

Hugh Braker

-25 years as a lawyer specializing in aboriginal people and the law, appointed Q.C. by the Province of BC, received the Aboriginal Achievement award for law and politics, published approximately 100 papers on the law, has made presentations at conferences and universities in the US, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil and Norway and in all parts of Canada. Chair of the Board of the NRT, President of the First Nations Fisheries Council of BC, President of the Native Courtworkers Association and previous President of approximately ten other organizations.

Claims

When I was first ran for council, I stated that Tseshahat had been taken advantage of for almost 200 years. I made settlement of Tseshahat specific claims and our land claim a priority. No other previous council had pursued all our 20+ specific claims. We are now close to settlement of our claim for the loss of Iwachis at Franklin River. I have in the past estimated a settlement of over \$10 million. I must now up that estimate to at least \$15 million. We are also negotiating to settle the forced removal of Tseshahat from our community at the foot of Argyle St. (Wolf Village). I believe that claim to be worth much more than Iwachis. In total, I believe Tseshahat will receive between \$50 and \$75 million for settlement of all it's specific claims over the next 8 years or so. I have stated several times that we can use those settlements for the costs of our land claim, other Tseshahat projects and a per capita distribution. It is a fact of life, that some of our elders may not live to see the end of our claims. A per capita distribution of some of the funds would allow all our elders, and all other Tseshahat, to see the benefit of these settlements. Our land claim is the key to Tseshahat's future. Once we control our lands, river and maritime resources we will hopefully end the conflicts with DFO, guarantee Tseshahat children jobs for the future, lift our First Nation out of economic pressures and allow us to invest in retaining Tseshahat culture and language.

Education Jurisdiction

I continue to represent Tseshahat in education jurisdiction negotiations with BC and Canada. The 14 First Nations are very close to concluding these negotiations. We hope to implement the jurisdiction next September. Haahuupayak has supported these negotiations since day 1. Over the next 5 months there will be a complex number of information sessions, votes and council decisions that the Tseshahat must make to implement the jurisdiction.

Forestry

Tseshahat is facing a number of challenges on forestry issues including simple matters such as securing firewood for elders, to far more complex issues such as the sale of TFL 44 interests to the Huuayaht. A large part of TFL 44 lies within Tseshahat territory. Ultimately, I believe our land claim will settle these issues, but until our land claim is finished in court, we must work to protect our interests in forestry.

Emergency Preparedness

As the Councillor responsible for Emergency Preparedness, we have dealt with a number of emergencies over the past 8 years including Tsunami alerts, windstorms, flooding and, now, a pandemic. I am very proud of the Tseshahat Emergency crew. Tseshahat is often called upon to make presentations as we are viewed as one of the most effective Emergency programmes for First Nations. During this pandemic Tseshahat's Emergency crew made educating and informing our people on and off reserve a priority, as well as providing effective cleaning supplies to our most vulnerable members and providing non-grocery store items such as fish, urchin, oysters, clams and mussels to our elders and some members. Tseshahat also did a per capita distribution of funds to assist all our members with extra costs. Protecting our most vulnerable members is the Tseshahat emergency crew's goal.