



## The First Nations of Maa-nulth Treaty Society

Huu-ay-aht First Nations | Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations  
 Toquaht Nation | Uchucklesaht Tribe | Ucluelet First Nation

*“A Foundation for Our Future Generations”*

December 17th, 2007

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**SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL MEMBERS!**

### Update

Since our last communication in October 2007, Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h', Toquaht, Uchucklesaht and Ucluelet voted in favour of the Maa-nulth Final Agreement. As you probably already know, each nation has now overwhelmingly approved the Maa-nulth Final Agreement.

Treaty Vote	Huu-ay-aht	Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/ Che:k'tles7et'h'	Toquaht	Uchucklesaht	Ucluelet	Total
Eligible voters	378	310	80	137	376	1281
Yes ballots required to pass	190	156	41	69	189	645
<b>Ballots Cast</b>						
Rejected	1	0	1	2	4	8
Yes	272	192	62	116	233	875
No	30	80	10	2	94	216
<b>Total Votes</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>1099</b>
<b>%Participation</b>	<b>80.2%</b>	<b>87.7%</b>	<b>91.3%</b>	<b>87.6%</b>	<b>88.0%</b>	<b>85.8%</b>
<b>%Yes of Participating Voters</b>	<b>89.8%</b>	<b>70.6%</b>	<b>84.9%</b>	<b>96.7%</b>	<b>70.4%</b>	<b>79.6%</b>
<b>%Yes of Eligible Voters</b>	<b>72.0%</b>	<b>61.9%</b>	<b>77.5%</b>	<b>84.7%</b>	<b>62.0%</b>	<b>68.3%</b>

*To see results from the Band Votes please visit our website at: [www.maanulth.ca](http://www.maanulth.ca)*

Now that all Maa-nulth First Nations have ratified the Final Agreement, British Columbia and then Canada need to ratify the agreement. (As you will see below, BC finalized its process on November 29th and also ratified the agreement). The agreement will now go through ratification process with Canada which is a bit more time-consuming; we'll keep you posted on the progress.



## Introduction Provincial Legislation of Maa-nulth Final Agreement

On November 21st the Maa-nulth Final Agreement Act (Bill 45) was introduced into the Provincial Legislature. Members of all five First Nations attended this historical day. Chief Councillors Charlie Cootes, Vi Mundy, Tess Smith, Robert Dennis and Chief Bert Mack all provided riveting and heartfelt speeches to the Legislature. In addition, the Provincial Government presented the five Maa-nulth First Nations with a red cedar canoe and a paddle carved by Joe and Carl Martin from Tla-o-qui-aht.



“Since the time of contact, our Chiefs and leaders have continuously sought recognition of our rights and title to our homelands and the rightful place of our people therein, and have sought to reach agreement on how we could co-exist within our territories. Together with British Columbians, we move one step closer to the meaning of reconciliation.”  
- Huu-ay-aht Chief Councillor, Robert Dennis

“The Final Agreement cannot and will not guarantee our people a better life, a fair share of our resources nor a place in the hearts of all British Columbians, we cannot legislate love. It is through the intent and the spirit of these very long, tiring and costly negotiations that we shall get a better place – all of us – as British Columbians.”  
- Ka:’yu:’k’t’h’/Che:k’tles7et’h’ Chief Councillor, Therese Smith

“My father entrusted me to continue his quest for a treaty, my people and I have succeeded beyond my expectations, and I only wish he could have been here on this momentous day.”  
- Toquaht Chief, Bert Mack

“The Maa-nulth Treaty is an expression of our vision of the future; it is a vision that permits us to see a future filled with opportunities.”  
- Uchucklesaht Chief Councillor, Charlie Cootes

“We are now in a stronger position to heal the wounds of the past and weave our people back into the fabric of society. The singularity of the ratification experience has already inspired a lot of our people to re-examine their identity as Yuu-cluth-aht and look to the possibility of real change and progress for our people.”  
- Ucluelet Chief Councillor, Vi Mundy

The Maa-nulth Final Agreement was passed in the Provincial Legislature on November 29, 2007. The Bill (45) was given Royal Assent on the same day by the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, Steven Point.



### 5th Maa-nulth Annual General Assembly – “Bringing our Treaty to Life”

On November 23, 24 and 25, 2007 approximately 250 members from all five Maa-nulth First Nations attended the 5th Maa-nulth Annual General Assembly. The Assembly was held at the Quinsam Hall on the We Wai Kai Traditional Territory in the Campbell River area. This was the largest attended Assembly to date which has left both the members and leaderships optimistic about the positive progress all five nations are making.

“I encourage the youth, all of our children to really listen and pay attention because we need you. We need you to stand, it’s time for you to take over and step in. It’s time for you to do the things that our elders have done and our leaders today have worked so hard at.”

- Daisy Hanson, Ka:’yu:’k’t’h’/Che:k’tles7et’h’

“To the Youth, you are the ones that will take this to the next level, they are going to be the ones to deliver all the potential promises the treaty brings.”

- Nelson Leeson, President Nisga’a Lisims Government

“Look at the future, we’re going to make it. We have a bright future.”

- Gordon Taylor, Ucluelet First Nation

“What defines us as people and as Nations- it’s the homeland which you have taken back, it’s our language, our history, our spirituality and we have to pick that up and use that as our torch bearer as we move forward, that’s what’s going to bring us forward, that’s what’s going to bring us success, that’s what’s going to make us strong and that’s how we are going to live on into the future. If we don’t have that, we don’t have anything.”

- Herb George (Satsan), President National Center for First Nations Governance

### Next Steps

As we get closer to ratification of the Maa-nulth Final Agreement by all three parties, we are now entering the implementation phase. This phase will be an ongoing process that will require a lot of work as we prepare for the Effective Date of the treaty. Leaders and teams met in early December to begin to discuss the work associated with this phase. Each Nation will be holding planning meetings to determine how they will get the work done and be fully prepared for the Effective Date.

Wishing all families a safe and happy holiday season.....looking forward to 2008!