DOC Treaty Partner Summit 2018

The Tsawwassen First Nation Treaty - A Treaty Partner Experience from Canada.
Tena koutou katoa

Tsawwassen
‘land facing the sea’
My homeland
Coast Salish Territory
Current images from Tsawwassen

- Photo of new leasehold residential unit
- Rendering of TFN Industrial site

Tsawwassen Mills
Presentation outline

• Treaty Partnership
• Canadian context for Indigenous Relations
• The Tsawwassen Story – a modern treaty with Provincial and Federal Governments
• How this Treaty Partnership links to Environment and Conservation
Canada’s Approach to Indigenous Relations – a work in progress
Federal treatment of Indigenous people from contact to mid-20th century

Colonization and treaty making (except for BC)
Indian Act, residential schools Prohibitions (policies based on racist premises)
Continued definition of Indigenous people through legislation (Aboriginal)
Where this left First Nations

- Inadequate governance structure over inadequate land base, with inadequate infrastructure
- Poverty and poor socioeconomic conditions (health, education, income, suicide, etc)
- Capacity issues due to lack of financial and human resources
- Lack of legal, political, economic and other rights/institutions Canadians take for granted
First Nation actions - resistance

- Litigation – Calder, Sparrow, Delgam Uukw, William Decisions
- Other litigation – from defining status, to off-reserve voting rights and now Metis
- Political Organization – Informal Alliances, AFN, Union of BC Indians Chiefs, First Nations Summit, NWAC, CAPP
- Some instances of direction action all leading to uncertainty for development in BC
Early reconciliation efforts – Federal, Provincial and First Nation efforts (often realized through Federal legislation)

- 1960 – FN vote
- 1969 rejection of White Paper (attempt to assimilation reserves)
- 1975 – First Modern Land claim Agreement (James Bay Cree)
- 1980 onwards – reform of Indian Act (Tax, Land Management, elections)
- 1990’s BCTC, Royal Commission,
- Last Residential School closed in 1996!
Hope for national progress

- Prime Minister Apology and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- Missing and Murdered Women Inquiry
- Commitments to investments in education and infrastructure
- Commitments to Nation to Nation relationship, UNDRIP
Our Treaty, Self-governance, the Environment and Conservation

- There are many ways we interface with the environment
- Our identity as an integral part of the natural environment since time immemorial

Left photo taken from float plane looking at the mouth of the Fraser River during low tide

Right photo – view of Tsawwassen Bluff (island) beside delta flats
How Indigenous people interface with the Environment

• Our recent struggle to introduce our world view on how colonial governments manage the environment and our traditional territories

• There is much division in our country on these matters and indeed the whole globe.

Photo of Kinder Morgan Pipeline protest
How Indigenous people interface with the Environment

Evolving partnership approaches to Environmental Management including:

- Land Use planning agreements from broad territory to more specific forestry and park and heritage management agreements
- Participation in environmental assessment and monitoring
- New approaches with Tsilhqot’in (First Nation that established Aboriginal Title in the Supreme Court of Canada)
- Our new tools as a Treaty First Nation (a work in progress) to manage Reconciling our Aboriginal rights and title, and fulfilling our right to self-government.
- These approaches leading towards an Indigenous desire for “co-management”

Photo of Tsawwassen Canoe
Tsawwassen’s evolving interface with the Environment and Conservation

• Tsawwassen has many rights and responsibilities set out in our treaty in relation to the environment and conservation in relation to our broader traditional territory and to our lands and resources rights specified.
  • Heritage
  • Parks and protected areas
  • Environmental management
  • Crown consultation obligations for impacts to our territory and rights
  • Fish, wildlife, forestry
  • Not water because we don’t have the regional watershed in our territory

Photo of Heron Rookery at Tsawwassen Bluff
Managing the Environment – a Shared Responsibility

First Nations

Federal Gov’t

Provincial Gov’t
2017 Vancouver Walk for Reconciliation

photo by Darryl Dyck/Canadian Press
Ngā mihi
Thank-you