



Ditidaht
FIRST NATIONS



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Issue 1

Treaty Communications

We are setting up a satellite office in Port Alberni for Treaty that will be opening in August. Look for the August newsletter for more information.

As well, we have hired a member in Nanaimo to provide input to social media. This will also start in August.

Until then, for information about treaty, please contact:

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(888) 745-3366

www.ditidaht.ca:
contact form

Ditidaht Treaty, 2016-2017



Balaats'adt 2015

Ditidaht has started on an accelerated Treaty process to move into the final negotiation stage in 2017. We have a lot to do before then to be ready, especially if membership accepts that we want to implement the Treaty.

With the membership this year we are focusing on setting up good communications to and from membership so that the draft Treaty reflects as much as possible our goals and desires for the future.

Later on, once communications are running smoothly, we'll be talking about Governance - what kind of Ditidaht government do we want once we are no longer under the control of the Indian Act and the federal government?

This is just the first of many newsletters and bulletins providing information about the treaty. Please let us know if there are any topics you are particularly interested in.

What will be different with a Treaty?

Life under the Indian Act / Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC)

- Dependent on Government
- AANDC controls everything in our lives
- “from birth to death”

Governed entirely by the Indian Act

- Indian Act defines the Band Council and their powers
- Band Council has authority delegated by Aboriginal Affairs and reports to Minister of Indian Affairs

Health Canada and AANDC Services

- Continued reduction in benefits (e.g. medical, dental, education, child care, etc.)
- Government imposes solutions upon us that have little to do with who we are

Ditidaht Life after Treaty

- Ditidaht Government is independent of the other governments, we control our own lives

Governed by Ditidaht Constitution

- Ditidaht's system of government under our own constitution that we control
- Ditidaht government is accountable to the people

Ditidaht First Nations Services

- Same level of existing services plus ability to expand services to meet needs of members

Community driven solutions

- Ditidaht government will develop and implement our own solutions for our own benefit based on our culture and values

What survives, what's enhanced?

What stays the same

Indian Status: Indian Act still applies for the purposes of defining “who is an Indian” – i.e. “Indian Status” remains. Federal government can change the Indian Act at any time.

Funding for programs and services continues, but through the treaty

Access to programs and services available to Aboriginal people in Canada: As Sstatus Indians under the Indian Act, status Ditidahts remain entitled to apply for programs and services available to status Indians (that are not provided for in the treaty)

Health/Dental benefits: Ditidahts remain entitled to Non-Insured Health Benefits as per current policies, including prescriptions, eye-glasses, dental, medical

What is enhanced through treaty

Ditidaht: individuals enrolled under the Ditidaht Treaty are **entitled to all benefits in the treaty**

Ditidaht Citizens are entitled to rights as defined in the Ditidaht Constitution

All funding for existing programs and services will continue; **funding is enhanced under the treaty and includes annual adjusters** to account for inflation and population increase

All Ditidaht Citizens will be entitled to benefits provided by the Ditidaht Government

If members do not live on Ditidaht Treaty Lands, services such as education, social assistance, health and dental are provided and paid for by the federal government

Ditidaht has the **ability to enhance** these services with our own funds as determined by priorities that we set