



**TLA'AMIN NATION  
ANNUAL TREATY  
IMPLEMENTATION  
REPORT**

2016 / 2017



The Tla'amin Final Agreement is a modern treaty completed under the British Columbia Treaty Commission Process. The governments of the Tla'amin Nation, Canada and British Columbia are partners in the Tla'amin Final Agreement (the Treaty), which came into effect on April 5, 2016, and comprises a land claim and self-government agreement.

This report includes a summary of the progress made in the first year of the Tla'amin Final Agreement, from April 5, 2016 to April 4, 2017.

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# ABOUT TLA'AMIN NATION



WE **ARE** the Tla'amin Nation!

We have inhabited the lands and waters of our traditional territory, within what is today known as the Sunshine Coast of British Columbia, since time immemorial.

Our traditional territory was rich in natural resources. All of our economic and political systems, along with our spirituality, were based on our relationships with our ancestors and their relationship with the land. Almost everything in our surroundings was utilized for tools, clothing, food, shelter, medicine, transportation and trade with other First Nations.

Tla'amin people are strong and resilient, caring and determined. We are progressive, creative and fun to be around. Our people have an incredible history, and we continue to carry on that legacy.

*"One Heart, One Mind, One Nation."*

## TLA'AMIN VISION

*Based on our Ta'ow we will empower our citizens to be healthy, self-governing stewards of the land. With full jurisdiction, and responsible leadership we will create the economic and employment opportunities to sustain and improve the quality of life for present and future generations.*



# MESSAGE FROM THE HEGUS



Clint Williams, Hegus (Chief)

This year has truly flown by and I find it hard to believe that we are already celebrating the first year of our return to self-government. As we celebrate this day, we pay respect to our ancestors, Elders and future generations as we all share the dream of providing for a brighter future for all of our people.

April 4th, 2016 was a historic night as we conducted the festivities in our unfinished Governance House as we welcomed in the new world, I still remember us lighting the fire that evening as there was many nerves, and hoping that everything would proceed smoothly. As midnight approached and the songs were shared around the fire, the most powerful moment for me was watching our people getting to burn pages of the Indian Act. This event seemed to be very therapeutic as there have been some awful things that have happened to our people while we were under the Indian Act, I hope that our people in attendance also felt the same way.

During the first six-months we were working at implementing our new Laws & Regulations and also overseeing the completion of the new building, with an election added into the mix made for another large challenge. This was the first election underneath of our new Election Law, this new process was a big change from what we had traditionally been accustomed to. As the Tla'amin Nation, we now have the ability to correct laws and policies that we feel are not representing our community in a good way, we have the ability to amend and adjust what we feel is no longer working for us.

I am personally very grateful to the Tla'amin people for electing me as our first Hegus, I have always been so incredibly proud to be Tla'amin! And to be elected to carry on with this work means so much to me as I truly love this community.

Emote – Che che ah tahn nah pesht

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clint Williams'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Hegus Clint Williams





Photo Credit: Powell River Historical Museum and Archives

# MESSAGE FROM BC MINISTER OF INDIGENOUS RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION



Hon. Scott Fraser, M.L.A.

I offer my sincerest congratulations to the Tla'amin people and Hegus Clint Williams on the first anniversary of implementing the Tla'amin Treaty.

Your leadership, government and community have accomplished much over a short time. Creating new paths to home ownership, developing new housing, investing in business and forestry, and establishing priorities for resources, services, culture and infrastructure has set the stage for a prosperous and sustainable future.

Negotiating and entering into a treaty takes courage, vision and perseverance. The Tla'amin Treaty is a powerful tool, but it is the Tla'amin people and government who are transforming the words into policies, laws and action. You're bringing life to the treaty and creating change for the better – economically, culturally and socially – not only for your community but the greater Powell River area.

Ours is a shared journey of reconciliation, and I look forward to working with you and ensuring British Columbia's government-to-government treaty relationship with Tla'amin is based on rights, respect and reconciliation.

Hon. Scott Fraser, M.L.A.  
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation



# MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF INDIGENOUS AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA

I wish to extend my congratulations to Tla'amin Hegus Clint Williams and community members on the first anniversary of the Tla'amin treaty.

On the Effective Date of April 5th 2016, I was in your community for a totem pole blessing ceremony, on the gorgeous northern reaches of the Sunshine Coast. It was an honour for me to participate in the treaty celebration as we set upon a path beyond the Indian Act towards true reconciliation and a renewed relationship with your First Nation, based on recognition of rights, respect, co-operation and partnership.

I am thrilled to hear that your community has, since then, opened a new cultural, social, and political hub – the Tla'amin Government House. I understand this new building was designed with the future in mind, to meet the growing staffing needs of your community and house Executive Council meetings and a number of programs including Forestry, Lands and Resources, and Social Development. I also want to applaud you on another exciting initiative, the opening of a new subdivision for Citizen housing.

Your commitment and tireless efforts to accomplish these things are admirable. An Implementation Committee has been formed to discuss treaty implementation and resolve any issues that may arise. I want to emphasize that the Government is committed to working in true partnership with you, including through the Committee, to fulfill our obligations as a treaty signatory to the benefit of Tla'amin Nation and all Canadians.

Hon. Carolyn Bennett, M.D., P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada



Hon. Carolyn Bennett, M.D., P.C., M.P.





Pictograph site located on East Redonda Island in Tla'amin traditional territory. Age: **Unknown**.

The site is well protected by overhanging rock and the paint has been fixed in place by mineral run-off. The site was examined by Conservation Canada in the late "1990s" but the test results were inconclusive.

The site lies in the Homfray Channel in an area that was once heavily populated (a fact also supported by archaeological findings).









# TREATY IMPLEMENTATION

**April 5th, 2016** was a historic day for Tla'amin people, as it marked the Effective Date of the Tla'amin Treaty. On this date, the Sliammon Indian Band ceased to be and was replaced with the Tla'amin Nation, a self-governing treaty First Nation with certain rights and powers defined within the Tla'amin Final Agreement.

## TLA'AMIN FINAL AGREEMENT

The Tla'amin Treaty provides ownership and law-making authority over 8,300 hectares of land, comprised of more than 6,400 hectares of reclaimed Tla'amin traditional territory and over 1,900 hectares of former Indian Reserves.

The Treaty also provides for cash payments to support Tla'amin culture and language, salmon enhancement and stewardship, the acquisition of commercial fishing licenses, as well as:

- a capital transfer of about \$33.9 million paid over 10 years, less the outstanding negotiating loan;
- an Economic Development Fund of about \$7.9 million; and,
- about \$731,895 per year for 50 years through resource revenue sharing arrangements.



Midnight transition on Effective Date April 5th, 2016.

## IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

The Treaty established an Implementation Committee on the Effective Date. The Implementation Committee is responsible for supporting the successful implementation of the treaty. The Implementation Committee consists of one appointee from each of the Tla'amin Nation, British Columbia and Canada.

The Treaty also requires the preparation of annual reports on the implementation of the Tla'amin treaty. This report has been created to satisfy that requirement.

## IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

The Tla'amin Final Agreement Implementation Committee meets in person three times a year,



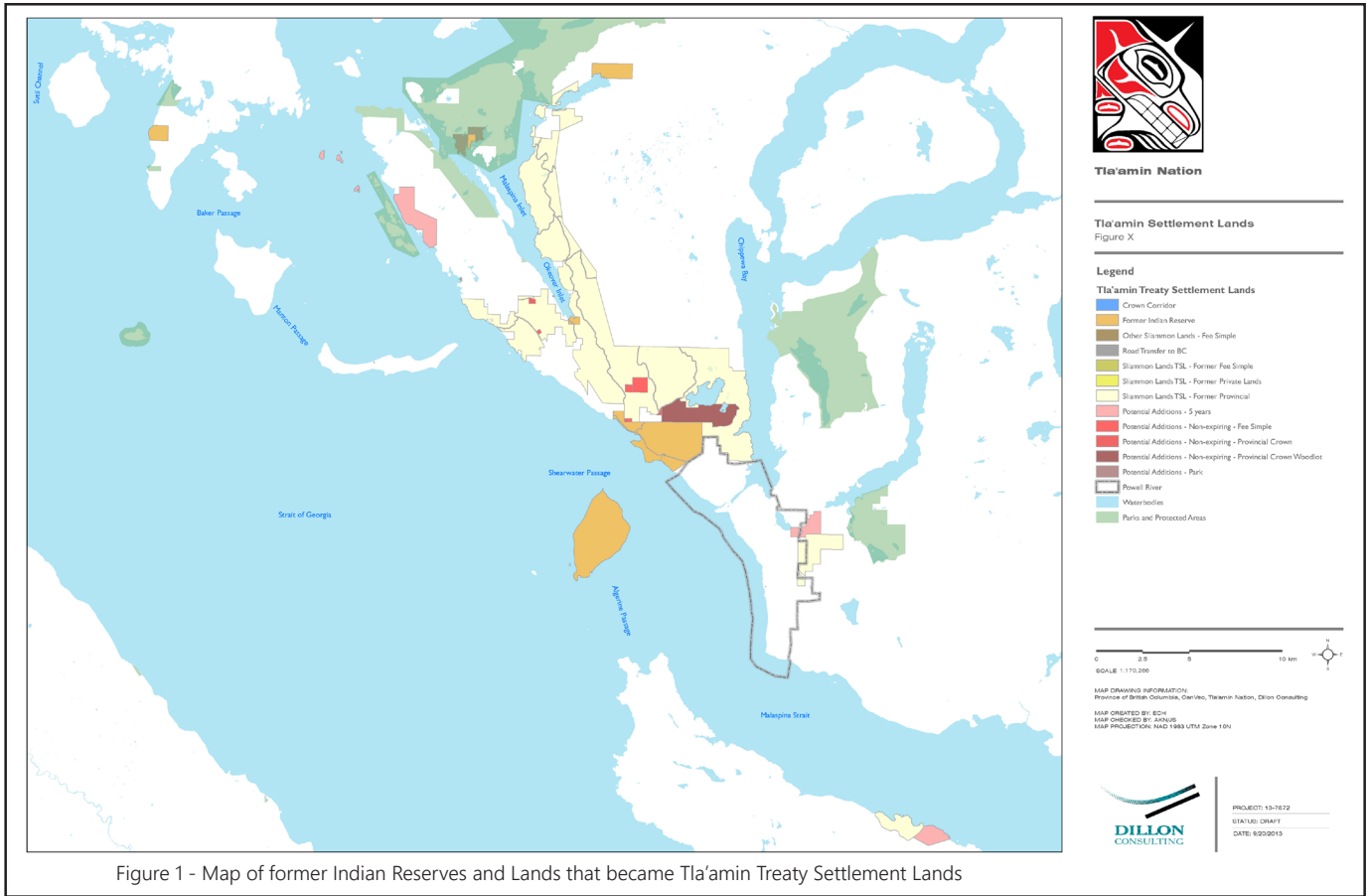


Figure 1 - Map of former Indian Reserves and Lands that became Tla'amin Treaty Settlement Lands

and uses monthly teleconferences, as needed, for additional meetings.

The parties make best efforts to meet in person for the three scheduled meetings each year. However, if circumstances do not allow for in-person meetings, at least one of these meetings must be in person. Unless otherwise agreed, meetings are held in British Columbia at Vancouver, Victoria, or Tla'amin.

In the 2016-17 Reporting Period, the Tla'amin Implementation Committee met twice in person, and held two teleconferences.

In the 2016-17 Reporting Period, participation in the Implementation Committee meetings was led by the following Implementation Committee appointees:

**TLA'AMIN NATION:**

John Hackett (Appointee)

**BRITISH COLUMBIA:**

Nedinska Donaldson (Appointee)

**CANADA:**

Dale Pegg (Appointee)

# 2016/17 IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

During the period from April 5, 2016 to April 4, 2017, the Implementation Committee focused its attention on several priorities of strategic importance to all parties. These priorities included the following:

### **IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE PROCEDURES AND OPERATING GUIDELINES**

The Treaty requires the Implementation Committee to establish procedures and operating guidelines. At the inaugural Implementation Committee meeting, the Implementation Committee members developed procedures and operating guidelines as a framework for operationalizing the work of the Implementation Committee.

### **IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY**

The Treaty requires the Implementation Committee to establish a communications strategy. At the inaugural Implementation Committee meeting, the Implementation Committee developed a communications strategy as a framework for communications protocol and information sharing among parties.

### **TLA'AMIN FUTURE ACQUISITION LANDS**

The Tla'amin Treaty provides for the Tla'amin Nation to purchase pre-identified parcels of Crown lands within a 10 year period starting from the Treaty Effective Date. At the request of the Tla'amin Nation, the Implementation Committee began development of planning work to map out a process for the transfer of Tla'amin Future Acquisition Lands.

### **ADDITIONS TO TLA'AMIN LANDS: NON-CROWN LANDS SURROUNDED BY TLA'AMIN LANDS**

The Tla'amin Treaty provides for the Tla'amin Nation to purchase pre-identified parcels of non-Crown land within a 10 year period starting from the Treaty Effective Date. At the request of the Tla'amin Nation, the Implementation Committee began work to convert District Lot 4748 from fee simple land to Tla'amin Treaty Settlement Land.

### **WILDE ROAD REALIGNMENT**

While Tla'amin Nation, BC, and Canada were working to survey the lands in preparation for them to become Treaty Settlement Lands, the parties identified that portions of Wilde Road, as built,

did not match what had been surveyed before the road had been built. The Implementation Committee supported the development and implementation of a plan to realign portions of Wilde Road through Tla'amin Treaty Settlement Land.

### **TLA'AMIN TREATY SETTLEMENT LAND SURVEYS**

Under the Tla'amin Treaty, the Tla'amin Nation and British Columbia agreed to a Survey Protocol that would set out the priority and timing of the survey of the exterior boundaries of Tla'amin Treaty Settlement Lands. The Implementation Committee began work to implement the Tla'amin Survey Protocol. One survey project on Tla'amin Treaty Settlement Land was initiated in 2016/17.

### **TLA'AMIN REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY AGREEMENT**

The Tla'amin Treaty provides for several side agreements. One of these side agreements is the Reasonable Opportunity Agreement. This agreement sets out how the Tla'amin Nation and BC will work together to engage on activities that may impact Tla'amin Nation's harvesting rights under Treaty. The Reasonable Opportunity Agreement requires British Columbia and Tla'amin to conduct an annual review to assess the implementation of the agreement. The Implementation Committee supported planning toward the first annual review of the Reasonable Opportunity Agreement.

### **THEODOSIA SHARED DECISION MAKING AGREEMENT**

The Tla'amin Treaty provides for Tla'amin Nation and British Columbia to develop a side agreement that sets out how BC and Tla'amin Nation will engage in shared decision making for Provincial authorizations and development in the Theodosia River Watershed. The Implementation Committee supported negotiations toward the development of a Theodosia Shared Decision Making Agreement.

### **TLA'AMIN ENFORCEMENT PROTOCOL**

The Treaty provides for Canada, British Columbia and the Tla'amin Nation to develop agreements concerning enforcement activities in the Tla'amin Area. The Implementation Committee supported work toward the development and implementation of a tripartite enforcement protocol framework for the Tla'amin Area.



## 2016/17 IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

# ISSUES RESOLUTION

In addition to the 2016/17 strategic priorities, the Implementation Committee also discussed and worked toward resolution of other pertinent issues related to Treaty, including the following:

### **ARCHAEOLOGY SITES**

There are numerous Tla'amin Nation archaeological sites located throughout the Tla'amin Area. The protection of these sites is important to all parties of the Treaty. The Implementation Committee supported the development and implementation of actions to help address concerns of the Tla'amin Nation related to the sale of fee-simple lands containing archaeology sites as well as concerns related to the repatriation of archaeological remains.

### **SHELLFISH HARVEST**

The Treaty provides for Tla'amin citizens to exercise their Treaty right to harvest shellfish at the foreshore of Okeover Park. The Implementation Committee supported the development and implementation of actions to help address concerns of the Tla'amin Nation related to the harvest of oysters and clams on the foreshore of Okeover Park.

### **GROUNDWATER**

The Treaty provides for British Columbia and Tla'amin Nation to develop an agreement on the volume of groundwater that may be extracted and used for domestic, agricultural and industrial purposes by the Tla'amin Nation on Tla'amin Lands. The Implementation Committee supported the initiation of discussions between British Columbia and the Tla'amin Nation related to a groundwater allocation.







Treaty Celebrations April 9th, 2016.



## 2017/18 IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

For the period of April 5, 2017 to April 4, 2018, the Implementation Committee has agreed to focus its attention on the following strategic priorities<sup>1</sup> :

### **TLA'AMIN GROUNDWATER ALLOCATION**

Continue to support bilateral work between British Columbia and the Tla'amin Nation on discussions around a groundwater allocation.

### **THEODOSIA SHARED DECISION MAKING AGREEMENT**

Support negotiation work toward a Theodosia Shared Decision Making Agreement between Tla'amin Nation and British Columbia.

### **TLA'AMIN FUTURE ACQUISITION LAND**

Work toward the acquisition and transfer of Tla'amin's Future Acquisition Land.

### **ADDITIONS TO TLA'AMIN LANDS: NON-CROWN LANDS SURROUNDED BY TLA'AMIN LANDS**

Continue to support the transfer of Tla'amin fee-simple land to Treaty Settlement Land.

### **WILDE ROAD REALIGNMENT**

Support work toward the realignment of Wilde Road.



Erik Blaney and Trista Tom-Leblanc performing at Treaty Celebration.

### **TLA'AMIN TREATY SETTLEMENT LAND SURVEYS**

Continue to support work towards the completion of survey work of Tla'amin Treaty Settlement Land.

### **TLA'AMIN ENFORCEMENT PROTOCOL**

Support work toward the development and implementation of a tripartite enforcement protocol framework for the Tla'amin Area.

<sup>1</sup> These strategic priorities are subject to change.







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