

BCTC Ratification Forum

Building Free, Fair and Informed Consent

Dispelling Misinformation



Angela Wesley. Wes-Can Advisory Services
4563-C Queensway Drive, Terrace, BC V8G 3X6
Phone: (250) 638-1727

Some of the myths:

1. We're going to lose our Indian Status (and status cards)
2. We won't be funded for programs and services: health, education, etc
3. We're giving up our aboriginal rights and title
4. Our lands will be "fee simple" like everyone else's and we can lose it
5. We can't afford to pay taxes ...
6. ... *We're not ready!!*

Myth #1 Status:

- We're going to lose our Indian Status (and status cards)

... NOT!!

Say it now, say it often!

Myths #2 Programs and services:

- We won't be funded for programs and services: health, education, etc

“Not ... but how's that working for you?”

Myths #3:

- We're giving up our aboriginal rights and title

We're defining our place and our rights our homelands!

Myth #4 Land Status:

- Our lands will be “fee simple” like everyone else’s and we can lose it

Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada owns it now ...

We will have Fee Simple “plus” (jurisdiction, minerals, limited expropriation, constitutional protection ... Canadian Constitution, Huu-ay-aht Constitution)

“We didn’t fight this hard to allow our lands to be taken from us again”

Myth #5 Taxes:

- We can't afford to pay taxes ...

Huu-ay-aht society was dependent on everyone contributing what was expected ... everyone had a role, everyone had a responsibility.

We took care of each other! It was the responsibility of our hereditary chiefs to make sure of it.

Myth #6: Readiness

- *... We're not ready!!*

Whatever!! ... of course we're ready!!

What does ready look like to you?

So what can we do?

- *Be consistent in messaging ... repeat, repeat, repeat, repeat (it's our culture!)*
- *Clarify facts at every opportunity*
- *Listen to opposing views (openly); encourage open discussion based on facts*
- *counter “no” campaigns head-on (each have our points)*
- *Tsawwassen: Sponsor/host debates; Set up/schedule special meetings on contentious topics - talk about it, as scheduled!*
- *Written materials ... posters (Kitsumkalum)*

Before and after Treaty

Life under the <i>Indian Act</i>	Life under Treaty
<p>Dependent on Government DIA controls everything in our lives “from birth to death”</p>	<p>Independent Maa-nulth First Nation Governments are independent of government, control our own lives</p>
<p>Governed entirely by the <i>Indian Act</i> <i>Indian Act</i> defines Band Council and their powers Band Council has delegated authorities; report to Minister of Indian Affairs</p>	<p>Governed by First Nation Constitution First Nations’ systems of government (under Constitutions), can include elected and hereditary Maa-nulth Governments makes laws Governments are accountable to the people</p>
<p>Health Canada and DIA Services Continued reduction in benefits (e.g. medical, dental, education, child care, etc.)</p>	<p>Maa-nulth First Nations Services Same level of existing services <u>plus</u> ability to expand services to meet needs of members</p>
<p>Government imposed solutions Government imposes solutions upon us that have little to do with who we are</p>	<p>First Nation community driven solutions Maa-nulth governments develop our own solutions based on our culture and values</p>



What survives, what's enhanced

What stays the same	What is enhanced through treaty
<p>Indian Status: <i>Indian Act</i> still applies for the purposes of defining “who is an Indian” – i.e. “Indian Status” remains</p>	<p>Maa-nulth-aht: individuals enrolled under the Maa-nulth Treaty are entitled to all benefits in the treaty</p> <p>Maa-nulth Citizens: are entitled to rights as defined in First Nation Constitution</p>
<p>Funding for programs and services continues, but through the treaty</p>	<p>All funding for existing programs and services will continue; funding is enhanced under the treaty and includes annual adjustors to account for inflation and population increase</p>
<p>Access to programs and services available to aboriginal people in Canada: As Status Indians under the <i>Indian Act</i> those Maa-nulth-aht remain entitled to apply for programs and services available to status Indians (that are not provided for in the treaty)</p>	<p>Maa-nulth-aht and Maa-nulth Citizens are entitled to benefits provided by First Nations</p> <p>If Maa-nulth-aht do not live in their own Treaty Lands, services such as education, social assistance, health and dental are provided for and paid for by the federal government</p>
<p>Health/Dental benefits: Maa-nulth-aht remain entitled to Non-Insured Health Benefits as per current policies, including prescriptions, eyeglasses, dental, medical</p>	<p>First Nations have the ability to enhance these services as determined by local priorities</p>



Roadmap to our future

- traditional government – Ha'wiih / Ha'houlthee
- control over lands and resources
- self-sufficient; self-governing

Where we come from



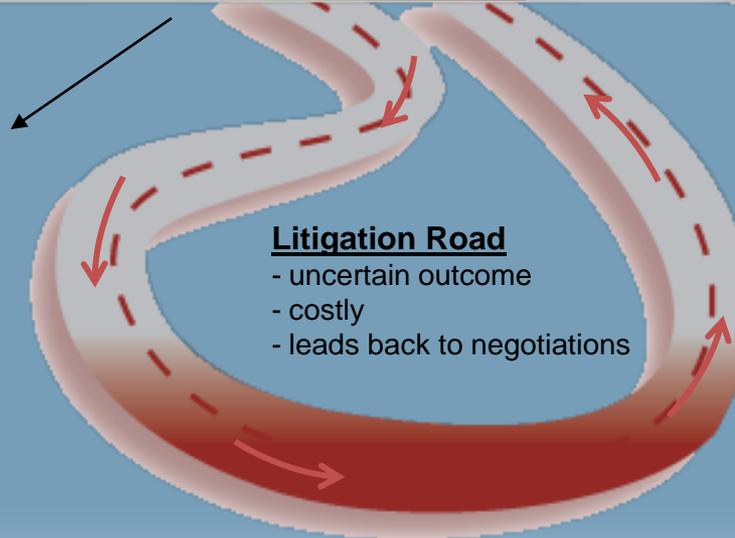
Where we are

- self-sufficient; self-governing
- control over lands and resources (law-making)
- controlling our own lives
- Incorporating our own values and traditional forms of governing through our own Constitutions

Where we are going



- Indian Act system
- delegated authority over limited land base (Reserves)
- Chief & Council accountable to Minister of Indian Affairs



Treaty Road

- additional lands and resources
- governing powers
- financial benefits
- control of our own lives

The Maa-nulth Treaty:

“A Foundation for Future Generations”

Chuu, Klecko

(That's all, Thank you)!



Angela Wesley
Wes-Can Advisory Services
4563-C Queensway Drive
Terrace, BC V8G 0C5
Phone: (250) 638-1727
wescan@citywest.ca