



S'ólh Lets'emó:t – Our One Thought

S'ólh Lets'emó:t: Our One Thought

Why treaty now?

Stó:lō Xwexwilmexw Treaty Association Outreach
10 – 7201 Vedder Road, Chilliwack, B.C. V2R 4G5

Tel: (604) 824 3281
Email: outreach@sxta.bc.ca
www.sxta.bc.ca

Follow us @TheSXTA



Stó:lō Xwexwilmexw
Treaty Association



WHY TREATY NOW?

"If we succeed, this treaty will be a model for all other treaties in the future."

Chief Negotiator Terry Horne

Thanks to the strength of our leadership, our negotiating team and to changes in the Federal and Provincial governments' way of thinking about treaties, our treaty is groundbreaking. Unlike other modern agreements, our treaty will not extinguish our Aboriginal rights and title and it will be adaptable and renewable over time. This is the first of its kind in Canada.

S'ólh Lets'emó:t – Our One Thought is our name for the SXTA Treaty and will:

- Not extinguish our Aboriginal rights and title to any part of S'ólh Témexw.
- Give us certainty around land and resource ownership and law-making authority.
- Get us out from under the Indian Act.
- Incorporate the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.
- Provide an agreed-upon process for resolving conflicts.
- Protect our culture & heritage.
- Protect and enhance our health & education benefits.
- Create opportunities and a better future for our communities.

WHAT IS A TREATY?

"Simply put, it is an agreement between nations."

Xwelíqweltel, Grand Chief Steven Point



Memorandum of Understanding signing in 2018.

Treaties are constitutionally protected, government-to-government agreements that create long-term, mutually binding commitments.

Some describe them as sacred pacts between independent nations.

OTHER TREATIES IN CANADA

Pre-Confederation: Early 16th century diplomatic agreements were made to maintain peace and mutual benefits in what is now Eastern Canada. The Royal Proclamation of 1763 declared that the British Crown could only take possession of lands from First Nations by treaties.

Numbered: Eleven numbered treaties were negotiated between 1871 and 1921 in post-confederate Canada and included treaty rights in exchange for Indigenous land.

Modern/Comprehensive land claims: These have been negotiated between 1975 and the present including James Bay, Tlicho, Yukon, Nisga'a, Tsawwassen, Maa-nulth and Tla'amin. Critics don't like the extinguishment language, but all modern treaty nations say their communities are better off now than before treaty and that they would never go back.

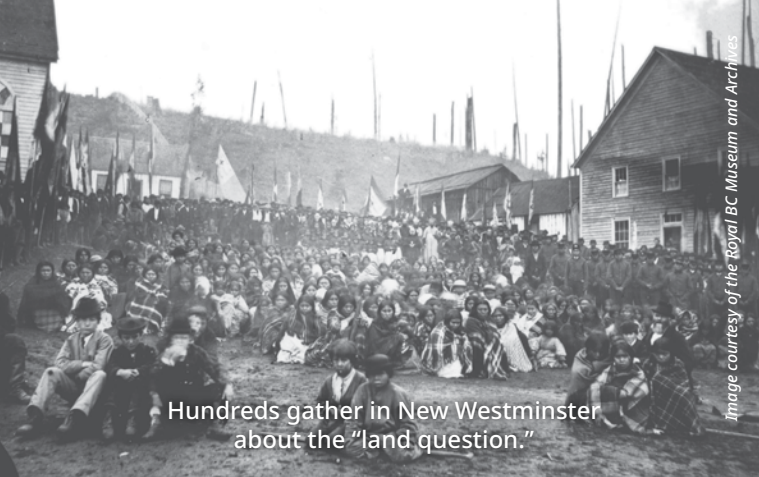


Image courtesy of the Royal BC Museum and Archives

Hundreds gather in New Westminster about the "land question."

WE ARE CONTINUING THE WORK OF OUR ANCESTORS.

Although we have been in the treaty process for over 20 years, our people have been trying to solve the Land Question for over 150 years.

STÓ:LŌ TREATY VISION

"We claim we have an interest in all parts of our old tribal lands outside the Indian reservation... this includes land, water, timber, minerals, game, fish, etc. Our rights in these lands are still good as we have never surrendered them nor in any other way given up nor lost our aboriginal title in those territories."

The government has taken possession of these lands without negotiation or agreement with us and we are entitled to compensation of some kind for our share or title in same... We once had complete sovereignty over these lands and water and made a full and ample living from their resources. We cannot be debarred or seriously restricted from their use now without injury to ourselves..."

Dennis S. Peters on behalf of Chief Pierre, Edward Lorenzetto and others in 1922

TIMELINE

- 1872: Hundreds gather in New Westminster about the "land question".
- 1874: Stó:lō Chiefs petition the Federal government for their rights to land and mobility over their territories.
- 1906: Stó:lō people travel to England and talk to the King and Queen about their land.
- 1913: Stó:lō leaders appeal to a Royal Commission regarding the size of their reserves.
- 1922: Stó:lō Treaty Vision – Stó:lō rights and title regarding reserves, resources, traditional territories, education, and repayment for the treaty process.
- 1920s - 1960s: Stó:lō leaders were meeting, petitioning, and discussing the "land question".
- 1975: Stó:lō Declaration.
- 1995: Stó:lō Nation Treaty Table begins.
- 2006: SXTA Treaty Vision.
- 2017: Land and Capital Transfer Agreement signed.
- 2018: Memorandum of Understanding signed – Moving SXTA into the last stage of treaty negotiations.

Yeqwyeqwi:ws chief and leader, Th'eláchiyatel, Richard Malloway, often spoke of the importance of communities coming together to get Stó:lō land back.



WE'VE NEVER BEEN RECOGNIZED FOR ALL WE'VE GIVEN UP

"We've never signed a treaty... Yet Europeans have come. They've occupied our territories, they've taken our trees, they've taken our minerals. We've never been recognized for all that we've given up. A treaty will finally set us on the correct path as a nation."

Xwelíqweltel, Grand Chief Steven Point

Our Sqwélqwel recalls several promises made by early colonial representatives. In the spirit of our ancestors we are moving forward to deal with those historic promises and recognition of our Aboriginal rights.

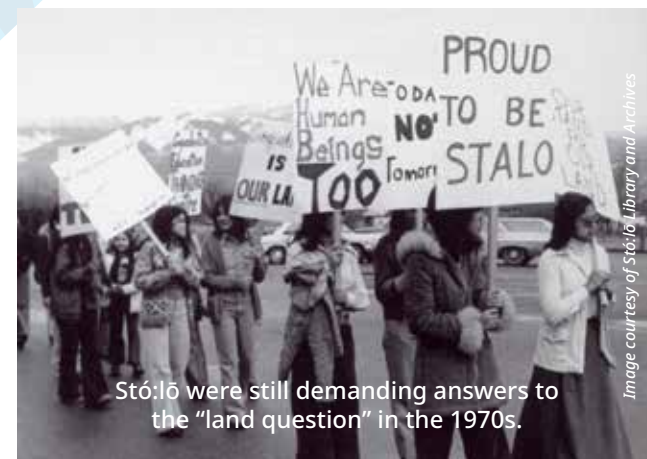


Image courtesy of Stó:lō Library and Archives

Stó:lō were still demanding answers to the "land question" in the 1970s.

THE DOUGLAS TREATIES AND HIS PROMISE

- Between 1850 and 1854, 14 treaties covering 930 square kilometers on Vancouver Island were signed by Governor James Douglas.
- Douglas recognized Stó:lō ownership of land and in April 1864 his surveyors were instructed to mark out reserves: "Whatsoever land the Indians claim as theirs."
- These reserves were to include far-flung provisioning grounds.

THE CROWN'S PROMISE

Soon after, Douglas retired and the new Governor Frederick Seymour made promises to share resource revenues. According to our oral history, he said "You will receive 25 cents on every dollar raised on your land."

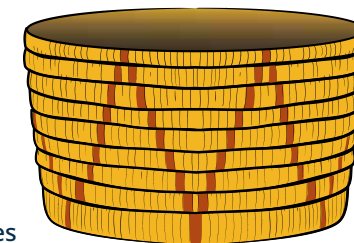
TRUTCH REDUCTIONS

In 1867, Joseph Trutch, the new Commissioner of Lands and Works, decided to reduce the size of our original reserves by 91 percent.

Land title to the rest of BC was left unresolved and since then expropriations for rail lines and other infrastructure projects have further impacted our already small reserves.

S'ólh Lets' emó:t:

Our One Thought represents our treaty in a visual way (see image on the back cover). The basket symbolizes our knowledge and our work to look after everything that belongs to Stó:lō together.



Art by Jared Deck, Ch'iyáqtel.

Take the self-guided Treaty Tour today!

www.sxta.bc.ca/treatytour

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

The goal of the "Why Treaty Now?" brochure is to provide some background about why we are in these negotiations.

Contact outreach@sxta.bc.ca or 604 824 3281 with any questions or comments.