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## News Release

### Tsawwassen First Nation Celebrates 10 Years of the Treaty Effective Date

Tsawwassen Lands – Members of Tsawwassen First Nation (TFN) today are celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Effective Date of our modern treaty, which restored land ownership and self-government jurisdiction to the Tsawwassen people after years of negotiation.

Tsawwassen Members and guests will be celebrating in the longhouse with songs, drumming, dancing and other ceremonial activities. As well, dignitaries from our Treaty partners, other First Nations, regional and municipal governments, and business partners will be on hand to witness the event.

TFN first entered formal treaty negotiations with the federal government and province of British Columbia in 1993, beginning “Stage One” of the six-stage process under the newly-formed B.C. Treaty Commission.

Of the once vast traditional territory of the Tsawwassen people—stretching from Pitt Lake in the north to the Gulf Islands in the south—much of the negotiations focused on restoration of the lands upon which the TFN “reserve” stood.

A decade later, TFN had reached the “Agreement in Principle” stage, with its Members voting overwhelmingly in favour of an area 724 hecatres in size located generally around the reserve. The Treaty was ratified in 2007 and the Effective Date was set for April 3, 2009.

The Treaty Effective Date ushered in a new era of self-government under the Final Agreement, with a mandate to create prosperity and quality of life improvements for

Members. TFN Members established a new government, based on an elected Legislature, an Executive Council, an Advisory Council and a Judicial Council to guide the decisions made by the government.

“Today, we celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our modern treaty, an agreement which has restored our inherent right to self-government after more than a century and a half of colonialism,” said Chief Bryce Williams. “We are now on the path to achieving our strategic vision of a community that is united, proud, and prospering.”

In the 10 years since, TFN has created strategic partnerships to develop residential, commercial and industrial properties that provides the tax base necessary to fund its ambitious plans.

This tax base has allowed TFN to build critical infrastructure, provide health and education services, along with cultural and language services for Members.

Looking forward, Tsawwassen Members are healthy and prospering, as our Government continues the path of self-reliance and legal certainties guaranteed by our Treaty.

#### Photos

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/RR4Sr56xJ96HYBGr6>

Photos depict TFN Members celebrating Treaty Day on the morning of Wednesday, April 3, by unveiling five territory post markers. The posts were carved by TFN artists Karl Morgan, Cliff Gurniak and Chief Bryce Williams. Credit: Tsawwassen First Nation.

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