

Questions & Answers - June 28 Treaty Information Session

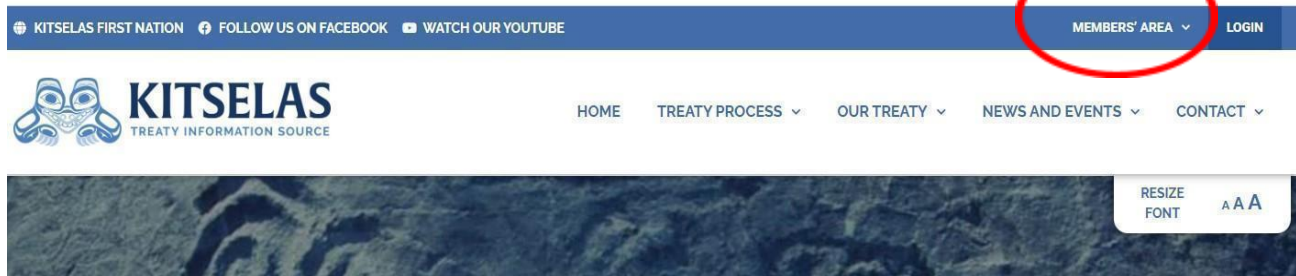
Thank you to the Kitselas Members who joined us in person and via Zoom for our 24th Treaty Information Session community meeting on June 28, 2023.

Below, please find the Q&As from the meeting.

The next Treaty Information Session is on Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at the Gitau Admin Building with dinner at 6 p.m. and the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Our topic is Eligibility and Enrolment. Everyone is welcome at Treaty Information Sessions.

The meeting recording from the June 28 meeting is available in the Members' Area of the www.kitselastreaty.ca website.

Please register to access this area:



Q – Are there are other Nations that are claiming ownership/areas at Lakelse Lake?

A – Yes, there is some overlap of claims to Lakelse Lake with other Nations, such as Kitsumkalum, Lax Kw'alaams, and Metlakatla.

Q – Is there a map of the contrary claims?

A – No, there is no agreed-upon public map of contrary claims. Canada and BC encourage us to resolve these overlapping claim issues nation-to-nation.

Q – With this final land/cash offer, does this mean negotiations are suspended or finished at this point? Is there a way for the negotiating team to show what has been established now that it is coming to us, to learn about it and then vote?

A – The land and cash offer negotiation portion of the Kitselas Treaty is now complete, and it is the best treaty offer made in Canada at this time. There is still a lot of work to finish off the

Questions & Answers - June 28 Treaty Information Session

remaining aspects of Treaty negotiations. Once all negotiations are final and we have a handshake deal with Canada and BC, we will share the Treaty with members, including a plain language version of the Treaty, and advise of Constitution and Treaty vote dates, anticipated for late 2024.

Q - With the lands that were offered, is there a co-management with Kitsumkalum on those park lands that are existing?

A - As far as the parks, we will have part of Kleanza Creek Park, and there are some other areas that we will control or co-manage. There are other parks that our people use, like the Ski Club (Onion Lake). After Treaty, we hope to legally own and manage Onion Lake, but the ski trails will still be available for public recreational use.

Q - Regarding the map content, I do recall the map, and I believe that KitseLas and Kitsumkalum were jointly getting out final offers. If Kalum has received their land/cash offer, it would be interesting to see both offers together so that we know what could be co-managed. Not so that we can say 'this is ours' and 'this is yours' but so that we can work together. If that were the case, to see the lands so that we together to see the unity of both Nations. So that if it's shared, we could work together. I don't think we want to get into arguments with our friends and family that are living in the neighbouring communities.

A - In terms of the overlaps, especially with Lax Kw'alaams there are two maps that we are looking at. This is all the territory of the Tsimshian, we are still Tsimshian, but now we have the territories that will be ours. Also, we have spoken to Kitkatla, Klemtu, Lax Kw'alaams, it's not exclusive. We don't own the land for just ourselves. What it means is when we are out there, that you have the right to fish, you can go out and trap, and gather in those Harvest Areas. We have an agreement that we signed with Kitkatla that they wouldn't object if we were out at sea gathering for our families.

Once we have a Treaty, our rights will be protected by the constitution of Canada. We are part of the coastal nations and this is why we will always have access to the coast. We are still sitting down with other Tsimshian Nations to talk to them and to make sure that we know what their areas are and will be so that we all can respect each other's boundaries. We have the right to go and harvest, and this will be part of the Treaty.

There are also other areas that will be part of the KitseLas Lands. Some of our lands are not included because they are already owned by others, but we had a say in the selection of the lands.

Questions & Answers - June 28 Treaty Information Session

Q – Besides the highway, what are the high-value lands in the land offer?

A – All land has value do to cultural, historic, hunting, and other use value. Lands on the river, with road or highway access, with power lines (hydro) and internet, and access to good drinking water have higher economic value than lands halfway up the side of the mountain.

Q – What about forestry? Is there any old-growth forest left?

A – BC stopped logging on potential KitseLas Treaty Settlement Lands (TSL) in 2016; there is already an embargo on land development and cutting down trees. We do have some good-looking forests/cedar trees and some old-growth forests on TSL. We are just completing a special type of survey on what is on the lands – trees, vegetation, etc. This is called a LIDAR survey, it'll be completed this year. It will give us a proper inventory of what is on TSL now, and then we will be able to make a sustainable harvesting plan to determine what we can do now and plan for the future.

Q – For our AIP vote in 2013, there were 430 eligible voters. Do we have some idea of what we are looking at for eligible voters now?

A – There are 550 eligible voters. We have 200 voters living in the community, 175 nearby (Terrace/Thornhill), and about 275 living across Canada and the USA.

Q – I know we could start managing our own child welfare not, but will this happen in Treaty?

A – Yes, we can choose to manage our own child welfare now and with Treaty (which protects this option for KitseLas forever), too. As you may know, our child welfare services are provided by NIFCIS now, NOT BC. NIFCIS is an Aboriginal service provider. Treaty will provide funding to help us do whatever we want, including enriching child services if we so choose. Like any government, we can't do everything. We will have to make choices about the types of programs we want to run or enrich, but they will be our choices.

Q – Will we see the Treaty Appendixes before the vote?

A – Yes, you will see everything that makes up the Treaty before the vote, and likely will see some of the final maps before the end of the year. In Treaty, the Appendixes will probably be bigger than the Treaty and the Treaty is about 250 pages long.

Q - In Treaty, what can be done by the current government to determine what skillsets are within KitseLas membership to employ our own people within the government/admin structure?

A – KitseLas Members will get priority for jobs, but they have to have the skills, noting some capacity to train and develop. You can't hire a paralegal who's a KitseLas Member to do legal

Questions & Answers - June 28 Treaty Information Session

work, you need to hire a lawyer. We provided a presentation for the types of jobs we'll need in Treaty a few meetings ago. Approximately 22 new jobs will be created with Treaty. There are options for people willing to train for those new jobs - getting the credentials through the Kitselas Education Department, connecting with the Training and Development Department, K5T, etc.

Q – My question is you mentioned that we own Airport Lands, Onion Lake and Lakelse Lands. If were to sell that today, what would the land value be on those lands today? It would be nice to know in dollars what those assets are.

A - The airport industrial lands were bought at about \$1.1 million. This was about 10 years ago. Today, it is likely valued at \$2-3 million. Onion Lake is probably worth about \$1 million and has \$1 million worth of trees. We can't take the trees off the ski trails, we can't strip off the lumber, but the land near Terrace and near the water has value. An estimate is \$20 to 30 thousand an acre. The TSL land offer is valued at about \$300 million dollars.

Q - Do we have final say on what is happening in terms of water rights under our lands with Treaty?

A – Yes, we will have water rights on our TSL.

Q – Kitselas is a national leader through recently becoming a holder of a Skills Partnership Fund, through Service Canada. A 5-year agreement for \$12 Million dollars. This allocation of money is for the purpose of building skills capacity within Kitselas Territory and the greater Regional District Kitimat Stikine.

A – Canada's Skills Partnership is for K5T to support skills capacity in the whole northwest of BC. A lot of the training is done right here in Terrace, which benefits Kitselas members of course (as compared with travelling to Prince Rupert), but K5T's mandate is much bigger than Kitselas. In fact, Kitselas Member training is the responsibility of the Education Department and/or Kitselas Training and Development Department. Any Kitselas Member considering upgrading should contact Debbie or Judy to discuss how Kitselas programs can help them.

Q – What about the Managers and Directors within Kitselas Administration? We talked at several meetings about what the plan is to bring in our own people to get them ready for more senior positions. Right now, there are all sorts of people that are not Kitselas or even Indigenous who are responsible for our resources. When we talk about Treaty, what are we doing? Will we have our own people, our own kids and grandkids to do the work? Or will we rely on outsiders to do this work for us?

A – With the Treaty Team, we've hired 6 people, plus 2 or 3 summer students, and every single one is a Kitselas Member. I speak of the need to find our people, train them, and

Questions & Answers - June 28 Treaty Information Session

develop them. I work with K5T and am a member of their board. We talk about educating our people at every K5T meeting. K5T are doing good work.

Treaty will bring big opportunities for people for employment. Some of those jobs require education. If you get a diploma from the college, we will hire you. We will put you in a position. With Treaty, Kitselas will have guaranteed jobs for life, but Members need to go get trained. Those who invest in their education will be well rewarded if we get a Treaty.

Q – After the vote, what is the process for identifying positions and what training is available so that Kitselas Members can get to work? So that they can work for their own Nation.

A – The \$8.7 million dollars for start-up funding is based on a model that includes all of the jobs that will be needed. We can do some training in the community, but for some jobs, Members will have to go to school. We can update the job listing, the training is part of the Education Department of Kitselas. We also have K5T, and they can help with the training.

Q – I was wondering if boat tours could be arranged now to go and see the coastal lands that will be part of Kitselas TSL. I think this would be very beneficial so that people can see our areas and see what will be ours.

A - The Treaty Team will try to organize a boat tour, but this isn't easy because of the distance between the various pieces of Coastal Land that we will own in the Treaty. We are organizing land tours for the end of August, so please watch for those details.

Q- The other comment I wanted to make is about disagreement with other Nations. We met a Coastal Hereditary Chief and he was talking about Treaty. He was telling me that he was talking to Metlakatla and a couple of Elders said that they don't talk about overlap. There's no such thing as overlap. What you have to do is call on the hereditary people – they know the lands and will be able to tell us. When looking at Metlakatla, it was the Hereditary Chiefs who talked about the lands. You talked about the Nisga'a and their claims on the coastal areas. The Hereditary Chiefs met to talk about things. If you listen to them, a lot of them agree that it's not their land and it belongs to other people. This might be something to do. The Chief mentioned that he hadn't heard from Metlakatla, Kalum or Kitselas. They are waiting to see and talk to us about the lands. We really have to listen to these people and talk to them before the final vote or we won't get \$140 million, the lawyers will.

We have more conversations and work to do before we can vote. This includes Lax Kw'alaams. They were explaining their areas, where they live and what they can see. And

Questions & Answers - June 28 Treaty Information Session

some used to be fishing villages. One of those tribes, their Chief and people have discussed this, and they decided they had to do something. It was great to hear about their lands and where they live, and to know where their lands are and go out there for the harvest.

A - It is unlikely that any other First Nation could take us to Court over our Treaty. Other Court challenges could potentially be against Canada and/or BC for signing a Treaty with us (not us directly).

We are still sitting down with other Tsimshian Nations to talk to them and to make sure that we know what their areas are and will be so that we all can respect each other's boundaries. We have the right to go and harvest, and this will be part of the Treaty.