



Community Report

Building a robust fishery for all, forever.

March 7, 2016

Update: Preparing to Negotiate.



The Hon. Hunter Tootoo recently met with a delegation from the Main Table.

The FSMC Main Table Council has made steady progress on its *Preparing to Negotiate* timeline.

“We’re putting in place a solid foundation for our Lead Negotiator and team,” said Darren Haskell, President, FSMC. “Our goal is to begin negotiations with DFO this spring.”

Over the past year, the Main Table has completed these key timeline tasks:

- ✓ Retained a Lead Negotiator (Brenda Gaertner of Mandell Pinder LLP).
- ✓ With the Lead Negotiator, started development of a Negotiations Strategy.
- ✓ Confirmed the size and makeup of the Negotiations Team (Brenda plus one Main Table member from each region.)
- ✓ Obtained consensus approval from Member Delegates for Formal Mandate Request #1.

FSMC is now focused on these two final steps:

- 1) Obtain a Mandate to Negotiate from FSMC member nations; and
- 2) Reach agreement with DFO on a Framework to Guide Negotiations.

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FSMC Member Nations

Burns Lake, Canim Lake, Canoe Creek, Esketemc, Lhtako Dene, Lheidli T'enneh, Nak'azdli Whut'en, Nazko, Soda Creek, Stelat'en, Tl'azt'en, Wet'suwet'en, Williams Lake, Yekooche, Adams Lake, Bonaparte, Coldwater, Cook's Ferry, High Bar, Little Shuswap, Neskonalith, Nicomen, Nooaitch, Okanagan IB, Osoyoos, Penticton, Saik'uz, Seton Lake, Shackan, Shuswap IB, Simpcw, Siska, Skeetchestn, Splatsin, Tk'emlups, T'tit'qet, Upper Nicola, Westbank, Whispering Pines/Canton, Chawathil, Katzie, Kwantlen, Kwaw Kwaw Apilt, Seabird Island, Shxw'wowhamel, Shxwa:y Village, Sumas, Skawahlook, Skowkale, Soowahlie, Tsawwassen, Tzeachten, Yale, Campbell River, Cape Mudge, Cowichan Tribes, Ditidaht, Ehattesaht Chinehkont, Lyackson, 'Namgis, Halalt, Nuchatluht, Penelakut and Quatsino.

Update:

Preparing to Negotiate *(continued)*

1) Obtain a Mandate to Negotiate from FSMC member nations.

The FSMC Constitution and By-laws requires that 75% of Signatory Nations pass a Council Resolution to approving a mandate before negotiations can begin.

“Our negotiators will go to the table with a secure mandate from a clear majority of FSMC Signatories,” said Tina Donald (Vice-Chair). “They’ll carry out their work with the solid support of FSMC member nations.”

As there are currently 64 member Nations, a minimum of 48 Council Resolutions are required for a mandate. “To date, we’ve received 35 Council Resolutions,” said Walter Quinlan (FSMC Communications Manager). “We anticipate reaching 48 by April.”

2) Reach agreement with DFO on a Framework to Guide Negotiations.

Representatives from FSMC and DFO have been working on the *Framework Agreement to Guide Negotiations* for a little over a year. The purpose of the Framework is to guide the conduct of negotiations between DFO and FSMC.

“At our February 4th meeting with Minister Tootoo, he indicated to me that DFO staff would soon complete their work on the Framework,” Darren said.

Looking forward

The Main Table sends it’s thanks to everyone for their work. Each week brings us closer to our Mandate and and we’re confident that we’ll get there soon.



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