



# Miawpukek Mi'kamawey Mawi'omi Self Government

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## Self Government Days

Miawpukek First Nation hosted its first Self Government Day on Tuesday, June 13, 2006. The objective of this day was;

- To provide information and experiences from other people and other Reserves in Canada who have experienced Self Government.
- To provide a network with other First Nations involved with Self Government
- To give the public a chance to voice any concerns or questions they may have
- A chance to meet & greet with the presenters.



**From Left to Right ; Tim Raybould, Larry Derickson, Herb George and Ed Allen**

Two First Nations from British Columbia were represented, the Nisga First Nation and the Westbank First Nation. Presentations were given from the following. Ed Allen, Chief Executive Officer of Nishga First Nations Larry Derick-

son, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Tim Raybould, Policy Advisor for Westbank First Nation. Herb George, President of National Centre for First Nation Governance participated in the panel discussion and is an expert on self Government.



## The Nisga Final Agreement

On August 4, 1998, the Nisga'a Tribal Council, the Federal Government and the Government of British Columbia initiated the Nisga Final Agreement.

- This agreement came after thirty years of negotiations. The Agreement is intended to settle the Land Claim of the Nisga Nation, located in British Columbia's Nass Valley.
- It includes provisions related to land, resources, financial compensation and governance. Under the agreement, the Nisga'a have a central government ( Nisga'a Lisims Government) and four village governments, similar to local government arrangements, all of whose structures, duties and functions are spelled out in the Nisga Constitution.

The agreement provides for Nisga Law Making powers over matters such as;

1. culture and language
2. public works,
3. regulation of traffic and transportation,

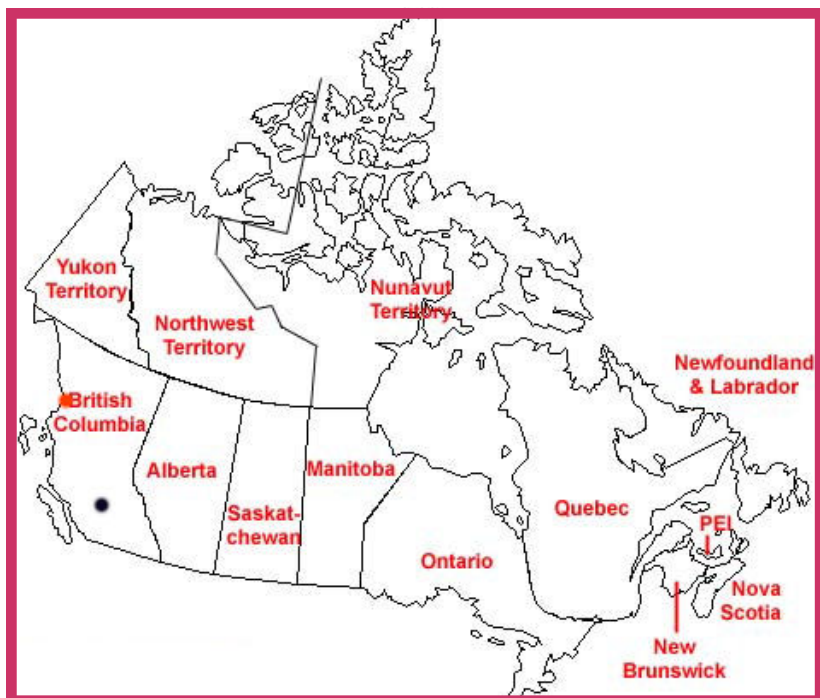
4. land use
5. solemnization of marriages.

The Nisga will continue to provide health care, child welfare and education services under existing arrangements but could also chose to make laws in these areas as well. All Nisga Law Making Powers would be concurrent with those of Canada and British Columbia. Under the agreement, powers related to solemnization of marriages, social services and adoption apply to Nisga people throughout the province, with their consent.



**Herb George and Ed Allen**

The agreement also provides that people residing on Nisga land who are not Nisga citizens will be consulted about and may seek a review of decisions that directly and/or significantly affect them.



## The Westbank Agreement

The Westbank First Nation is an urban Reserve in the Southern interior of British Columbia located adjacent to the city of Kelowna, British Columbia. The Westbank community is one of six Aboriginal communities that comprise the Okanagan Nation. The Okanagan people speak their own language, are a division of the interior salish and have inhabited the Okanagan Valley for thousands of years. Westbank is a progressive community, with the Reserve land base of just under 6000 acres. It is home to approximately 575 Band members and approximately 8000 Non- Band members.

- In the early 1980's, Westbank began exploring options from moving out from under the Indian Act and becoming Self governing. In 1989, formal negotiations with the Government of Canada commenced and on July 13, 1998, an Agreement in Principle was signed.
- On July 6, 2000, Canada

and Westbank initialed the first Self Government agreement. The Westbank First Nation still holds its land as Reserve Land under the Indian Act and the section 87 ( tax exemption) still applies to the Aboriginal Band members living in that community.



From left to right; Yvonne John, Tammy Drew, Judy White, Craig Atkinson, Bruce Littlejohn, Kevin Nixon, Pam Rodgers and Aubrey Gover.

## Community Involvement



Community members were present for the Self Government Day Presentations, as well as the questions and answers period. This was a period that allowed the community to ask questions to the invited guests in an attempt to increase knowledge on

Self Government. Although the number of questions asked were plentiful, the following is an example of what was asked.

1. Where does Nisga/ Westbank generate their revenue?
2. What lessons, good & bad, have Nisga/Westbank learned & how do those lessons apply to Conne River?
3. What are some positive aspects of self government?

## Self Government

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## NOTE OF THANKS

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following  
for helping make our Self Government Day a success!

Bede Benoit, Wade Benoit, Gordon Benoit for donations of  
Moose Meat.

Marilyn John for Catering

Siobhan Stride and Marina Skinner for Serving

Management & Staff at the Nutrition Centre

Management & Staff of Vancor Motel in Head Bay'd'Espoir

Management & Staff of the Band Council

Bayview Groceteria

Dean McDonald

And the general public for attending.

THANK YOU!!!!!!

## Public Notice

The Invited guests , Herb George, Tim Raybould, Ed Allen & Larry Derickson, have extended an invitation to members of our community to visit them in order to see how Self Government works in their community. The Self Government Steering Committee will be looking for one community member at large to accompany 3 members on

an expenses paid trip to Westbank/Nisga (some restrictions apply).

### How to Apply:

- Submit a letter to Self Government, include your name, age and telephone number.
- Explain in your letter why you should go and What you can bring back to the community from this experience.

- This is open to all but only ONE will be chosen.
- This trip will take place sometime in the fall of 2006.

