

TO: MAYOR & COUNCILLORS October 04, 2001  
FROM: COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE OUR FILE: 01.227  
LOWER MAINLAND TREATY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
SUBJECT: Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee  
PURPOSE: To provide information on the status of the Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. THAT this report be received for information.

**REPORT**

The Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee (LMTAC) represents and coordinates the interests of local governments and their constituents in the Lower Mainland area treaty negotiations. 26 individual local government jurisdictions are represented on LMTAC, including 23 municipalities and three regional districts. LMTAC and the other 16 Treaty Advisory Committees in the province were formed in 1993 as the result of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, to ensure that local government has a voice as a full member of the provincial negotiating team. LMTAC is accountable to its member municipalities and regional districts only; it does not report to the GVRD Board. As such, it is desirable that Council receive periodic updates as to the work of LMTAC.

LMTAC's key role is to provide support services to member municipalities dealing with treaty negotiations and aboriginal issues such as land management, servicing, intergovernmental relations and communications with First Nations. To support these efforts, in December 1999 and June 2000, LMTAC adopted 39 "First Principles", contained in *Appendix A*. The First Principles are fundamental policy statements that provide the framework for local government input as members of the provincial negotiating team. To date, background papers have been produced to more fully describe three of the First Principles, and are contained in *Appendixes B, C and D*. All Appendixes have been provided to members of Council under separate cover, and copies are available for public viewing in the Clerk's Office.

The Provincial Government has committed to proceeding with a referendum on the treaty negotiation process. The Province has instructed the Select Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs to report on the nature of question(s) that will form the basis of a one-time, province-wide referendum on the principles that should guide B.C.'s approach to treaty negotiations. While LMTAC has concerns about the nature of the referendum question(s), in light of the lack of progress in concluding any treaties, it understands the Province's desire to move the process forward. As such, LMTAC will be forwarding the above-mentioned documents to the Standing Committee for consideration in the development of the referendum question(s).

This is for the information of Council.

Councillor Nancy Harris, Council Representative  
Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee

cc. City Manager