

## **GOVERNANCE**

### **Sliammon governance**

The Tla'amin Nation (Sliammon First Nation) Final Agreement will operate within the framework of the Constitution of Canada, and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms will apply to the Tla'amin government.

With the exception of determining Indian status, after a transition period the Indian Act will no longer apply to Tla'amin, its lands or members. Instead, constitutionally-protected self-government provisions will enable Tla'amin to make its own decisions about matters related to the preservation of its culture, the exercise of its treaty rights and the operation of its government.

In October 2009, the Tla'amin Nation community ratified a constitution in accordance with the treaty. The constitution provides that the Tla'amin Nation government will be democratically and financially accountable to its members. The Tla'amin constitution will come into force on the effective date of the treaty.

### **Tla'amin law-making powers**

The Final Agreement contains law-making powers for matters related to lands, resources, and other areas of governance. Tla'amin areas of authority include the delivery of health services, education, land management and public works.

Federal and provincial laws will apply on treaty settlement lands, known as Tla'amin Lands. In matters where Tla'amin has law-making authority, the Final Agreement sets out which law prevails if a Tla'amin law conflicts with a federal or provincial law.

In areas related to internal matters, Tla'amin laws will have priority over conflicting federal and provincial laws. Examples include government administration, governance of Tla'amin Lands, Tla'amin assets on these lands, and Tla'amin citizenship. In other areas, federal and provincial laws will prevail over Tla'amin Nation laws to the extent of any conflict.

### **Intergovernmental relations**

Tla'amin Lands do not form part of any municipality or electoral area, and do not form part of any regional district. Tla'amin is responsible for managing its intergovernmental relations with local governments, and may enter into agreements with local governments for the provision and delivery of services.

### **Non-member representation**

Residents on Tla'amin Lands who are not Tla'amin Nation members may participate in the decision-making processes of a Tla'amin public institution, such as a school or

health board, if the activities of that institution directly and significantly affect them. In such cases, non-members will be represented on a Tla'amin public institution by at least one non-member, who will be identified by non-members. However, Tla'amin may provide that a majority of the members of a Tla'amin public institution are Tla'amin Nation members.

The Tla'amin government will consult non-members who live on Tla'amin Lands on land-use decisions that affect them. Non-member residents will have access to the same appeal and review procedures as Tla'amin Nation members.

### **Culture and heritage**

The Tla'amin government may make laws applicable on Tla'amin Lands regarding the preservation, promotion and development, and teaching of Tla'amin culture and language. It may also make laws on the conservation, protection and management of cultural heritage sites located on Tla'amin Lands.