



Ditidaht
FIRST NATION



November 15, 2016

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Issue 4

What is a Land and Cash Offer?

As outlined in the November 1 newsletter and more fully in recent community meetings, treaty is made up of a number of parts. There will be money to build infrastructure and expand economic development, etc. The cash part of this offer is money that isn't for a specific purpose, and we can use it however we think best.

The package is being presented to us as options with different amounts of land and cash. In each option, if there is more land, there's less cash, or less land and more cash.

We need to decide which of these options is good enough to continue into final Treaty negotiations.



3 Corner and Swamp Grass baskets by Julia Joseph and Christina Joseph

Ditidaht Receives Land and Cash Offer

We have been meeting with the Treaty Committee and our membership over the last few days to discuss the very recent Land and Cash Offer from the Province and Canada. The Land and Cash Offer is a very important part of finalizing the Agreement in Principle of our Treaty so we can move into final negotiations.

Due to the very sensitive nature of the negotiations, we aren't able to publish the specific details of the lands that are being offered to us as Treaty Settlement Lands. We have been showing maps and the details of the Land and Cash Offer at the meetings and have had a very positive response from the membership.

What is in the Land and Cash Offer?

As mentioned, because of the sensitive nature of our lands and the negotiations, we can't distribute specific information about the offer. We can talk about it in relation to other discussions we have already had about the lands and cash part of the treaty.

Two parts of the land offer are already fixed as part of Treaty Settlement Lands:

- a. Existing Indian Reserves, and
- b. 420 hectares of Incremental Treaty Lands agreed to in 2015

In 1999 the other governments made an offer of 2,527 hectares shown on the map below, and \$17 million. This offer was clearly unacceptable in comparison to what membership indicated and was rejected without further discussion.

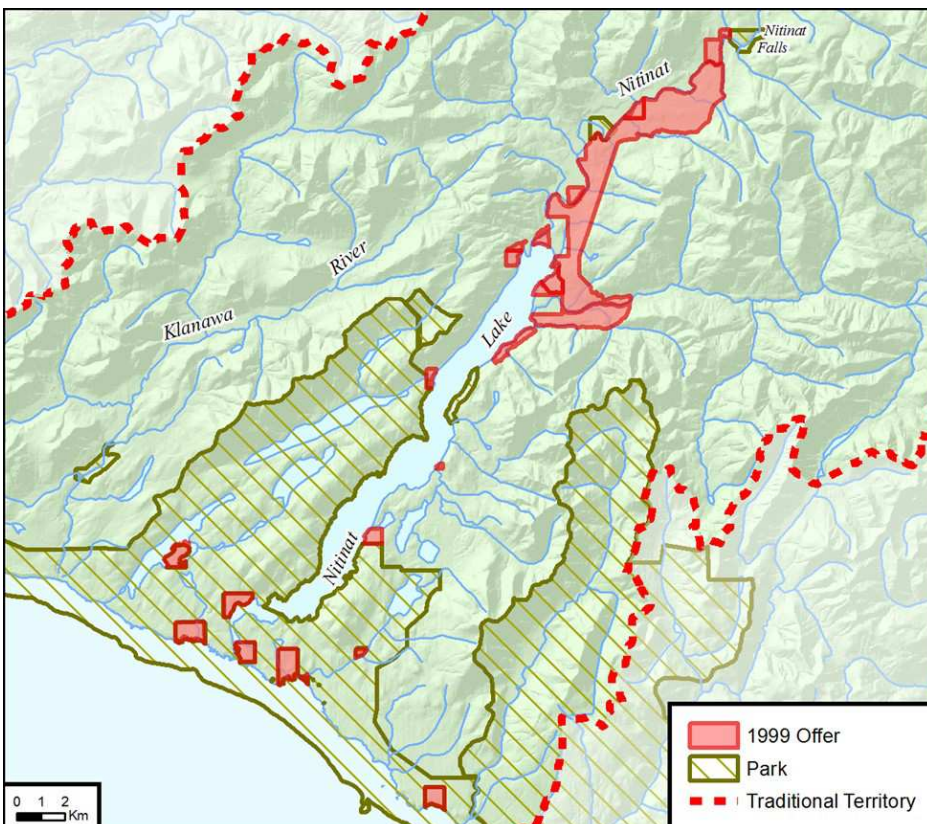
The Ditidaht Treaty team went back to negotiations and said that, for a treaty acceptable to membership in relation to the 1999 offer, there

would need to be

- a. more cash,
- b. more land overall,
- c. land at Nitinat Narrows,
- d. Economic development opportunities outside of Treaty Settlement Lands, and
- e. significant management roles for Ditidaht in other parts of the Territory

In 2010, in consultation with the Treaty Committee and elders from the past and present, Ditidaht defined 9,645 hectares of land that would be acceptable for Treaty Settlement Lands. These lands were focused mainly around Nitinat Lake and around our reserves.

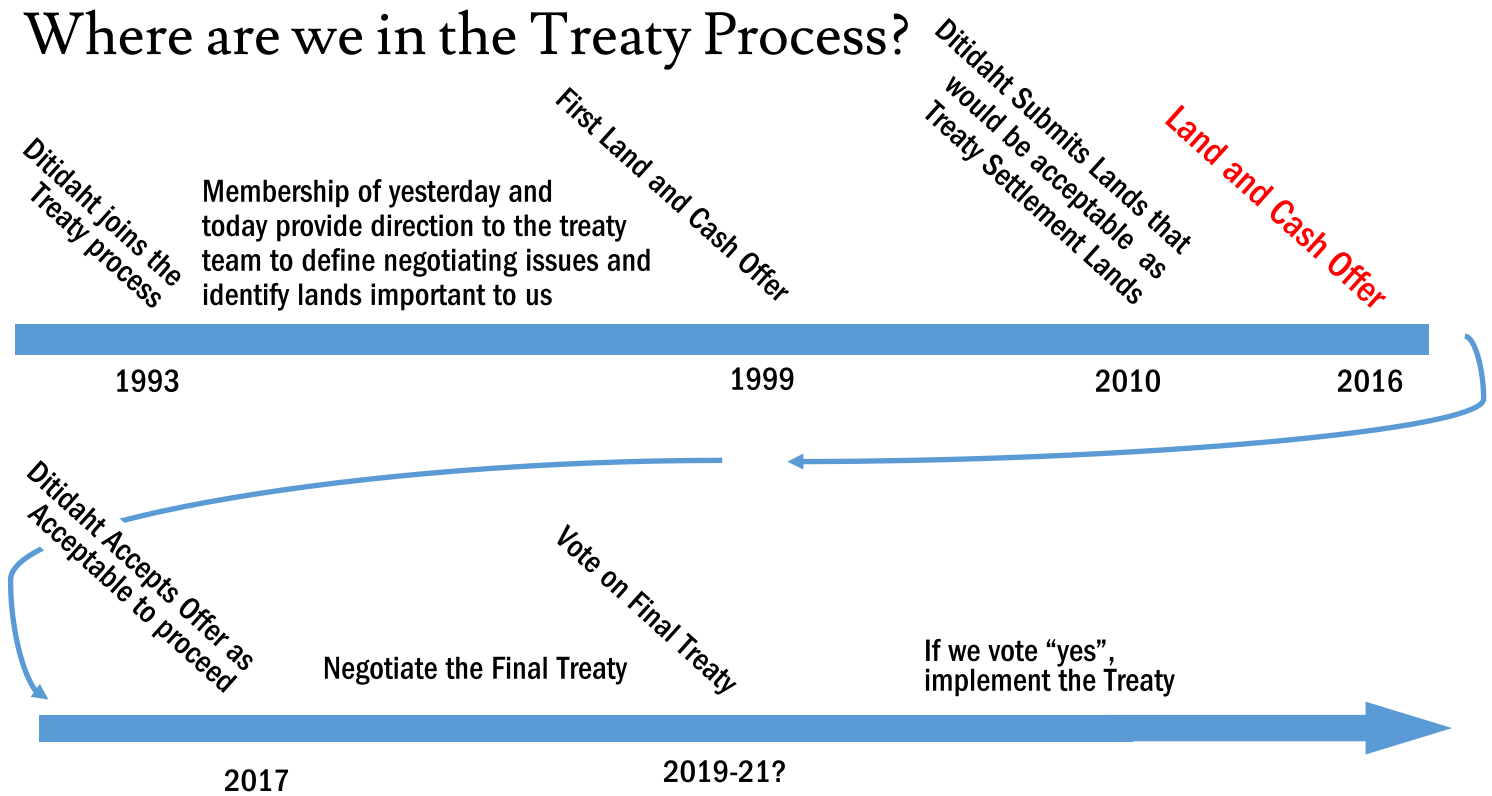
Aside from lands that may no longer be suitable for short-term economic benefits from logging because they have since been logged, the recent offer shows excellent progress made by your treaty negotiators.



2,527 hectares
\$17 million

1999 Offer from the Governments

Where are we in the Treaty Process?



How far along are we in negotiating the Treaty?

Ditidaht is in active negotiations for our Agreement in Principle, or AIP. The AIP sets out the basics of what the final treaty might look like and it includes the lands and cash in the recent offer.

The AIP is not legally binding. It does not change or affect our rights. It sets out the issues Ditidaht, Canada and BC will negotiate in the Final Agreement and provides an outline for what many of the key terms will be. At this point, we still need to negotiate a number of issues and some parts may change in the final agreement.

What benefits come from an Agreement in Principle?

The signing of the AIP will not affect your day-to-day life, or your aboriginal rights, as it has no legal effect. However, when the AIP is complete, we will move into the Final Agreement stage of the treaty process, which are a higher priority for BC and

Canada. This means they'll put more time, effort and resources into negotiations and this will help the negotiations move along quicker. Also, we will receive 45 additional hectares of land next to Balataats'adt village that are part of the Incremental Treaty Agreement of 2013.

Will Ditidaht members get to vote on the AIP?

Since the AIP has no legal effect, there are no plans to hold a vote. Also, the AIP is not the final amount of money and land we will get, nor other benefits in the treaty. Approving the AIP is only a decision to continue in the treaty process – not to approve the treaty. We do not want to ask members to vote until we know exactly what the treaty will look like.

There **will** be a vote for the final Treaty when the time comes in a few years, accompanied with a lot of community consultation.

Where does the Lands and Cash offer fit in the Agreement in Principle?



Lands and Cash are part of the Agreement in Principle

As shown in this graphic, the Lands and Cash offer is only a part of the Agreement in Principle and ultimately only a small part of the final Treaty.

We are negotiating many other types of benefits. The Treaty will define our right to self-government and how our aboriginal rights to hunt, fish, trap, gather and carry on our traditions and culture will be respected. 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 (co-management).

Treaty Word List

Agreement in Principal – (AIP) the 4th Stage of treaty negotiations. We are nearly completing the AIP. The last two stages are Final Agreement and Implementation.

Economic Development— businesses we start to employ our people and provide funding for our programs.

Why are we working on a Treaty?

Ditidaht First Nation is working on a Treaty so we can resolve issues of rights and title, take responsibility for self-governance, and have more opportunities for investment and economic development. The Treaty will also clarify our ownership of our lands and resources.

Treaty Information Meetings

We will be having further information meetings January 10 to 12.

Please watch for the December newsletter for locations.

Please joins us for these most important Treaty meetings.

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Treaty Settlement Lands – (TSL) lands that will be returned to us in the Treaty.

Incremental Treaty Agreement – (ITA) in 2013 the other governments agreed 430 hectares of land would be returned, prior to final agreement and remain Ditidaht's whether we sign a treaty or not.
