



ANNUAL REPORT

2016-17



Building 10, 7201 Vedder Road
Chilliwack, BC V2R 4G5
604-824-2420
www.sxta.bc.ca

S'ólh téméxw te ikw'elò.
Xólhmet te mekw'stám it kwelát.
This is our land.
We have to take of
everything that belongs to us.



SXTA
STÓ:LŌ XWEXWILMEXW TREATY ASSOCIATION

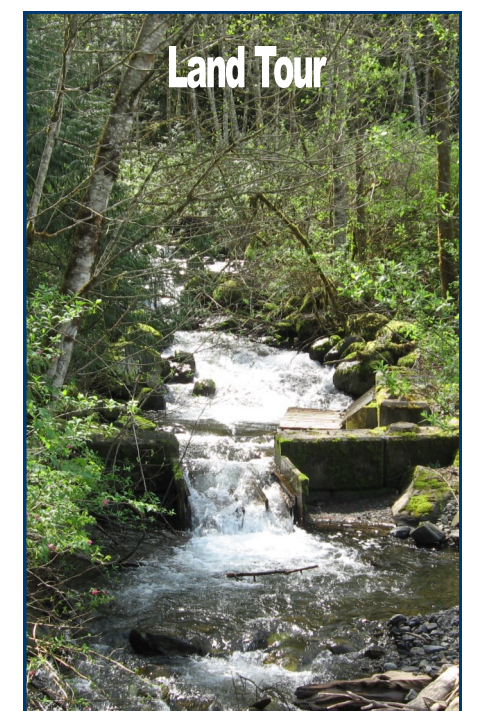
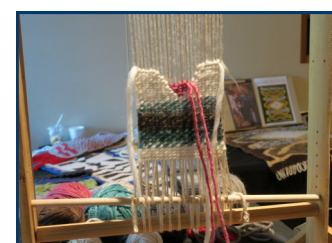
Table of Contents

Message from the President	3
Introduction	4
Main Table Activity: Substantive Issues	5
Organization and Areas of Internal Activity	6
Summary of Activities and Outcomes	9
SXTA Treaty - Table Record of Meetings	11
Conclusion	13
Retirement Announcement	14

On the cover

Tamihi Creek, Chilliwack River Valley Tour

SXTA YOUTH FORUM ON TREATY APRIL 2016



SXTA Political Advisor Announces Retirement

March 31, 2017 marked Grand Chief Joe Hall’s retirement from his position as the SXTA Political Advisor.

We all want to thank Grand Chief Hall for his many years of great leadership. He possesses a rare combination of vision, fairness, and understanding.

We acknowledge his unwavering dedication to the well-being of our future generations through the negotiating process of our unique treaty.

We thank him for all he has done and all he has taught us and send our very best wishes for a happy retirement.



Harrison Workshop



SXTA Business Meeting



Aboriginal Day



Sto:lo Career Fair

Message from the President



Since 1997 we - the SXTA First Nations - have knuckled down and moved milestone to milestone down our strategic pathway through Stage 4 of the treaty process. Our immediate aim is to finish our Agreement in Principle (AiP).

This stage of negotiations carries with it the greatest bulk of work in the treaty process. The majority of our substantive issues are negotiated in this phase – including governance. As if we were building ourselves a new house, AiP is the phase where we put in place most of our foundation, roof, posts and beams. In achieving AiP we will be able to develop what our ‘house’ looks like, rather than having to see it through a veil as we have for all these years.

This year we added substantially to these plans. We are within reach of our AiP. We are nearly there. The SXTA took major steps to complete our draft Agreement, one of two major parts of our AiP.

We also worked hard, collectively, putting our heads together as leadership to address challenging issues in developing a Land and Cash Proposal. This Winter we put forward our SXTA Land and Cash Proposal to government as the other major piece of work needed to move ahead with our AiP.

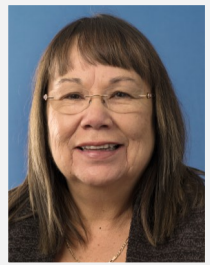
Our position as a lead table in BC was evident in the attention and resourcing that the government provided to us this year. The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation has our Land and Cash Mandate in the cue as a highest priority for BC Cabinet approval, pending the return of normal business among the BC Legislature following the recent election.

We have far more milestones now behind us than remain before us. Our outlook is that the SXTA’s good work in 2016-17 will soon take root in achieving our Agreement in Principle, moving us in the next year into Stage 5 and the final phase of our treaty negotiations.

Shxwetélmel-elhót
Chief Maureen Chapman
Sq’ewá:lxw (Skawahlook) First Nation



Vice-President
Chief Angie Bailey
Skemi
Athelets (Aitchelitz)
First Nation



Secretary-Treasurer
Chief Glenda Campbell
Chelotsowe’t
Ch’iyaqtel (Tzeachten)
First Nation

Introduction

In the 2016-17 fiscal year, the Stó:lō Xwexwilmexw Treaty Association (SXTA) continued working ambitiously toward achieving the objectives laid out in the Tripartite Work Plan as critical steps along the path to completion of the Agreement in Principle (AiP).

This report focuses on summarizing the SXTA’s activities and ef-

forts developing their treaty throughout the 2016-17 fiscal year.

Substantial treaty-based activities occurred at all levels, including tripartite work at the Stó:lō Xwexwilmexw Treaty Table (SXTT) and Lands Technical Working Group (LTWG), and internally within the SXTA Executive, SXTA Leadership and Working Group(s), the Treaty Negotiating Team, and the

SXTA Treaty Outreach Team.

A detailed accounting of the monthly schedule of meetings is included on page 11. Substantive issues addressed in negotiations are outlined below and in the updated ‘Rolling Draft’.

Substantive activity and progress at the treaty table in the fiscal year is accounted for in the Main Table Records of Decision.



“...the leadership of the treaty association provide strategic direction on all treaty operations...”

Photo (left): SXTA Workshop, Burnaby, September 2016

Conclusion

At the conclusion of the 2016-17 fiscal year, the Stó:lō Xwexwilmexw Treaty Association (SXTA) remains actively and aggressively working to complete Stage 4 of the B.C. Treaty Process.

The SXTA’s activities continue to be fueled by a mandate from the SXTA First Nations and community members to achieve a Land and Cash Offer from BC/Canada as well as tangible results from the BC Treaty Process. The SXTA took significant initiative this year, achieving major milestones of progress working toward an Agreement-in-Principle (AiP), including:

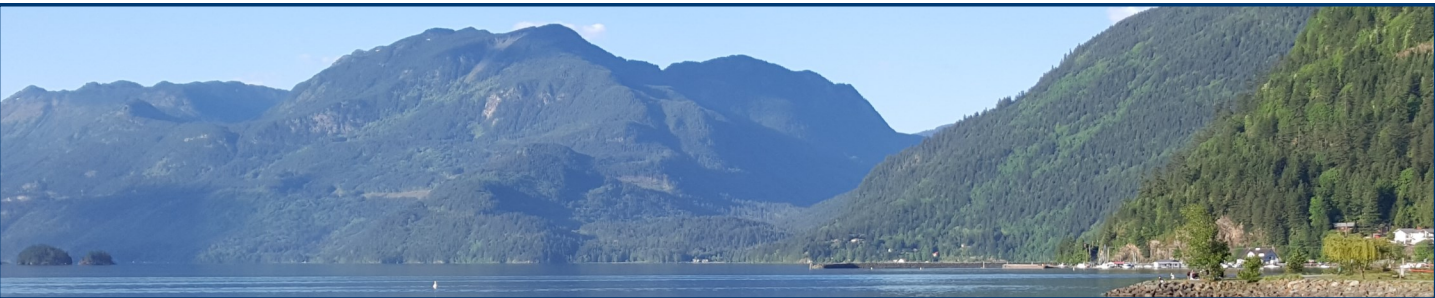
- Effective completion of all chapters required for the AiP;
- Completion of the final phase of land status analysis on the SXTA’s lands of interest for Treaty Settlement Lands (TSL);
- Completion and submission of the SXTA-based TSL scenario;
- Establishment of a foundation for a provincial land/cash offer mandate – now pending post-election approval from the BC Cabinet;
- Implementation of Engagement over Treaty and TSL interests



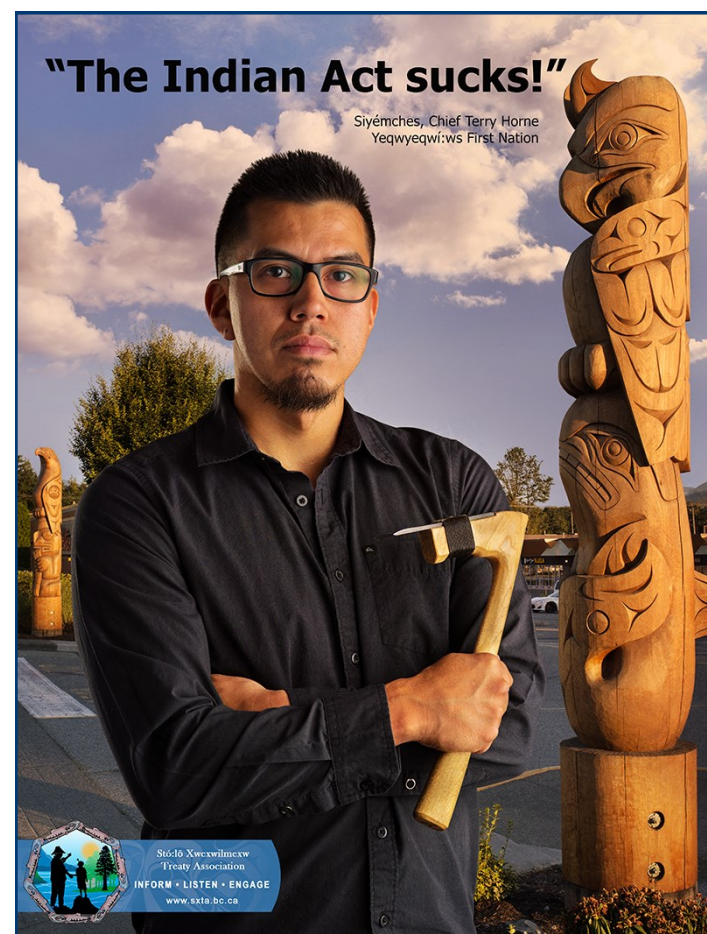
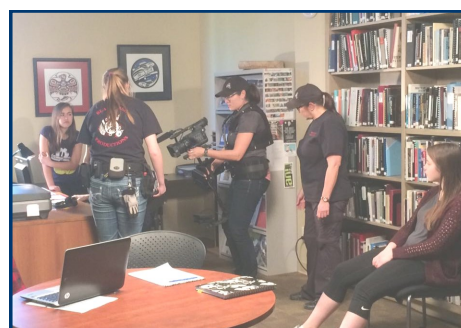
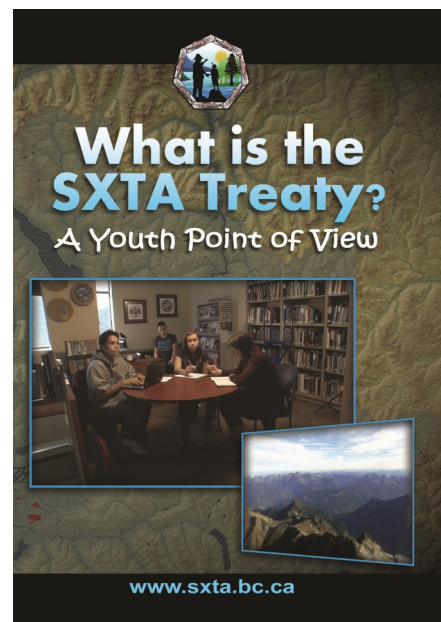
with non-SXTA First Nations.

The Tri-Partite Annual Work Plan for 2016-17, submitted to the B.C. Treaty Commission in March of 2016, builds on these milestones and provides the projected objectives, issues and schedule of internal and external treaty activities for the upcoming fiscal year.

A significant focus of 2017-2018 year will be the achievement of a Chief Negotiators’ Letter of Understanding as a major milestone to AiP completion. The SXTA remains committed to the process of treaty-making with the ultimate intent of making things better for their future generations.



SXTA WORKSHOP
HARRISON HOT SPRINGS



Main Table Activity: Substantive Issues

The Parties engaged in 25 days of tripartite activities including Main Table and Lands Technical Working Group meetings between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2017. The *Record of Activity* and *Record of Decisions and Actions* is updated throughout the year.

Following the Work Plan, negotiations and technical team work focused on the following topics:

Lands - with a focus on the Land Selection and Land Package Process:

- ⇒ Treaty Settlement Land Package – SXTA Treaty Settlement Lands (TSL) Selections
- ◇ Land tour
- ◇ Identification of priority lands based on interests and needs.

- ◇ Revisions to TSL to create SXTA-based scenario acceptable to BC and Canada.

Advancing the Land and Cash Offer Mandate from BC – to be forwarded to Cabinet for support and approval.

Substantive Progress Completing the AiP Rolling Draft

- ⇒ AiP substantially completed; 22 chapters have been negotiated, 17 of which were sent for legal drafting in 2016-17.

Lands, governance, TSL, and non-SXTA FN engagement over TSL were priority items addressed throughout the year. An overview of progress made in negotiations is presented in the ‘Summary of Activity and Outcomes’ on page 9.

General

Definitions
General Provisions

Lands

Lands
Land Title
Access
Crown Corridors & Rights of Way
SXTA Role Off TSL Lands

Natural Resources

Forest Resources
Wildlife
Parks and Protected Areas
Environmental Assessment

Governance

Governance
Eligibility and Enrollment
Local and Regional Government Relations
Indian Act Transition
Approval of Agreement-in-Principle
Ratification
Implementation
Amendment, Dispute Resolution

Community Health and Well-Being

Culture and Heritage
Capital Transfer
Amendment



CHILLIWACK RIVER VALLEY PLACE NAMES TOUR

The 22 chapters that have been negotiated are listed in the chart on the left.

Some Chapters include ‘punt language’ that allows us to move forward in setting up substantive negotiations as part of Stage 5, reaching a final Treaty.

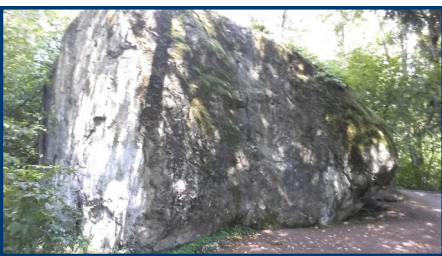
SXTA Organization and Areas of Internal Activity



In the 2016-17 fiscal year, the SXTA’s treaty operations included six core interrelated and interconnected bodies and areas of activity, all of which were active throughout the year. These include:

Stó:lō Xwexwilmexw Treaty Association (SXTA) -- the leadership of the treaty association providing strategic direction on all treaty operations, represented by the Chief and Council of seven Stó:lō First Nations -- Aitchelitz, Leq’á:mel, Popkum, Skawahlook, Skowkale, Tzeachten, and Yakweakwioose.

Popkum First Nation provided a statement to the BC Treaty Commission (BCTC) indicating their withdrawal from the treaty process. Popkum First Nation was removed from the SXTA, following societal procedures, at the March 22, 2017 SXTA Business Meeting.



DOWNRIVER
PLACE NAMES TOUR

SXTA Executive Directors 2016-17 -- made up of the President (Chief Maureen Chapman, Skawahlook First Nation), Vice-President (Chief Angie Bailey, Aitchelitz First Nation), and Secretary-Treasurer (Chief Glenda Campbell, Tzeachten First Nation). *Photos on page 3.*

Notably, the SXTA Executive has continued to be active this year in directing and guiding the activities of the Treaty Negotiating Team and SXTA.

SXTA Treaty Negotiating Team (TNT) – the principle negotiating team acting on behalf of the SXTA, composed of four members:

Chief Political Advisor, Grand Chief Joe Hall, *Chief Negotiator*, Jean Teillet, *Technical Advisor & General Manager*, Dr. David Schaepe, and *Cultural Advisor*, Sonny McHalsie.

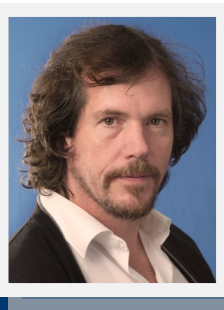
SXTA Treaty Negotiating Team (TNT)



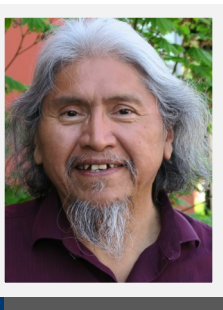
SXTA Chief Negotiator
Jean Teillet, IPC
Pape, Salter, Teillet LLP



SXTA Chair & Political Advisor
Grand Chief Joe Hall
Skw’omkwe’mexw



SXTA Technical Advisor & General
Manager, Treaty Operations
Dr. Dave Schaepe,
Tl’elqtelemexw



SXTA Cultural Advisor
Dr. Sonny McHalsie,
Naxaxalhts’i

SXTA Treaty Table - Record of Meetings 2016-17

Meeting Type - Abbreviations: Stó:lō Xwexwilmexw Treaty Table (SNTT) – Tri-Partite Negotiation.....Agreement-in-Principle (AiP) Lands Technical Working Group (LTWG).....Stó:lō Xwexwilmexw Treaty Association (SXTA).....Treaty Negotiating Team (TNT) Critical Path Working Group (CPWG).....Advisory Committee (AC).....Treaty Outreach Liaisons (OUTREACH)								
Year / Month	Tri-Partite		SXTA-Specific					
	SXTT AiP Legal Review & Drafting	LTWG	SXTA	SXTA – Exec.	TNT	CPWG	TREATY FORUM Public /Youth / AC / SXTA Consultations	OUTREACH Kitchen Table & 1-on-1 Sessions
2016								
APRIL	2	2	--	--	1	1	1 Youth Forum 1 Council Update	5
MAY	2	2	2	1	1	--		3
JUNE	--	1	2	--	2	1	2 Council Updates	3
JULY	2	--	--		--	1	1 Council Update 3 Community Updates	3
AUGUST	--	--	--	1	1	--	1 Placenames Tour	3
SEPTEMBER	3	1	2		1	1	2 Council Updates	2
OCTOBER	--	1	1	--	1	1	1 Community Update 1 Lands Committee Update 1 Family Advisory	
NOVEMBER	4	1	6		1	--	1 Community Update 1 Council Update	3
DECEMBER	2	--	--	2	--	1	1 Council Update	2
2017								
JANUARY	--	--	--	1	--	1	--	2
FEBRUARY	1	--	1	1	--	1	--	3
MARCH	1	--	1	1	1	--	--	4
TOTAL:	17	8	15	7	9	8	17	33

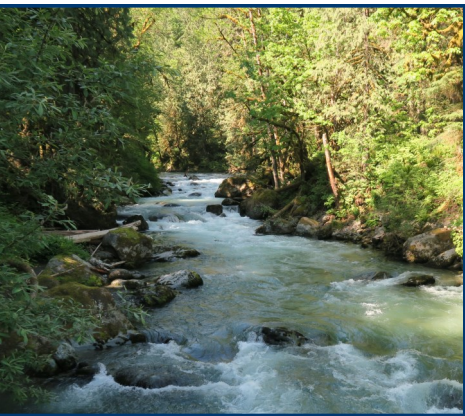


From page 9 ...

- Completed two TRM projects, and prepared submissions for additional TRM projects for the 2017-18 fiscal year.
- SXTA—Treaty Negotiating Team:**
 - Strategizing / preparing for negotiations – on-going;
 - Meeting and ongoing working relationship with Okanagan Nation Alliance;
 - Local Government engagement
 - SXTA First Nation membership engagement.
- SXTA—Treaty Working Group:**

SXTA Lands and Governance Working Group held regular monthly meetings on issues of Lands and Governance:

 - Developing a Critical Path to Treaty;
 - Acting as the Steering Group providing input into the development of SXTA’s Treaty Related Measures Projects.
 - SXTA—Outreach Team:**
 - Producing and distributing bi-monthly treaty newsletters; carrying out numerous community, family, elders, and individual meetings regarding treaty;
 - Renewing the SXTA web-site (on-going);
 - Organized a Youth Treaty Forum – grade 10-12 youth (Native and Non-Native) from the local School District #33
 - Youth DVD in production;
 - Running regular SXTA Place-Names Tours;
 - Organized Treaty Forums / Educational Sessions– including sessions with the Chief Negotiators from BC and Canada; as well as community sessions regarding the SXTA’s Land and Capital Transfer Offer;
 - On-going efforts to contact Peters First Nation re: follow-up engagement - was unsuccessful.
- Shared Territories Issues:**
 - Ongoing engagement with non-SXTA Stó:lō regarding the SXTA Treaty and TSL;
 - Engagement with the Ts’elxwéyeqw Tribe regarding the SXTA Treaty.



Continued from page 6...

The Technical Advisor of the TNT provides general management for the SXTA treaty operations.

The TNT reports to and takes direction from the SXTA.

SXTA Working Groups (WG) – advisory groups formed by members of the SXTA, or appointed representatives, community members, and researchers/consultants serving to inform the development of positions and content of chapters being negotiated or in preparation for discussion at the Main Table (e.g., Lands; Governance).

SXTA Working Groups continued their work on aspects of governance and lands.

The WG developed a framework for the SXTA Constitution. The WG also acted as the project Steering Committee for the SXTA’s Treaty Related Measures projects.

WGs are facilitated by the Technical Advisor or other members of the TNT.

SXTA Treaty Outreach Team – the SXTA Treaty Liaisons are responsible for sharing treaty-related information with the SXTA commu-

nity of First Nations, families, individuals and youth, as well as the general public.

The Outreach Team works closely with the TNT. The Outreach Team communicates with SXTA First Nations, as well as the Stó:lō communities, youth and public at-large.

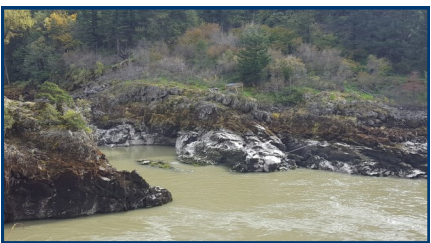
The Outreach Team produces and distributes a bi-monthly SXTA treaty bulletin. Throughout the year, the Liaisons host numerous one-on-one and family-based discussions with community members about current treaty issues.

They regularly meet with community members, providing information and gathering feedback from the membership of the SXTA First Nations.

They also help organize and facilitate a variety of broad-based treaty forums including Community and Youth Forums, and Place Names tours.

Continued on page 8

UPRIVER (YALE)
PLACE NAMES TOUR



Organization and Areas of Internal Activity continued...

Operational Support Staff & Consultants – All aspects of SXTA operations are supported by staff of the Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre.

Under the direction of the General Manager for Treaty Operations, staff assists in meeting the objectives of the treaty table and SXTA’s internal mandates.

Staff includes experts and technicians with expertise in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and database management, cultural heritage and history, genealogy, library and archives management, research, land use and environmental planning, negotiation, outreach, and finance and administration.



Substantial areas of work include involvement on the tripartite Lands Technical Working Group addressing land-related issues such as land status, cultural sites protection, commonage reserves.

Abby Duncan provides administrative support for the SXTA under the direction of the SXTA Executive.

- Overall, SXTA internal activity focused on:
- Strategic Planning
 - Stó:lō Xwexwilmexw FN community outreach and engagement;
 - Non-SXTA First Nation Engagement specifically addressing the SXTA Treaty Settlement Land interests

- ⇒ *Engagement Planning and Implementation*
- ⇒ *Follow up FN engagement with Okanagan Nation Alliance*
- ⇒ *Continued work in developing working relationship.*
- ⇒ *Conducting meetings with the Ts’elxwéyew Tribe*
- Treaty Outreach / Education / Communication
- ⇒ *SXTA Community meetings re: TSL and the SXTA Constitution*

- Continued work with the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) to develop an MOU

These areas of work were embedded in the SXTA’s activities at all levels of the organization (e.g., SXTA; TNT; WGs; Outreach).

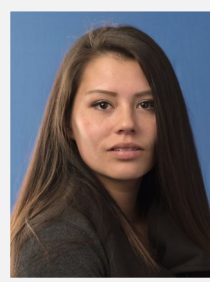
SXTA Outreach Team



Coordinator/Outreach
Cathy Hall
East Region



Liaison
Joy Hall
Assists ALL Regions



Liaison
Emily Kelly
North Region



Liaison
Brandee Hall
South Region

From page 8...

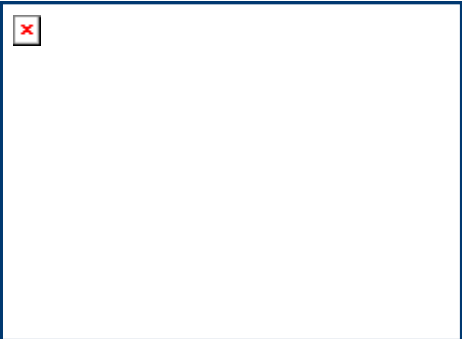
The SXTA met regularly to provide direction for negotiations. The TNT met regularly to strategize and prepare for the treaty table and develop updates for the SXTA.

The Lands and Governance Working Group/Critical Path Working Group was active throughout the year, providing key input into

- (1) *TSL selection and FN engagement processes;*
- (2) *Planning for outreach with Local Governments, making recom-*

mendations for discussion and decision-making by the SXTA.

The Outreach Program (Outreach Team & TNT) continued to be very active in relaying treaty-related information to and from the SXTA First Nation communities – holding numerous treaty forums with families and individuals and attending numerous Council meetings; renewing the SXTA website; and producing the SXTA Treaty Newsletter.



Summary of Activities and Outcomes

The SXTT achieved a significant milestone last year, receiving a mandate from Canada to provide a land and cash offer to the SXTA.

Successful engagement with non-SXTA Stó:lō, other First Nations and local and regional government was initiated pre-AiP, and continues.

Tripartite Main Table Working Group:

The Main Table Working Group meets 2-3 days per month to negotiate the AiP. Milestones include:

- 17/21 AiP Chapters have completed legal drafting.

Tripartite Lands Technical Working Group (LTWG):

- Substantial preparation of refined TSL Land Units of interest to the

SXTA for Can/BC line ministry review in developing the Land and Cash Offer;

- Development of a multi-year work plan and prioritization of projects;
- Treaty Related Measures (TRM) projects.

The SXTA:

- Provided direction for treaty engagement – on-going;
- Provided substantial effort and input into the development of a land and cash offer package as a foundation for a provincial mandate;

Continued on page 11

SXTA 1ST ANNUAL GATHERING
HELD AT TZEACHTEN

