

COUNCIL'S CORNER

Fall 2017



*Executive Councillor
Tanya Corbet*



*Executive Councillor
Nikki Jacobs*



*Chief
Bryce Williams*



*Executive Councillor
Laura Cassidy*



*Executive Councillor
Andrea Jacobs*

ʔəy̓ sweyal, Tsawwassen Members.

This quarterly issue of *Council's Corner* contains a summary of Executive Council decisions and updates from July to September 2017.

Building a strong future. Building a strong community.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Information Management System

Executive Council directed staff to proceed to the next stage of a project that will eventually transition the Tsawwassen Government to a new electronic data management software system. The goal is to ensure that TFN records are efficiently organized and easily accessible. Gravity Union (a consultancy firm) was hired to work with departments and develop detailed plans for the project roll out.

COMMUNICATION

Website Redesign and Rebranding Project

Executive Council directed staff to move ahead with an RFP to develop a TFN style guide as part of the website redesign project. This project will update the website's overall look and feel. Going forward, staff will be working to improve its functionality as well, allowing for some services, such as applying for permits and paying taxes and utilities, to be done through the website.



TFN's 2016–2017 Annual Report.

2016-2017 Annual Report

Executive Council reviewed and approved the 2016-2017 Annual Report. The report looks back on the previous fiscal year to measure TFN's progress and activities. The report also contains TFN's audited financial statements, which are reported to Members at the Members' Gathering. A copy of TFN's Annual Report, plus the summary of key accomplishments, are available on the TFN website.

CULTURE

Ancestral Remains and Heritage Conservation

Based on input from the Standing Committee on Language and Culture, Executive Council approved a plan for heritage or cultural material that may be discovered during development of Tsawwassen Shores Phase 2. Executive Council issued a Heritage Conservation permit to the developer based on this plan, which will ensure appropriate care and cultural work is undertaken as the project progresses.

Standing Together Tribal Journeys

On July 27, the TFN community—including Youth, Elders, Chief Williams, and Executive Councillors Andrea Jacobs and Nikki Jacobs—welcomed four canoes ashore from Muckleshoot, Blaine, and Chilliwack with drumming and singing. That evening, TFN was host to a community-wide dinner for the canoe families to witness protocol and enjoy a feast together. The canoe families camped overnight and were sent off after breakfast the next morning to continue their journey towards Vancouver Island.



A crowd eagerly awaits as the first of four Tribal Journeys canoes approaches the shores at Tsatsu.

TFN Commercial Retail Unit

The space has been confirmed for the TFN Commercial Retail Unit at Tsawwassen Commons, which will be located in the northeast area of the outdoor shopping centre, close to Walmart. Under the direction of Executive Council, work is currently underway on a business plan to help determine the best use of this space for showcasing Tsawwassen artisans.

EDUCATION

Educational Video on TFN's Treaty and History



The Education Department is working to create an educational video about Tsawwassen's Treaty.

Here, Laura Cassidy is pictured signing the 2004 Agreement-in-Principle.

As part of the new curriculum being developed within the Delta School District, the TFN Education Department is creating a video designed to educate viewers about how Tsawwassen First Nation is only one of a few First Nations to have completed the BC Treaty process, and how our Nation is moving forward since signing the historic treaty. Once complete, the video will be a total of 10-15 minutes and will incorporate historical pictures, archived video footage, and an explanation of how TFN's treaty process unfolded.

Graduation Celebration Dinner 2018

Executive Council confirmed preliminary details for the 2018 Graduation Celebration Dinner, which TFN will host at Tsawwassen Springs on June 25, 2018.

Education Funding

In order to better communicate the range of TFN's Education and Youth Funding programs available for Members to access, Executive Council directed staff to consolidate the programs into a single document. As part of the consolidation, Executive Council clarified and updated the Graduation Awards policy.

EVENTS

Members Gathering

Executive Council approved the agenda for the Members Gathering, which took place September 29 to October 1, 2017. The event included an Annual General Meeting and consultation/information sessions with Members on a new Strategic Plan, government programs, wills and the Judicial Council, and a special session that focused on ancestry and genealogy. Executive Council hosted a dinner for Members at the Longhouse on Friday evening, as part of an emphasis on culture. Executive Council also directed staff to conduct surveys on taxation and Members' usage of programs and services, and to host information booths for housing, property tax and facilities.



Brandy Adams, Louise Ahlm, Travis Proteau, Maryanne Adams, and Connie Adams gather around Jesseca Adams' computer to look at old family photos at the Members Gathering ancestry and genealogy session.



Heather Genge and Alyssa St. John were all smiles at TFN's Annual General Meeting.

FINANCE

Financial Management Policy Amendments to Reduce Member Debt

Executive Council amended the Financial Management Policy to support a new approach to reducing Member debt to TFN. Distributions and other payments payable to Members are withheld and put directly towards a Member's debt (except for Christmas distributions and cash honorariums, which all Members continue to receive). Members who have entered into a repayment plan and have paid down 50% of their debt within a 12-month period will be exempt from this deduction policy. This new approach—which was developed in consultation with Advisory Council—has already helped several Members to pay off their outstanding debts to TFN.

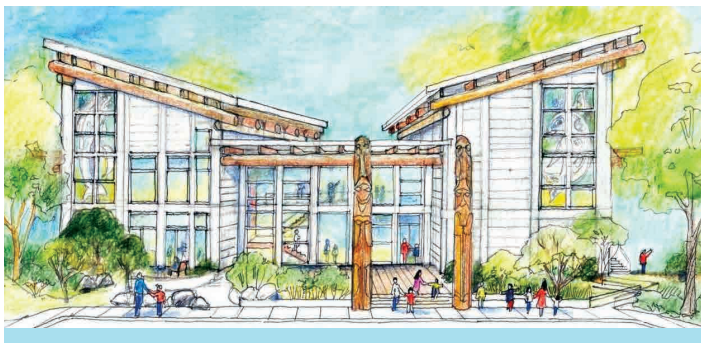
FACILITIES

Elder's Centre

Under the direction of Executive Council, consultants and staff have begun consultation with Elders (and soon-to-be Elders) about the new Elder's Centre. Two consultation sessions took place over the summer; one was a lunch with Members aged 55 and over, and the other happened at the Members Gathering. Further consultation will be scheduled for 2018.

Youth Centre

Work on the Youth Centre project is progressing well, and TFN Youth have been strongly engaged in the evolution of the building design. Staff held three consultation sessions over the summer to gather community input on the Youth Centre design. One session was exclusively for teens, another was for kindergarten to grade 12 children, and the third was open to all Members. The Youth Centre building layout and schematic design have now been completed, as well as a conceptual cost estimate.



HOUSING

Member Housing

The Member housing needs assessment was completed over the summer and subsequently presented at the Members Gathering. There is a significant need for housing, with Members indicating that there were close to 35 units of housing needed immediately. Colliers International, the consultant that won the RFQ bid, has begun working on the business plan to provide more details on costs for the housing plan, a plan for accessing grant funding, and to examine the overall size of units. The business plan is expected to be received by the end of 2017.

Based on the results of Facilities Plan consultation, Executive Council directed staff that the TFN-owned corner lots at the southeast corner of Falcon Way and Tsawwassen Drive be dedicated for multi-family, apartment-style housing for Elders, young adults, and families.

Housing Grants

Executive Council directed staff to help Members who are seeking financial assistance for housing by compiling a list of available housing grants and following up on grant applications with the funding bodies, as well as improving communications with Members about the various supports available through the Lands Department.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Financial and Tax Policy Discussions

Executive Council received updates from staff about discussions with British Columbia, Canada, and financial institutions on several financial and tax policy files. Executive Council directed staff to continue moving forward with negotiations on sharing PST revenue with British Columbia and accessing low-cost borrowing for infrastructure under Canada's *First Nations Fiscal Management Act*.

A sketch of the new Youth Centre entrance from Falcon Way.

First Nations Leaders' Gathering



Executive Councillor Tanya Corbet and Chief Bryce Williams at the First Nations Leaders' Gathering in Vancouver.

Chief Williams and Executive Councillor Tanya Corbet took part in the First Nations Leaders' Gathering in Vancouver on September 6-7. This was the first opportunity for TFN to meet the new provincial government. Over the course of three days, Chief Williams and Executive Councillor Corbet met with several ministers, including Premier Horgan, to tell TFN's story and raise important issues.

2017 Union of British Columbia Municipalities Convention

Building on their meetings at the First Nations Leaders' Gathering (FNLG), Chief Williams and Executive Councillor Corbet met with British Columbia cabinet ministers at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Conference from September 25-29. These meetings were an opportunity to reinforce key messages made at the FNLG, as well as to raise new issues that require attention. Together, these meetings generated momentum for continued collaboration with British Columbia on a number of files, and Executive Council directed staff to work with the Province on these files going forward.

Associate Deputy Minister Visit to TFN

Chief Williams and Executive Councillors Nikki Jacobs and Tanya Corbet hosted a visit by several Associate Deputy Ministers from the federal government to TFN on September 19. During the visit, Executive Councillors highlighted the important progress that TFN has made in recent years, while also acknowledging the need for more work and ongoing collaboration with our Treaty partners, including Canada.

Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs

On September 25, members of the House of Commons' Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs visited TFN. Executive Councillors Andrea Jacobs and Nikki Jacobs met with the Committee to discuss issues related to implementation of our Treaty. This input will help inform a report that the Committee is writing on specific claims and comprehensive land claims agreements.

Community to Community Forum

On July 20, TFN hosted the Tsawwassen First Nation – Metro Vancouver Community to Community Forum on Tsawwassen Lands. Participants included elected officials from local governments in the Metro Vancouver region and select staff from TFN and Metro Vancouver, as well as TFN's Executive Council, Legislature, and Advisory Council. A highlight of the half-day event—which provided an opportunity to build relationships and share information between governments—was a bus tour of Tsawwassen Lands, led by Chief Williams and Executive Councillor Nikki Jacobs.



Representatives from TFN and Metro Vancouver toured the mall and learned about Tsawwassen artists as part of the Community to Community Forum.

LEGISLATURE

Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 Sessions of the Tsawwassen Legislature.

Over the summer, Executive Council called the next two sittings of the Tsawwassen Legislature into session on the following dates:

- November 7 - 21, 2017, and
- February 13 - March 15, 2018

MEMBER COMMENTS

Executive Council received a number of comments from Members during the July to September period. These comments are reviewed and discussed in-camera, and acted upon as appropriate.

NATURAL RESOURCES & FISHERIES

2017 Fraser River FSC Access & Lower Fraser (Area 29) FSC Fisheries Issues

TFN hosted a meeting on July 25, 2017 of the Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance to discuss options regarding concerns and impacts related to the requests by other First Nations for additional access to the Fraser River and the request for additional species. Other First Nations will also be sending letters to DFO with similar concerns.

Community Food Fish

Three totes of fish were brought to the cannery to be processed for community programs, and up to three spring salmon per adult Member, plus one per child, were allocated for the food fish distribution. Executive Council directed staff to ensure support was available for Elders who required assistance processing their fish.



TFN processed three totes of fish for community programs during the summer FSC fisheries.

TERRITORY MANAGEMENT

George Massey Tunnel Replacement Project

Executive Council worked with our neighbours, including Delta, to participate in ongoing discussions around the future of the George Massey Tunnel. Executive Council directed staff to continue engaging with British Columbia on the review of the replacement project to ensure that any future crossing addresses the tunnel's safety and environmental risks.

Canada – US Cooperation in the Salish Sea

Executive Council took steps to ensure TFN is able to participate in joint efforts by Canada and the United States around planning, research and consultation activities in the Salish Sea. As a first step, staff sent comments to Canada on proposed management priorities for the Salish Sea in the next several years.

TFN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (TEDC)

TEDC Organizational Changes

In July, Executive Council approved the necessary changes to the board and management structure of TEDC to allow for more direct involvement of TFN's elected leaders in: (1) re-evaluating TFN's long-term economic development goals, and (2) actively managing the strategic and operational initiatives designed to achieve these goals. These changes were based on the findings of the TEDC Review led by Doug MacArthur earlier in the year.

Deltaport Truck Staging Facility

Executive Council reviewed and approved a proposal for Tsawwassen First Nation Construction / Matcon Civil Joint Venture (TMJV) to bid on the contract to build a truck staging facility for Port Metro Vancouver—a project intended to alleviate congestion on local roadways, including Deltaport Way. TMJV was awarded the contract and construction is now underway for the facility, which is scheduled for completion in late 2018.



A GROWING GOVERNMENT

The Tsawwassen Government is growing rapidly, with 21 new employees sworn in at the TFN Public Affirmation Ceremony at the Fall 2017 Legislative Assembly.

Education and Skills Development

- **Krista Cunningham** (*Infant Toddler ECE*) works in the daycare centre. Before joining TFN, Krista was the ECE, Preschool Coordinator & Assistant Manager at the Kids in Paradise Childcare Center in Tsawwassen.

Executive Governance

- **Lisa McCoy** (*Executive Assistant*) is a part of the Corporate Governance team and provides executive administrative support to the CAO and the Chief. Previously, she was a Finance, Admin & Data Coordinator, an Elders Coordinator, and an Office Manager (many in First Nation organizations). Lisa is a First Nation Member.

Health and Social Services

- **Mona Robertson** (*Elders Coordinator*) works in the Health and Social Services team. She has years of experience as a private caregiver for seniors and special needs individuals. Mona is a First Nation Member.
- **Rizwana Azad** (*Health Care Aide*) changed from working as a contractor assigned to TFN to joining TFN as a full-time regular employee with the Health and Social Services team.

Human Resources

- **Cherie Jackson** (*Payroll and Benefits Administrator and HR Assistant*). Cherie's primary focus is on payroll and benefits. She brings over 12 years of payroll and benefits administration experience and she is a Certified Payroll Practitioner in Payroll.

Finance and Information Technology

- **Michael Robertson** (*IT Coordinator*) focuses on TFN IT projects and complements the contracted IT provider in providing employee support. Michael is a First Nation Member.

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A GROWING GOVERNMENT

Lands and Engineering

- **Eleanor Dwyer** (*Lands Assistant*) brings many years of administrative experience to the Lands team.
- **Gordon Blackett** (*Projects and Facilities Supervisor*) leads the Facilities team. Gordon has broad based construction and maintenance related experience and worked as the Manager of Technical Services for Ledcor Industries. He is a TFN Member spouse.
- **Keith Wahlstrom** (*Manager of Engineering Services*) leads Public Works, Utilities, Facilities, and Property Management. Keith is a seasoned professional in various municipalities over the years, most recently with Salt Spring Island.
- **Kevin Tosoff** (*Senior Planning Official*) provides support and does the groundwork for planning projects in the Lands department. He was a Planning Technician II for the City of Burnaby and a Planning Consultant with Jorden Cook Associates.
- **Komal Shaikh** (*Senior Planner*) focusses on planning relating to policy and housing. She has over 15 years of international leadership experience in the government, private, non-profit and academic sectors in land use planning, transportation planning and architecture.
- **Lloyd Dykstra** (*Facilities Labourer*) works in the Facilities team. He brings years of experience as a handyman and foreman in the construction industry.
- **Mike Murphy** (*Senior Operator and Utilities Supervisor*) heads up the Sewer Treatment Plant and the Utilities team, Mike has over 21 years working on water and wastewater treatment systems and holds a Wastewater Treatment Level IV certification.
- **Rohit Vithal** (*Programs and Capital Projects Engineer*) brings over 15 years of US and Canadian experience in the professional engineering field. He is a P.Eng with a BSc in Civil Engineering.
- **Santokh Uppal** (*Compliance and Enforcement Officer*). San comes to us after 29 years as a Police Officer with the Delta Police Department.

- **Shelly Etzerza** (*Lands Assistant*) provides administrative support to the Engineering Services Manager and the Director of Lands. Shelly is a First Nation Member.
- **Victor Nguyen** (*Maintenance Planner*) is based out of the Sewage Treatment Plant and focusses on equipment condition, maintenance systems and inventory. Victor previously worked as a Maintenance Planner with the City of Vancouver.
- **Vladimir Nikolaev** (*Electrical Maintenance Technician*) is based out of the Sewage Treatment Plant. Vlad is a Red Seal Industrial Electrician with years of experience as an Instrumentation Maintenance Technician in several Lower Mainland sewage treatment plants.
- **Wenyan Yu** (*Senior Planner*) mainly focusses on development-related planning. Wenyan was the Manager of Planning and Lands Division for the City of Yellowknife and has over 15 years of planning-related experience at increasingly senior levels.

Natural Resources

- **Erin Weckworth** (*Natural Resources Enforcement Officer*) is the newest member of the Natural Resources team. She has a Fish, Wildlife and Recreation Diploma and worked as a Park Patroller in Pacific Spirit Regional Park.

Strategic Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs

- **Tejas Madhur** (*Policy Analyst*) works in the Strategic Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs team. She was previously a legislative drafter for the Government of Nunavut.