

COUNCIL'S CORNER

Summer 2017



Executive Council at the spring 2017 session of the Legislature
L-R: Laura Cassidy, Nikki Jacobs, Chief Bryce Williams, Andrea Jacobs, and Tanya Corbet

ᑲəy̓ sweyal, Tsawwassen Members.

This quarterly issue of *Council's Corner* contains a summary of decisions made by Executive Council from April to June 2017.

Building a strong future.
Building a strong community.

COMMUNICATION

2017-2018 Service Plan

Executive Council approved the 2017-2018 Service Plan, which reports on how the Tsawwassen Government will spend the budget approved by the Legislature. The Service Plan shows the activities, goals, and performance indicators of each Department. In future years, Executive Council will be revisiting the layout of the Service Plan, updating it as needed to ensure we are communicating our priorities in a meaningful and engaging way.



One of the Member photo collages featured in TFN's 2017-2018 Service Plan.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Information Management System

Executive Council directed staff to begin the first phase of the Sharepoint Electronic Data Record Management System project, which begins with a needs assessment and will eventually lead to a new information management system that will improve efficiency and productivity.

Council's Corner

Executive Council recently reinstated publication of *Council's Corner*. In April, Executive Council approved a new layout for *Council's Corner*, which is meant to be more engaging and appealing. Executive Council also directed staff to put in place a new process to ensure *Council's Corner* is published on a regular basis going forward.

CULTURE

Ancestral Remains

Under the direction of Executive Council, staff have been working closely with other First Nations, including Semiahmoo, to repatriate Tsawwassen ancestral remains stored at Simon Fraser University to Tsawwassen Lands. Executive Council has similarly supported other First Nations, such as Tsawout, in repatriating their own ancestors for burial in their territory.

Cultural Grants and Longhouse Rental Policy

Under the direction of Executive Council, Education and Culture staff have begun undertaking work on revising the policies and processes for cultural grants and longhouse rentals. As part of this work, staff will consult with Elders and cultural advisors within the community.

First Fish Ceremony and Dock Blessing

On June 26, the Natural Resources Department hosted a First Fish Ceremony community lunch at the Longhouse, followed by the “Feeding of the River” ceremony to ensure the protection of all fishermen. As part of the day’s events, TFN’s new dock was also blessed.



Melinda Cassidy, Brayden Holtz, Isaac Williams, and Victoria Williams at the dock blessing ceremony.

EDUCATION

Education Funding Programs

Executive Council directed Education staff to conduct a comprehensive review of Member Grant Programs policy. As part of this review process, staff will be seeking ways to improve the application processes, improve communication around the availability of various grants, and create a master package of all education funding-related policies.

EVENTS

Treaty Day



The Treaty Day photo booth brought out the silly side of many, including William Harry and Terri Splockton.

On April 3, Executive Council hosted a celebration of the 8th anniversary of TFN’s Treaty Effective Date at the Recreation Centre. It was a fun-filled family event that included hockey, bouncy castles, face painting, and cookie decorating.

Sports Field Opening

On May 23, Executive Council hosted a community event to celebrate the opening of the second phase of the sports field, which includes the beautiful new playground and sports box. Chief Williams delivered opening remarks, followed by dinner and an opportunity to socialize.



A quiet afternoon at our picturesque new sports field complex.

Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference

On June 11, TFN was host to 18 young leaders from the Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference. Executive Councillor Tanya Corbet and Director of Lands Charles Nash talked to the visitors about our Treaty and the development on Tsawwassen Lands, and guided the visitors on a tour.

Breakfast with Executive Council

There was a great turnout for a Breakfast with Executive Council at the Recreation Centre on the morning of Saturday, June 17. A delicious breakfast was served, and Members had an opportunity to chat with members of Executive Council in an informal setting.

Graduation Celebration

The annual Community Graduation Celebration was held on June 19 at the Tsawwassen Springs Golf Course. The following Grad Milestones were recognized at the event: two Pre-School grads, eight Grade 7 grads, two Grade 12 grads, and five Post-Secondary grads.



The Bak family celebrated two graduates on June 19. Clockwise from top left: Andrew (Masters in Business Administration), Nadine, Autumn (Grade 7), and Michael Bak.

In addition, four TFN Members were awarded the Chevron Scholarship Award of \$2,500 each. Executive Council has been working with developers such as Chevron to obtain scholarship funding to support post-secondary education opportunities for Members.

National Aboriginal Day



An action shot from the NAD hockey game, which was played in TFN's vibrant new sports box for the first time.

On June 21, Executive Council hosted a National Aboriginal Day community celebration at the new TFN sports field. The event was very well-attended, with an estimated 250 guests, including Members and leaseholders. Attendees enjoyed a delicious barbecue lunch courtesy of the Delta Police Department, beading and weaving, an ice cream sundae station, face painting, carnival games, healing massage, and the very popular Bannock Bites. The highlight of the day was the annual National Aboriginal Day "kids versus Delta Police" hockey game in the new sports box. Despite a valiant effort by the DPD, the kids emerged victorious!

FINANCE

Appointment of Property Taxation Authority Directors

Executive Council appointed Chief Bryce Williams, Tanya Corbet, and Nikki Jacobs as Directors of TFN's Property Taxation Authority, in addition to appointing Farida Bishay and Soraya Bishay as the Non-Member Directors.

Investment Management Strategy

Executive Council approved a multimanager investment management strategy for Tsawwassen Government funds. The purpose of this approach is to manage risk and market volatility by dividing investments between two investment management firms.

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Helping Each Other

In April and May, the Health and Social Services department hosted a five-workshop series about the history of TFN, how that history affects the community today, and how TFN is moving forward as a Nation. These interactive workshops provided an opportunity to learn about traditional knowledge and to facilitate a healing journey. The workshops were very well-attended, with an average of 40 participants per session, including members of Executive Council.

New Counsellors and Traditional Healers

With funds approved by the Legislature in the *2017/2018 Appropriations Act*, the Health and Social Services department hired four new wellness contractors—two traditional healers and two counsellors—to enhance their overall service offerings.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

National Housing Strategy

In response to announcements about new federal funding for housing, Chief Williams sent a letter to the Parliamentary Secretary for Housing and Urban Affairs explaining TFN's specific housing challenges. The letter also expressed TFN's interest in accessing federal funding to resolve these challenges. In the letter, Chief Williams called for support to improve the conditions of existing homes and build new market, affordable, and social housing for Members. Going forward, Executive Council will continue to engage with other level of governments in support of efforts to expand opportunities for Member housing on Tsawwassen Lands.

Federal Government Meetings

Chief Williams and TFN staff travelled to Ottawa from April 10-13, 2017 to meet with federal Ministers and senior government officials. During the trip, Chief Williams engaged with Ministers and officials to present TFN's views and concerns on a number of key files, including the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 project, cumulative impacts in the Fraser River and Salish Sea, Member housing, and issues related to Treaty implementation.

JUDICIAL COUNCIL

New Judicial Council Appointment

In June 2017, Christopher Ramsey was appointed to serve on TFN's Judicial Council. The TFN Judicial Council is responsible for many matters under Tsawwassen Law. Primary functions include hearing challenges to the validity of Tsawwassen Laws, resolving disputes between Members and elected officials, making recommendations to courts on sentencing of TFN Members, investigating financial irregularities, and other duties assigned to it.

LANDS

Commercial Daycare Zoning Amendment

Executive Council approved a zoning amendment to allow for a new commercial daycare operation in Tsawwassen Commons, and directed staff to develop criteria and guidelines to address daycare use in the Commercial Mixed Use Development Permit Area.

Multi-Family Residential Use Development Permit

Executive Council approved an order to issue a Multi-family Residential Use Development Permit for a 112-unit, four-story Aquilini apartment complex adjacent to the waterpark.

Supplementary Design Criteria

Executive Council approved amendments to the TFN Supplementary Design Criteria that now require developers to design and construct basic park elements as part of all housing development projects.

Temporary Sports Field Facilities

Executive Council approved the rental of a wheelchair-accessible single-unit washroom and purchase of a sports equipment storage locker as an interim measure until the clubhouse is built.



The temporary facilities are discreetly situated next to the sports field parking lot.

Zoning Changes on Falcon Way

Executive Council approved the necessary zoning changes on Falcon Way to allow for greater diversity in Member housing options, including carriage homes.



A Member house and adjacent carriage home currently under construction just off Falcon Way.

MEMBER COMMENTS

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

MEMBER HOUSING PROJECT

Under the direction of Executive Council, staff continued to make progress on a project to build new Member housing on Tsawwassen Lands. In June, staff began a phone survey to ask Members about their interest in rental housing. The results of this survey will be used for an assessment of Member housing needs. Staff also submitted an application to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation for funding support for non-profit housing.

Staff also submitted an application to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation for funding support for non-profit housing, which may be included in the housing project pending the outcome of the needs assessment.

NATURAL RESOURCES & FISHERIES

Commercial Crab Sublicenses

Under the direction of Executive Council, the Natural Resources Department issued a letter to TFN's commercial crabbers as a reminder of their obligations under the *Commercial Crab Sublicense Agreement*—including restrictions on transferring licenses and/or sub-sublicensing—and the consequences for failing to abide by the Agreement.

National Marine Conservation Area

In April, TFN's Natural Resources Advisory Committee (NRAC) received a presentation from Parks Canada on a proposed Gulf Island National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA). The proposed NMCA project—which would encompass the marine area around the existing Gulf Island National Park Reserve—is still in the proposal and feasibility stage of a two-year consultation plan.

While the NRAC expressed general support for Parks Canada's proposed conservation project, the committee also raised a number of concerns, including around shared territory. The NRAC will continue to remain engaged in Parks Canada's consultation process throughout future stages.

TERRITORY MANAGEMENT

Independent Crab Study

In 2016, Executive Council directed staff to study the effects of the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 expansion project on crab and crab habitat. The results of the study suggest that there will be a significant loss of fishing area for TFN's Food, Social, and Ceremonial crab fishery, with fewer offsetting benefits than anticipated. In June 2017, Executive Council directed staff to submit the study to the Environmental Assessment process to ensure the Review Panel understands the potential effects of the Terminal 2 expansion project on our crab fishery.



Staff conducted and submitted a study on the effects of port expansions on TFN's Food, Social, and Ceremonial crab fishery.

Review of Environmental Assessment Processes

The federal government is reviewing how it conducts environmental assessments. Executive Council and staff have been actively engaged with federal officials to ensure TFN's interests are heard in this process. Staff have consulted with the Natural Resources Advisory Committee and held community consultation sessions to hear Member input. In June, Chief Williams and Executive Council Member Nikki Jacobs met with senior officials from the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency to provide TFN's views and underscore the need for environmental assessments to respect our Treaty rights.



TFN is engaged in ongoing environmental assessments around the proposed Roberts Bank Terminal 2 expansion project, as well as conversations with Canada on the environmental assessment process itself.



END OF TRANSACTION TAX EXEMPTIONS

May 1, 2017 marked the end of Tsawwassen Members' exemption from GST, PST, and other transaction taxes. Executive Council took several steps to support Members through this transition period and ensure TFN receives a fair share of the taxes collected on Tsawwassen Lands.

Information Session for Members

Executive Council directed staff to organize a community information session in April where Members could ask questions about the new taxes. In attendance were tax experts from Deloitte and the BC Ministry of Finance. Staff livestreamed the session for Members who could not attend in person. After the session, Executive Council sent a letter to all Members to address concerns and respond to questions.

Goods And Services Tax Act

Executive Council also enacted the Tsawwassen *Goods and Services Tax Act*, which provides TFN with a share of federal transaction taxes raised on Tsawwassen Lands, including at the malls. At the same time, staff were actively involved in discussions with Canada about the possibility of a new, and fairer, model for tax sharing on Tsawwassen Lands. Executive Council also instructed staff to continue negotiating with the Province for access to Provincial Sales Tax revenue associated with Tsawwassen Lands.

Resolutions Regarding Taxes and Distributions

Over the spring and summer, Executive Council directed staff to research options for two resolutions passed by the Legislature dealing with taxes and distributions. Executive Council will report back to the Legislature on both resolutions in fall 2017.



At the upcoming fall sitting, Legislature will hear a report from Executive Council on two resolutions regarding taxes and distributions.

LEGISLATURE

On March 10, 2017, Executive Council called a byelection to fill a vacancy in the Legislature after the resignation of Legislator Jason Morgan. Tina Koller was elected to Legislature in the byelection held May 25, and was sworn in on May 31—the first day of the special sitting of the Legislature.

The current members of the Tsawwassen Legislature are: Chief Bryce Williams, Tanya Corbet, Nikki Jacobs, Laura Cassidy, Andrea Jacobs (Squiqel), Steven Stark, Sheila Williams, Jesseca Adams, Ken Baird, Valerie Cross-Blackett, Louise Ahlm, Loretta Williams, Victoria Williams, and Tina Koller.



Tina Koller was sworn in to the Tsawwassen Legislature on May 31, 2017.

Special Sitting of the Legislature

Executive Council called for a special sitting of the Legislature — from May 31 to June 12—to deliberate on the following items:

Membership Act

In response to a Community Vote in favour of amending the Membership Act, Executive Council approved specific amending language and introduced Bill 003, the Defining Eligibility for Membership Act, which was passed into law at a special May – June sitting of the Legislature.

As a result, applicants will now have to show three generations of TFN ancestry in order to qualify for Tsawwassen membership under the ancestry sections of the Membership Act. Another one of the amendments makes individuals who are members of “foreign indigenous entities” ineligible for TFN membership—which means that individuals will no longer be able to hold dual membership. TFN Members who are also Members elsewhere have two years to decide which group to stay a part of before the new provision takes effect.

Clerical Amendments Act

The Legislature also passed the *Clerical Amendments Act*, which corrects typos and other technical errors in a wide range of Tsawwassen legislation.

TFN Trust Society AGM

On May 31, after the first sitting of the Legislative Assembly, the members of the Legislature took part in the Annual General Meeting of the TFN Trust Society. This was the first Trust Society AGM held since the Legislature passed the *Trusts Act* in 2016. The *Trusts Act* made some important changes to the Trust Society to strengthen governance and transparency; among other things, the *Act* makes all Legislators members of the Society. The AGM heard presentations from Deloitte (the Society’s auditors) and TE Wealth (TFN’s investment advisor), as well as a report from the Chair, Tanya Corbet.