



Ditidaht
FIRST NATION



Treaty Newsletter

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Treaty Communications: Donavon Gates
donavon.gates@ditidaht.ca | (778) 421-3080 | www.ditidaht.ca

Issue 6

How does the Treaty apply to members who live away?

We will be able to design our own programs and services to benefit all members. We will generate more economic development activity and develop new appropriate uses on our lands to have more options to help all our members.

All Ditidaht members are eligible to vote on Treaty and the Treaty will apply to all members, wherever they live.

We have been consulting with away-from-home members and getting their input to better understand their issues and concerns.



Elder Jimmy Chester, Port Alberni, 2017

Uncle/Grandpa Jimmy Chester won a Quality Foods gift card at the recent community engagement meeting in Port Alberni. Jimmy always makes time to attend our meetings and learn about what is happening throughout the Treaty process. At our recent meeting in Port Alberni he shared his wisdom and sang a Ditidaht dinner song to the delight of everyone! Thanks Jimmy!

Successful Information Meetings

In the last month or so we've met with membership in a round of meetings in Balaats'adt, Nanaimo, Port Alberni and Vancouver. This month we met in Nanaimo and Port Alberni and will be back in Balaats'adt on January 25th (it was delayed due to weather).

At the meetings we presented the recent Land and Cash Offer options as outlined by the provincial and federal governments. Membership was generally receptive to what is on offer and overwhelmingly indicated that one of the offers was the most desirable.

Our negotiators will continue to work to increase the land and cash offer, but this was a great starting point.

Treaty Information Meetings

We will be having further information meetings in March.

Please watch the Ditidaht Treaty Facebook Page or the February Newsletter for dates and locations.

Contact Information

- Jack Thompson, Chief Treaty Negotiator
jthompson@ditidaht.ca; (888-745-3366)
- Robert Joseph, Technical Negotiator
rjoseph@ditidaht.ca; (888-745-3366)
- Shelley Chester, Nanaimo
dtdots@shaw.ca (800-997-3799)
- Donavon Gates, Port Alberni Treaty Office
treatycommgates@gmail.com; (778-421-3080)
- Tina Joseph, Nanaimo
treatycommunications@gmail.com

Lands in the Land and Cash Offer - how did they get selected?

We've been discussing with membership on the recent Land and Cash offer by the provincial and federal governments and an important question is "the lands portion – were these selected by Canada and the Province, or by us?"

The lands are based on areas we identified to the two other governments as suitable for Treaty Settlement Lands.

We selected these lands after a lot of discussion with Elders, membership and members with particular knowledge of our Territory. They were selected based on six criteria:

1. **Spiritual, Cultural and Heritage Protection:** To protect, promote and enhance areas of spiritual, cultural and historical significance over the long-term;
2. **Traditional Stewardship:** To ensure that we have sufficient lands and resources to meet the needs of the present and future while ensuring sustainable resource management;
3. **Residential:** To ensure that we have sufficient lands to provide for current and future housing needs of members, taking into account historic patterns, desired places to live and attracting members back home;
4. **Sustainable Livelihood:** To ensure we can make a living from the sustainable development of our lands and resources including surface and subsurface;
5. **Recreation and Leisure:** To provide opportunities for recreation and leisure for present and future generations; and
6. **Effective Control of Key Lands:** To ensure that we have as much control as possible of key parts of our Traditional Territory through the selection of Treaty Settlement Lands, by selecting lands of key cultural and historical significance; avoiding fragmenting land selection, and ensuring access to water.

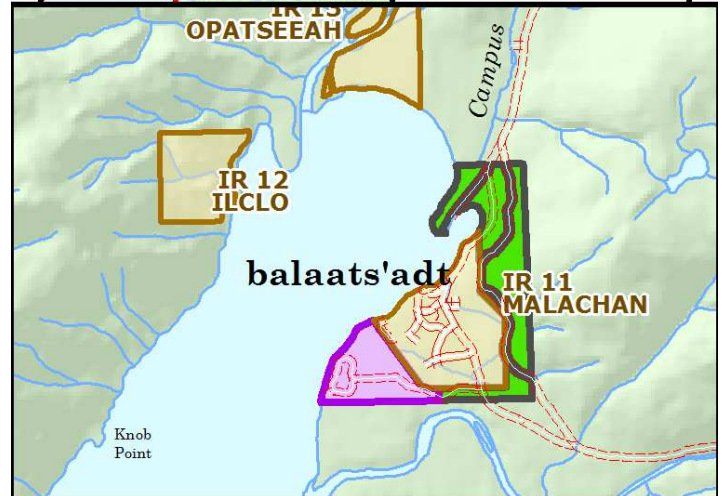
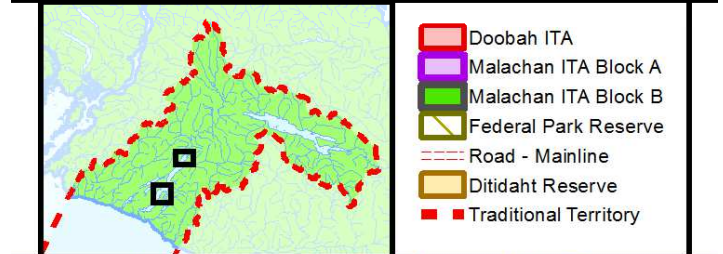
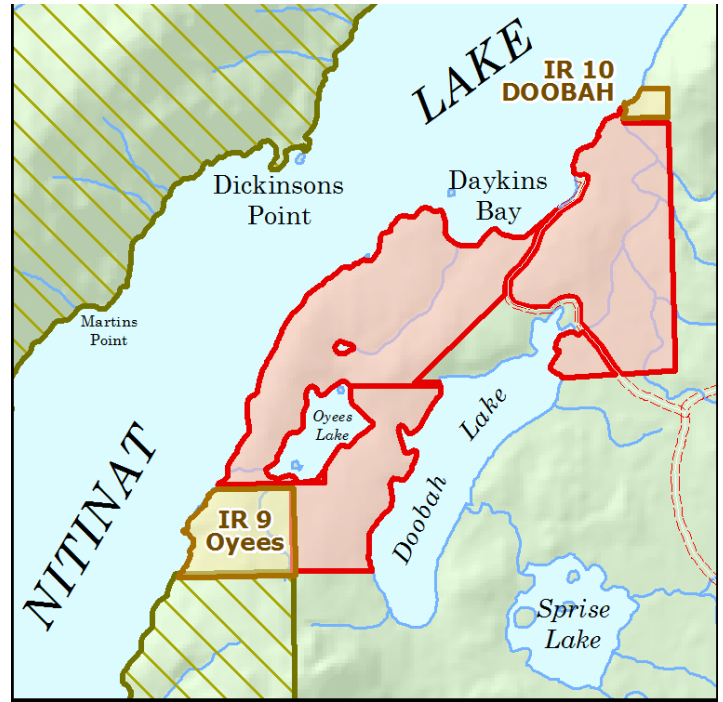
Incremental Treaty Agreement Lands

A while ago the Province agreed with First Nations that treaties were taking too long and some progress needed to be shown. Incremental Treaty Agreements (ITA) are designed to do that. Ditidaht is one of 21 First Nations to have an ITA. In our ITA, we will get 420 hectares of land returned to us. The first two portions will remain Ditidaht's whether we sign the final treaty or not. Please see the maps on the right for where the ITA lands are.

The lands are being returned at 3 stages of the treaty process:

- 350 ha of lands at Doobah have already been returned when we signed the ITA.
- 25 ha of additional lands at Malachan (Block B on the map) will be returned when we sign the Agreement in Principle
- 45 ha of additional lands at Malachan (Block A on the map) will be returned when we sign Final Agreement

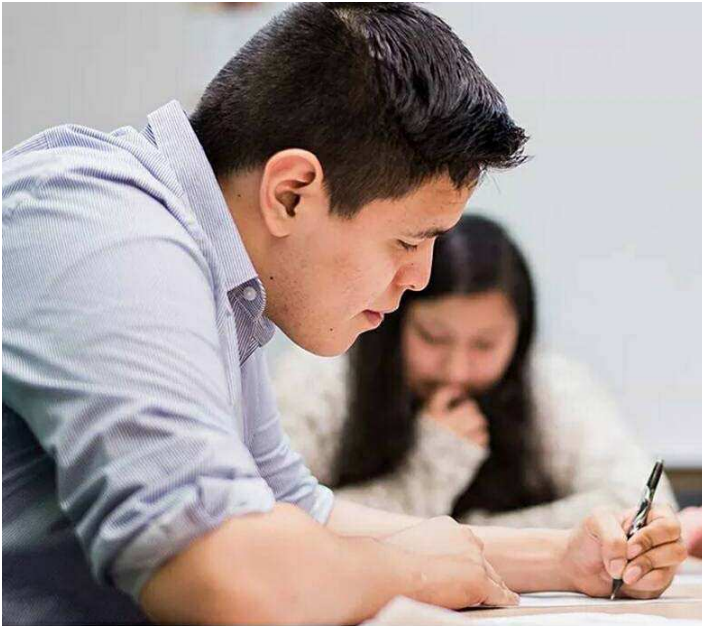
The Doobah lands will be used for economic development. The lands next to Balaats'adt will be used to expand the village site. The ITA land south of Balaats'adt include Windsurfer Park and the campsite, which is already providing jobs for our people and generating revenue for our government.



Incremental Treaty Lands



The recent weather has been a challenge for members living at home...



Ditidaht Youth Bio: Stephen Joseph

My name is Steven Joseph! I am Ditidaht, a 23 year old, sarcastic and fun student born in Nanaimo, BC. I have been working on my Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree for about 4 years now, which has been tough, exciting and rewarding during my time at both Vancouver Island University and Simon Fraser University. I aspire to be a lawyer, and value the merits found in humor, hard work, and discipline.

My time at both schools started with a lot of anxiety, which was abated by the welcoming nature of the faculty and the kind people I had the opportunity of meeting along the way. The result was my overall gratitude and appreciation to the finer details of the law, how the law is developed, and the theories which it underlies. This evolved from my original goal of wanting to take part in police work, a smaller goal academically, but a goal large enough to apply to Vancouver Island University to study Criminology. I moved from Nanaimo to Vancouver in 2014 after doing 2 years of study at VIU to pursue kickboxing (which definitely fell through, but will always be a passion of mine!).

After I get my BA I intend to obtain a law degree from the University of British Columbia. I am set on a path that ensures my education is successful, and have surrounded myself with supportive friends, colleagues, and staff so when the time comes that I apply to law school at UBC, I have all the resources I need. I am ecstatic for the possibilities of the treaty, and am working hard at school so one day I can work where I come from doing what I love to do.

Treaty Word List

Agreement in Principle — the 4th stage of the Treaty Process. Once we agree on a Land and Cash offer, we are ready to finish the Agreement in Principle and move into Stage 5—finalizing the Treaty. Once we vote on the treaty and if we vote “Yes”, we’ll be in the 6 and final stage of treaty — implementation.

Land and Cash Offer — As discussed in recent meetings and newsletters, the land and cash offer is the part of the treaty that is the Treaty Settlement Lands and the Cash. There’s other funding in the Treaty but we will be able to spend the Cash portion however we decide.

Treaty Settlement Land (TSL) — This is the land portion of the treaty — the lands that are returned to us as part of the treaty. On these lands we’ll have complete control where we say what happens and who can go there, according to our own land laws. If we decide some users of our TSL should pay taxes, the taxes are paid to our government.

Private Land — lands that are held by individuals or companies “in fee simple”. These lands are where people have the most control, but they still have to pay provincial land taxes and are under provincial control.