First Nation treaty lands will be adjacent to the Corporation of Delta, which is within the GVRD.

3) **Are local and regional governments involved in treaty negotiations with the Tsawwassen First Nation?**

Yes. Provincial negotiators work closely with local and regional governments to address their interests on a wide range of matters, including land-use planning and servicing. Regular meetings have been held with the LMTAC, and local government representatives have participated as members of the provincial negotiating team. Previous to the withdrawal of the Corporation of the District of Delta council from the LMTAC in March 2003, a Delta councillor had been the representative to the provincial team for eight years. The current representative is a City of Richmond councillor.

4) **Will the Tsawwassen First Nation receive services such as fire protection and garbage disposal from the local or regional governments?**

The AIP acknowledges that access to services is vital for any self-governing community. It is a priority for the Tsawwassen First Nation to have access to water, sewer, fire protection and police protection on reasonable terms. The parties will discuss options for payment of services, with the objective that servicing arrangements will be in place by Final Agreement.

5) **How will municipal services be provided?**

The options for service delivery include: contracting for services on a business basis; participation in the GVRD; self-servicing; and access to programs through provincial taxation or intergovernmental agreements.

6) **Will the Tsawwassen First Nation work in conjunction with local and regional governments on land-use planning?**

The parties have acknowledged local and regional governments' interest in ensuring consistent and compatible planning and land-use management decisions among communities in the Lower Mainland.

7) **Will the Tsawwassen First Nation join the GVRD?**

After the AIP is ratified, the Tsawwassen First Nation, the provincial and federal governments, and local and regional governments will explore options for Tsawwassen First Nation participation on the Greater Vancouver Regional District.

8) **Will there be a separate Governance Agreement?**

The AIP provides for a Governance Agreement to be negotiated and concluded at the same time as the Final Agreement. The Governance Agreement will not be a constitutionally protected agreement. It will set out the nature and scope of the Tsawwassen government's law-making authorities that are not related to land and resource rights. The Province's position is that these may include a range of matters, including education, child and family services, solemnization of marriage and emergency preparedness on treaty lands. The authorities will not include criminal law or criminal procedures.

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