

COUNCIL'S CORNER

Spring 2018



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TSAWWASSEN FIRST NATION

ʔəy̓ sweyal. This quarterly issue of *Council's Corner* is a summary of Executive Council decisions and updates from January to March 2018.

Building a strong future. Building a strong community.



*Executive Councillor
Tanya Corbet*



*Executive Councillor
Nikki Jacobs*



*Chief
Bryce Williams*



*Executive Councillor
Laura Cassidy*



*Executive Councillor
Andrea Jacobs*

ADMINISTRATIVE

Livestream Subscription Renewal

In January, Executive Council directed staff to continue Livestreaming of the Tsawwassen Legislature sessions. Livestreaming was first introduced in 2017 as a one-year pilot project to make the Legislature's deliberations accessible to all Members.

COMMUNICATION

Branding and Style Guide

In February, Executive Council approved the creative foundation of the TFN branding project, which was developed through consultation with Advisory Council and cultural staff. Executive Council directed staff to proceed with the next phase of the project, comprised of working with Myron Advertising + Design to develop three distinct design concepts for review by Advisory Council prior to presentation to Executive Council.

COMMITTEES & COUNCILS

Executive Council reviewed minutes from the meetings of Advisory Council held during the January to March 2018 period.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Policing "Value for Money" Study

Executive Council invited Dr. Curt Griffiths from Simon Fraser University's School of Criminology to talk about a study he is leading on behalf of the Delta Police Department. The study will look at the value TFN is getting for its annual police service contract with Delta. Executive Council directed staff to provide support to Members taking part in a series of focus groups that Dr. Griffiths and his group will be organizing. Members who are interested will be able to take part in separate focus groups for men, women, youth and elders. The focus groups will look at a range of issues including whether they would like to see Delta Police involved in any additional activities, and what role Delta Police could play in improving quality of life at TFN.

EDUCATION

Delta School District Professional Day

On February 23, Chief Williams attended a Delta School District-wide Professional Development Day at Seaquam Secondary School, where he delivered opening remarks and shared a song with the teachers in attendance.

EVENTS

Breakfast with Executive Council

Under the direction of Executive Council, staff organized a “Breakfast with Executive Council” on Saturday, February 3, 2018 at the Recreation Centre, following the publication of the Winter 2017 issue of *Council’s Corner*.



There was a great turnout of Members and their families at this quarterly opportunity to share a meal, ask questions, and discuss community priorities with Executive Council in an informal setting.



Executive Councillor Laura Cassidy enjoyed a visit with Darryl and Alvina Splockton at the February breakfast.



Executive Councillors Andrea and Nikki Jacobs caught up with Bertha and Dawn Williams, who were accompanied by Summer and Rylan.

Members’ Gathering 2018

In January, Executive Council set the date and location of the next Members’ Gathering for October 12–14, 2018 at the River Rock in Richmond. Detailed planning for the event is underway.

Treaty Day 2019 – 10th Anniversary Celebration

In March, Executive Council directed staff to strike a committee to assist with planning for a special community celebration to mark the 10th anniversary of Treaty Day on Wednesday, April 3, 2019. The committee will include staff as well as Members from Executive Council, Legislature, Advisory Council, and the Standing Committee on Language and Culture. Preliminary ideas for the 10th anniversary celebration were discussed, including plans for performances by TFN dance and drumming groups and other cultural components, guest speakers, invitations to dignitaries from other First Nations, Canada, and British Columbia, and interactive activities for children.

FINANCE

Vancity Capital Projects Financing

In July 2014, TFN secured two construction loans with Vancity to invest in the infrastructure required to develop TFN’s former reserve lands and the Treaty settlement lands. The respective projects were the Waste Water Treatment Plant and the Ivanhoe Cambridge-delivered transportation projects, both of which are now completed. Only interest was paid on the loans during the construction phase.

The loans reached upwards of \$37 million during the summer of 2017. Since that time, the loans were reduced through significant repayments funded through offsite levies collected from developers moving forward with land development projects.

During January 2018, TFN refinanced the loans to begin repayment of loan principle and interest. By the time the loans were refinanced, they had been reduced to less than \$31 million in total. The refinanced loans were amortized over 25 years. The principle portion of the loan will be repaid through off site levies collected through future land development.



TFN has refinanced the Vancity construction loans that were taken out to invest in key infrastructure on Tsawwassen Lands, including the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

GOVERNANCE

Indigenous Self-governance Workshop

On March 22, Members of Executive Council and the Tsawwassen Legislature, as well as some TFN staff, attended a workshop led by Indigenous self-governance expert Dr. Manley Begay. The inspirational and informative session was hosted by TFN and sponsored by Naut'sa mawt Tribal Council.



Dr. Begay held a captive audience of Legislators and staff at his workshop in March. (PHOTO: Naut'sa mawt Tribal Council)

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Working together as Modern Treaty Nations of BC

On January 15, Executive Councillor Tanya Corbet attended a meeting with other modern treaty First Nations. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss working together in pursuit of common goals related to implementation of our Treaties. In March, Chief Williams signed a joint letter with Tla'amin Nation and the Maa-nulth First Nations to Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (formerly INAC) on forgiveness of Treaty loans and other Treaty-related topics.

Joint Gathering 2018

Chief Williams and Executive Councillor Tanya Corbet attended the annual Joint Gathering on January 16-18, 2018. The Joint Gathering is co-hosted by Canada and the BC First Nations Leadership Council, and represents an important opportunity for dialogue on areas of shared concern. This year's gathering included discussion on the

fiscal relationship between Canada and self-governing First Nations (including TFN), housing and infrastructure programs, and other topics of interest to TFN.

First Nations Summit

Chief Williams and Executive Councillor Tanya Corbet attended the First Nations Summit meeting on February 7 and 8, 2018. The Summit is a forum for First Nations in BC to address issues around Treaty negotiations, and to represent the interests of First Nations that are participating in the Treaty process. This meeting was an important opportunity for the Chief and Tanya to advance TFN's interests on challenges and concerns around implementation of our Treaty, and to push for more support for Treaty implementation. At this meeting, Tanya was elected to the position of BC Treaty Commissioner.

PST Revenue Sharing

In February, TFN signed a Provincial Sales Tax Revenue Sharing Agreement with BC. This agreement allows TFN to receive a share of the PST revenue generated on Tsawwassen Lands.

Mobility Pricing Stakeholder Engagement

On February 28, Executive Councillor Nikki Jacobs attended the Mobility Pricing Independent Commission's (MPIC) stakeholder engagement workshop with mayors and councils of Metro Vancouver municipalities. This session was part of the second phase of stakeholder engagement for the MPIC, which will inform a report and recommendations for traffic decongestion charging approaches to reduce congestion, promote fairness, and support investments in the Metro Vancouver region's transportation system.

Meetings in Ottawa



Chief Williams met with Minister Qualtrough (left) and Minister LeBlanc (centre) during his recent trip to Ottawa.

Chief Williams attended the annual Land Claims Agreement Coalition (LCAC) Leadership Meeting held in Ottawa from February 27-28. He drummed to open the Celebration of Modern Treaties reception, held at the National Arts Centre. While in Ottawa, the Chief met with Minister Carolyn Bennett (as part of the LCAC Meeting), Minister Carla Qualtrough (MP for Delta), and Minister Dominic Leblanc (Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard). Staff accompanying Chief Williams met with senior officials from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, as well as with staff from the office of the Minister of Indigenous Services.

During his meeting with Minister Leblanc, Chief Williams pushed for a change to DFO's vessel length policy, which puts limits on transferring fishing licences to new vessels. Chief Williams explained that the policy is slowly reducing the number of Members who can lease TFN's commercial salmon and crab licences. Executive Council has directed staff to continue working to resolve this issue as soon as possible.

Proposed Casino in Delta

In March, Executive Council sent a letter to Delta providing comments on the new casino proposed for the Town and Country Inn site in Ladner. The letter discussed the social impacts associated with casinos, and it raised questions about the traffic impacts of the project.

Meeting with Minister Bennett

On March 6, Chief Williams met with the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss Canada's new Recognition and Implementation of Rights Framework. Chief Williams emphasized that Tsawwassen's rights are articulated in our Treaty, and that any conversation about recognizing rights is also a conversation about implementing our Treaty. The Chief raised a number of specific proposals for improving Treaty implementation, and there was agreement on both sides to continued engagement on this issue going forward.



Chief Williams engaged Minister Bennett (right) and Senior Assistant Deputy Minister Joe Wild (left) on the topics of Treaty rights and implementation during a meeting at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre in March. (PHOTO: Canada)

LANDS

Land Act Review

The TFN *Constitution Act* requires that the *Land Act* be reviewed within 10 years of Treaty. In January, Executive Council reviewed and approved a proposed *Land Act* review timeline and consultation plan. Executive Council further directed staff to concurrently review the *Land Use Planning and Development Act*.



A Land Act review timeline and consultation plan was approved by Executive Council in January.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Executive Council received a number of comments from Members during the January to March period. These comments were reviewed and discussed in camera, and acted upon as appropriate.

Members can submit comments for Executive Council review and discussion via the comment box at the main administration building reception area, or by contacting CAO Rick Zerr or a member of Executive Council directly.

MEMBERSHIP ACT

Membership Act Amendments Letter

Executive Council directed staff to include a letter with the March distribution payments reminding Members of changes to the *Membership Act* that will be coming into effect on June 5, 2019. As of that date, anyone who is a member of a foreign indigenous entity will no longer be eligible for Tsawwassen membership. (For example, if an individual is currently a dual member of both Tsawwassen First Nation and an American Indian tribe, he or she would have until June 5, 2019 to either withdraw from the American tribe, or become ineligible for Tsawwassen membership.)

The letter encourages Members who have questions about any of the amendments to the *Membership Act* to contact Mary Nemeth, manager of Corporate Policy and Government Services, at 604-943-2112 or mnemeth@tsawwassenfirstnation.com.

A GROWING GOVERNMENT



The Tsawwassen Government continues to grow, with ten new staff members—including four Tsawwassen Members and one Member Spouse—joining us since the Fall 2017 session of the Legislature.

Education and Skills Development

Jessica Adams (*Cultural Coordinator*) is a Tsawwassen Member and currently serving on the Tsawwassen Legislature. Her primary focus will be coordinating cultural programs for the TFN community.

Yashneel Prahalad (*Teacher*) provides on-site academic support for TFN students in grades 8–12 on Tsawwassen Lands three evenings a week. Yash is also an Integration Support Teacher in the Surrey School District.

Corporate Governance

Terri Splockton (*Office Assistant*) is a Tsawwassen Member and brings with her years of customer service experience and a wealth of TFN knowledge. Terri will be based out of the reception area of the TFN Admin Building answering phones, greeting visitors, and providing administrative support.

Pamela Rowat (*Office Assistant*) recently joined TFN in a permanent capacity after a successful three-month temping term. Pam will be based out of the reception area of the TFN Admin Building providing administrative support, as well as assisting with answering phones and greeting visitors.

Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs

Skosswunson Victoria Williams (*Territory Management Coordinator*) is a Tsawwassen Member and currently serving on the Tsawwassen Legislature. She previously worked as an Indigenous Cultural Enhancement Facilitator with the Delta School District. Victoria will help advance TFN's interests and uphold Tsawwassen Treaty rights throughout the Traditional Territory.

Lands and Engineering

Tavia Proteau (*Lands Assistant*) is a Tsawwassen Member. Working out of the Lands Department office, Tavia's primary focus will be handling business and animal licensing, as well as general front counter functions.

William Harry (*Facilities Labourer*) is Ojibway/Cree and the spouse of a Tsawwassen Member. Will has worked with us on a temporary basis in the past, and now joins the Facilities team as a regular full-time employee.

Karl Neufeld (*Chief Building Official*) is primarily responsible for the administration, interpretation and enforcement of the BC Building Code and TFN regulations. He is a level three Building Inspector with the Building Officials Association of BC, and comes to us after more than 12 years with the City of Courtenay.

Abubaker Ghafoori (*Compliance and Enforcement Officer*) will primarily focus on regulatory Compliance and Enforcement on Tsawwassen Lands. Abu brings a strong background in security, including working as an Aviation Sector manager at YVR. He is also an active volunteer with the Delta Police Reserves, and works with TFN teens through Youth Centre programming.

Terrance Magnusson (*GIS Coordinator*) brings over 20 years of experience in geographic information system (GIS). Terry's primary focus will be developing and maintaining TFN's GIS spatial and attribute data, and assisting with preparing maps.

PHOTO: Left to right: Will Harry, Terri Splockton, Victoria Williams, Jessica Adams, Pam Rowat, and Terry Magnusson. (Not pictured: Yash Prabalad, Tavia Proteau, Karl Neufeld, and Abu Ghafoori.)

LEGISLATURE



PHOTO:
Salish Sea Sentinel

The Tsawwassen Legislature convened for its Spring 2018 session from February 13 to March 6, 2018. Video recordings of the live-streamed Spring 2018 Legislature sessions are available for viewing online at <https://livestream.com/tfn>

Mentorship Program

Executive Council reported to the Spring Legislative Assembly that it supports the Fall 2017 Legislator resolution calling on TFN to establish a mentorship program. Executive Council reported that it has approved a new *Employment and Training Policy* that includes provisions for using a wage subsidy to support mentorship and internship opportunities. In addition, Executive Council reported that staff are in the final stages of developing the structure for the mentorship program, including plans for career assistance and guidance, as well as the pairing of mentors with mentee partners.

Member Development Regulations

Executive Council responded to a Fall 2017 Legislator resolution calling for a review of development regulations for Tsawwassen Members within the TFN Community Housing Area. At the Spring 2018 session, Executive Council reported to Legislature that there are several inter-departmental processes currently underway, including a comprehensive review and Member consultations around the *Land Act* and the *Land Use Planning and Development Act*. Any changes to these Acts might also result in amendments to the regulations under those Acts. Therefore, Executive Council will report back on this resolution at the fall sitting of the Legislature.

Dual Roles

Executive Council updated Legislature on a study that it commissioned in response to an earlier resolution of the Tsawwassen Legislature. The study looked at whether employees of Tsawwassen Corporations should also be allowed to serve as elected officials. Based on the results of that study, Executive Council has directed staff to draft amendments to the *Government Organization Act* and the *Conflict of Interest Act*. The proposed amendments—which will likely be tabled in the Legislature in Fall 2018—would bar employees of corporations that are closely held by the Tsawwassen Government from serving on Executive Council after the 2019 election, or from serving in the Legislative Assembly after the 2022 election. The proposed amendments would also ensure that employees of all TFN businesses are covered by the *Conflict of Interest Act*. Further, Executive Council reported that it has directed staff to provide additional conflict of interest training for new employees, as part of their TFN orientation, as well as for members of Executive Council and Legislators.

Strategic Plan

Executive Council approved the draft 2018-2023 Strategic Plan and directed staff to present it to the Legislature for approval. Executive Council also directed staff to align TFN's planning and budgeting process with the Strategic Plan's goals and objectives, and to continue developing practical and relevant indicators of success. The Strategic Plan was approved by the Legislature in March. The Plan will now be sent to a graphic designer for layout before being distributed to Members.



(Above) Elder Ruth Adams opens a session of the Tsawwassen Legislature with a prayer.



CAO Rick Zerr signs his Pledge of Public Service, witnessed by Chief Williams, at the first sitting of the Spring 2018 Legislative Assembly. PHOTO: Salish Sea Sentinel

2018-2019 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

After extensive review and discussion, Executive Council approved the *2018-2019 Appropriations Act* (the budget) for presentation to the Legislature. The budget, which was approved by Legislature with minor amendments, contains funding for a number of important new initiatives, including:

- **Capital Projects:** Construction is planned on the collector road at 27B Avenue, discharge pipe for the new TFN industrial lands storm water pump station, the new Youth Centre, the new Field House (at the Sports Field), the Blue Bridge buttress replacement, as well as on Falcon Way repairs.
- **Member Housing:** The Lands Department has been authorized to proceed with planning and preparations for a new 36-unit multi-family rental housing building.
- **Policy Capacity:** A new Policy Analyst, a grant writer, and an administrative assistant will be hired to support the Corporate Policy and Government Services and Strategic Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs teams.
- **Information Technology:** Tsawwassen Government will be implementing enterprise-wide software, including SharePoint, GIS, and new Finance and Lands software systems.
- **Lands (Planning) and Lands (Engineering):** The 2018-2019 budget reflects the recommendation made in the recent Lands Department review to separate the Lands budget into two areas (Planning and Engineering). This year's Lands budget provides for a full complement of staff in the Lands Department.



Minister Qualtrough addressed the Tsawwassen Legislature during the Spring 2018 sitting.

Legislature Address by Minister Qualtrough

Executive Council extended an invitation for the Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Canada's Minister of Public Services and Procurement and the Member of Parliament for Delta, to attend the Spring session of the Tsawwassen Legislature. Minister Qualtrough accepted the invitation and addressed the Legislature on February 6.

Resolutions Passed

The following resolutions were passed by the Legislature during the Spring 2018 session:

- R. 001-2018** – Resolution to open TFN educational funding, grants, and awards to all Members
- R. 002-2018** – Resolution to cease Tsatsu Gas operations pending re-branding

ORDERS OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The following Orders were passed by Executive Council during the January to March 2018 period:

- O.001-2018:** Order to appoint Ben Bisset to the TFN Final Agreement Implementation Committee
- O.002-2018:** Order to appoint a new Board of Directors to TEDC
- O.003-2018:** Order to approve TMJV site fill contract
- O.004-2018:** Order to approve borrowing from VanCity and rescind 075-2017
- O.005-2018:** Order to approve guarantee by TFN Commercial Lands Corporation and rescind 078-2017
- O.006-2018:** Order to approve Rezoning application RZ-2017-02
- O.007-2018:** Order to approve Rezoning application RZ-2017-03
- O.008-2018:** Order to approve extension of servicing agreements with Delta
- O.009-2018:** Order to authorize execution and delivery of Land documents
- O.0010-2018:** Order to authorize signing of the TFN PST Revenue Sharing Agreement
- O.0011-2018:** Order to approve Neighbourhood Plan Amendment NP-2017-01 and Zoning Regulation Amendment RZ 2017-01
- O.0012-2018:** Order to approve License Agreement for Lots 26 and 29, Plan EPP61534
- O.0013-2018:** Order to issue Soil Stability + Land Fill DP to Aquilini TFSI Development LP DP-2016-22
- O.0014-2018:** Order to Issue Soil Stability + Land Fill Development Permit to Executive TFN Development GP Ltd. DP-2016-18
- O.0015-2018:** Order to authorize signature to amend contribution agreement re George Massey Tunnel Replacement Project
- O.0016-2018:** Order to issue Environmental Protection Development Permit DP-2018-03 (Falcon Way Cross-Over)
- O.0017-2018:** Order to approve Industrial Form and Character Development Permit DP-2014-03 Amendment
- O.0018-2018:** Order to approve the 2018-2019 Enhanced Police Services Agreement