

## Ucluelet Eyes Amphitrite Lands

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By Keven Drews

B.C. should transfer 65-acres of prime oceanfront property to Ucluelet because under a proposed treaty the community will lose land to First Nations, says the mayor. Saturday, Ucluelet Mayor Dianne St. Jacques told the Ucluelet Chamber of Commerce the municipality will take a hit to its tax base when it loses 85 acres of land near the Tofino-Ucluelet Junction to the five Maa-nulth First Nations.

Because it's losing the land, said St. Jacques, the district wants 65 acres of provincial land, some of which is leased by the federal government and the Canadian Coast Guard, at Amphitrite Point.

"We want to have it in our hands," said St. Jacques. "We realize it won't replace the tax base."

St. Jacques said the district is currently working on gaining control of the land.

The land is zoned P1, public institution.

St. Jacques said if the transfer goes ahead the district wants the Canadian Coast Guard to maintain the Marine Communications and Traffic Services Centre.

"The reality is this treaty has happened. It's moving forward and we are embracing it."

She said Ucluelet will be the first treaty "interface community" in B.C. and will be "smack dab in the middle" of treaty lands.

This past December, the Maa-nulth First Nations – Ucluelet, Huu-ay-aht, Toquaht, Ka: 'yu: 'k't'h'/Che;k'tles7et'h', and Uchucklesaht – initialized a final treaty agreement, paving the way for treaty referendums in each community.

The treaty will give all five First Nations, with a total population of some 2,000 people and living in the Barkley Sound and Ucluelet areas, 24,550 hectares of Crown land and tens-of-millions of dollars

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