

What Is Treaty?

A treaty is an official agreement made between the nation, British Columbia and the Government of Canada. Many Nations have historical treaties in Canada during the past century, but BC remains in question. Negotiating a treaty involves defining Aboriginal Rights, settling land ownership, determining how to share resources and revenues, and developing a governance system that reflects the people. A treaty is a legally binding agreement that outlines:



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Lake Babine Nation: Treaty

- The nation's power to decide its mode of government and laws,
- The nation's ownership of lands negotiated in the treaty,
- The nation's freedom to handle its lands and the resources the way it chooses,
- The nation's authority to determine its own membership
- The nation's role in their traditional territory, and more.

When a treaty takes effect, it is constitutionally protected by The Constitution of Canada,; meaning that, they are not able to take it away. A treaty will set out the

rights and powers of the nation. This also means the Nation will make laws and form a new type of government, one of which coincides with their culture. This government replaces the band council as understood under the Indian Act. To do so requires developing a Constitution.

What Is AIP?

An agreement in principle (AIP) is Stage 4 out of 6 in the BC Treaty Process. At this stage the negotiators are able to see a "snapshot" of what a final agreement could look like. Analogy: If a Final Agreement (Treaty) is a human being, an AIP would be the skeleton. The AIP is not a legally binding document.

What Is Stage 5?

Stage 5 out of 6 of the treaty process is the negotiation to finalize the treaty. Since a treaty is a legally binding agreement that formalizes a new relationship between the nation, BC and Canada, it is important that it embodies the agreements reached in the AIP. If an agreement is not reached during the process, the treaty process will stay in negotiation or stage 5 until all parties are satisfied or abandon negotiations. Usually the technical or legal issues are dealt with during stage 5.