



Ratification Forum

BC Treaty Commission

Roles and Responsibilities of the Teams

The Tsawwassen First Nation Experience

February 20, 2025

**WE
DID IT.
JOE!**



Chief
Harry Joe!!

December 8, 2006 Final agreement initialed



Band Members
MUST be
enrolled in the
Treaty to VOTE

VOTE

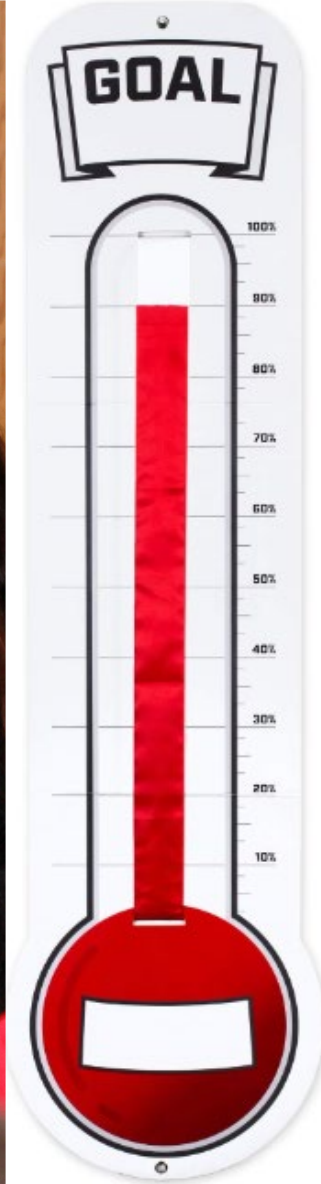
YES ☐ NO ☐



Vote date scheduled for July 25, 2007

Creating the Ratification Committee

- Enrol to vote
- High threshold
- Aggressive enrolment goals
 - Ratification/Enrolment Committee collaboration
 - Everywhere, everyone, all at once





Timeline
to vote

Why do I
have to
enrol?

Myths
about
status

Lots of
information
for members
to learn and
understand

Perceived
secrecy

Taxation

Pressure
to reach
enrolment
threshold

CHALLENGES

6 MONTHS to VOTE

Dec 8, 2006



Final agreement initialed

All parties agree and the plan to move forward was created

February 2007



The communication work began

Informing our Members about the agreement so that they could make and INFORMED VOTE

April 2007



Constitution Finalized

Constitution was finalized. Key taxation meeting held

July 7, 2007



Annual General Meeting

Membership code voted on again. Last information session before vote

July 25, 2007



The VOTE

Committees supporting Members to access their right to vote.

Planned Activities

A number of activities have been planned up to the Ratification Vote date on July 25, 2007. With these choices, TFN members are encouraged to participate in as many activities as possible in order to make an informed vote. Generally, on reserve meetings start at 5pm (meals and childcare are provided). Generally off reserve meetings start at 6pm (meals are provided).

Family Meetings:

Opportunities for individual families to meet with the Treaty Team one on one to discuss the Final Agreement and other aspects and implications of the Treaty. Topics to include the Constitution, Membership Code, and the importance of Participation in Voting.

Off Reserve Meetings:

Opportunities for the Treaty Team to travel to core areas of members living off reserve to discuss Final Agreement and other aspects and implications of the Treaty. Topics to include the Constitution, Membership Code, and the importance of Participation in Voting.

Treaty Consultation Meetings:

The Treaty Team will host a series of meetings that will provide a review and discussion of the Treaty in detail. These meetings will be held approximately every two weeks. Such topics will include:

- Where do we go from here?
- Ratification Consultation
- Governance and General Provisions
- Economic Overview
- Finance and Tax
- Land
- Resources
- Treaty
- State
- Shared Territories
- Implementation Plan

Constitution Committee Meetings:

These meetings are open to the entire membership to participate. Unfinished business to be discussed include: implications of the Constitution and review survey results, re-draft of the Constitution from the survey results, and review of the final draft of the Constitution in a series of information meetings.

Treaty Critique:

Provides an opportunity for Tsawwassen First Nation band members, chosen through a Request for Proposal process, to provide the entire membership a review and critical assessment of the Final Agreement.

Treaty Information Fair:

A casual approach to learn about the Treaty, including raffles, information booths, auction and other fun activities.

Tax Workshop:

Review of the taxation time line, including personal, income, investment and property taxes. Assessment information on property tax for band members will be provided. Discussion will include an explanation that an exemption is not an original right and the income benefits of Tsawwassen First Nation versus the individual expense.

Treaty Annual General Meeting:

Information session for all Tsawwassen First Nation band members, both on and off reserve that will provide an opportunity to discuss treaty issues, receive a broad summary of negotiations and work to be completed post-ratification vote. Overviews of programs and services finances and activities will be provided.

Land Tour:

Band members will have an opportunity to see the Treaty Settlement Lands on the ground by a guided bus tour of the land parcels.

Youth Workshop:

The Tsawwassen First Nation youth will have an opportunity to meet with members of the Treaty Team to discuss the impacts of the Tsawwassen First Nation Treaty.

Certificate of Possession (CP) Consultation Meetings:

Specific meetings will be held with each Tsawwassen First Nation CP holder and Tsawwassen First Nation legal advisors to discuss land replacement interests post-treaty.

Community Consultation Fieldworkers:

The Fieldworkers will provide for informal discussions regarding treaty and liaison between the Tsawwassen members and the Treaty Department. Steven Stark and Russell Williams can be contacted through the band office at (604) 943-2112.

Communications Materials

A number of other communication materials will be distributed to the Tsawwassen First Nation membership leading up to the ratification vote. Print publications, DVD's and website updates are being created to help summarize and understand the Final Agreement, including:

- Newsletters
- Treaty summary charts
- Plain language Treaty summary
- Brochures
- Bulletins
- Discussion Papers
- Meeting Summaries
- Treaty summary DVD
- Constitution DVD
- Participation in Voting DVD
- History of TFN Treaty making DVD
- Powerpoint Presentations
- Community Consultation Fieldworkers



Tracking Information

1

database

Creating the Tools

Created a database

Creating a procedures guide

2

training

Training the Team

Training on processes, checklist, procedure

Training party reps

3

clarity

Status vs. Enrolment

Non-status did not exclude enrolment

Enrolment did not grant status

4

records

Central Place for Information

Keeping perfects Records imperative

One central place for all enrolment records/ballot mailouts

5

tracking

Enrolment threshold

Statistics readily available

Strategy to meet enrolment threshold

HUMOUR

Have fun, laughter,

COLLABORATOR

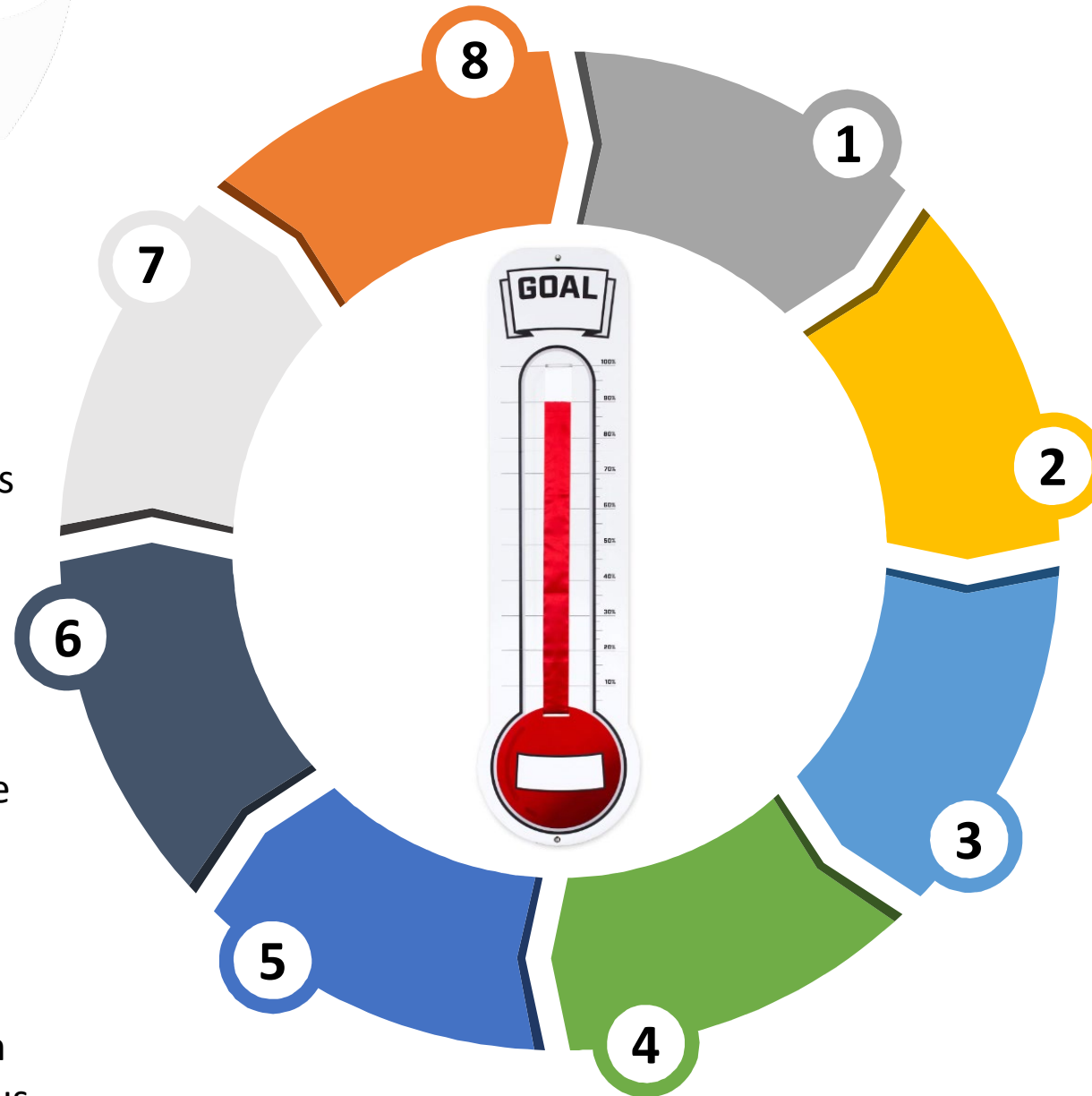
Active team player,
inclusive, build on ideas

RESILIENT

Adaptable to changes,
personalities, challenge
and bounce back,
manage stress

ENTHUSIASTIC

Excite and interested in
the work and contagious
about it



COMMUNICATOR

Friendly, trusted, open,
listener

CONNECTED

Known and trusted by
community

ORGANIZED

Creating systems,
maintaining records,
lists, tasks

SHARED GOALS

Shared purpose, shared
vision for Treaty, desire to
succeed



TSAWWASSEN FIRST NATION

NEWS RELEASE

Attention News Editors:

**TSAWWASSEN FIRST NATION MAKES BC HISTORY;
VOTES 'YES' TO RATIFY PROVINCE'S FIRST URBAN TREATY**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 25, 2007

TSAWWASSEN, July 25 - In a historic vote held here today, members of the Tsawwassen First Nation (TFN) voted "yes" to ratify British Columbia's first urban treaty.

Of 187 registered voters, 130 voted in favour (about seventy per cent). Ratification required a positive endorsement of 50 per cent plus one of TFN members on the voters list. The poll on the Tsawwassen reserve closed at 8 p.m.

A tired but exuberant Chief Kim Baird announced the results from the recreation centre on the reserve, thanking Tsawwassen members for providing clear direction.

"Our members were very brave," Chief Baird said. "Today, they have decided the



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Hay ce:p q̣ə

QUESTIONS?