



Ditidaht
FIRST NATION



Newsletter

September, 2016

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Issue 2

Announcements

We are pleased to announce the opening of our Treaty Communications office in Port Alberni:

3080-4th Avenue,
(right across from Little Bavaria restaurant)

There are basic services available for band members such as:

- Computers
- fax
- scanner
- copier
- printer

For further information, please contact the treaty communications office at:

778.421.3080

Office hours are from Monday to Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., (office hours may vary).



Windsurfer Park, 2015

What are the benefits of treaty?

We are negotiating many different types of benefits.

Ditidaht will receive a “Land and Cash” package from BC and Canada that will settle our outstanding claims to our homelands. We are also negotiating Ditidaht’s rights to self-government and how our aboriginal rights to hunt, fish, trap, gather and carry on our traditions and culture will be addressed in the treaty. These rights will be set out in different chapters of the treaty.

We are also negotiating to have a much stronger say in how land and resource decisions off Treaty Settlement Lands are made.

What is a Treaty?

In BC, treaties are government-to-government agreements that are negotiated with a First Nation, British Columbia, and the federal government.

They are binding agreements that cannot be changed except with agreement by all three parties.

Other Options

Do nothing:

- Federal government still makes decisions and rules without our input
- We have no jurisdiction, land, resources, or money that isn't controlled by the government.,
- Funding for basic programs is set by the government and is decreasing – we have no say in it
- There may not be a “better deal” if we wait

Go to Court

- Uncertain outcome
- Costly
- Leads back to negotiations
- Winning at court doesn't always lead to change



Balaats'adt, 2015

What is the land and cash offer?

Ditidaht treaty negotiators are expecting a land and cash offer from the province and federal governments before the end of 2016.

The “land” part is the land that will become Ditidaht Treaty Settlement Land if we accept the treaty. It is the land we will control completely and where we can do whatever we want to on it. The treaty will include management and economic development rights and resource revenue sharing in the rest of the territory, but Treaty Settlement Land is where we will have the most control.

The “cash part is the money in the treaty settlement that we can use however we choose. The rest of the funding in the treaty will be for things we've agreed to, like building or economic development but with the cash portion there are no restrictions. We will decide how the money will be spent.



Image Caption

Community Gathering!

Ditidaht membership gathered at Balaats'adt July 25 to 28 to meet and talk about Treaty and to share some great experiences of the territory.

Buses were available from Nanaimo, Duncan and Port Alberni so our away-from-home members could come. While attendance wasn't as high as we'd hoped, a great time was had by those who came.

Boat tours to Doobah, Wyah, Clo-oose and Carmanah where provided, and van trips to Carmanah Provincial Park. As well, a tour was put on to the hatchery.

Ditidaht members had various opportunities to ask direct questions to treaty leadership, which took place in the community hall. Meals were prepared by Ditidaht staff and volunteers, songs were sung before dinner and prayers were offered by our elders.

Connecting our Ditidaht members was the intention of the community gathering, which was successful in many ways.

We plan on doing this again, so if you didn't make it, please plan for next year.



A fun boat ride, July 27, 2016



Image Caption



Tsukwada, no date

Community Meeting Schedule

We plan to have 3 series of community meetings this winter to talk with you about our treaty. Similar to the Land Use Plan and Comprehensive Community Plan meetings, each series includes Balaats'adt (Malachan), Port Alberni and Nanaimo.

October 4 - Nanaimo
October 5 - Port Alberni
October 6 - Balaats'adt

January 10, 11, 12
March 7, 8, 9

Please come out to the meetings and discuss with us these important issues that will affect our lives and our future.

Grand Opening - Port Alberni Treaty Office

We are pleased to announce a grand opening event to be held in the new Port Alberni Treaty Office

Saturday, October 1, 2016

3080 – 4th Avenue, Port Alberni

11:00 am to 3:00 pm,

Come share a light lunch with friends and family