

Vision

Binche Whut'en, a proud and unified people, work together to ensure improved quality of life, build capacity, and develop a sustainable, self-reliant, vibrant community that is built upon the historical and traditional values of our community.

"Original Way"



THE PROCESS

- The TI'azt'en Nation membership voted unanimously to proceed with the process for division.
- A negotiating team was appointed by the TI'azt'en Chief and Council.
- Terms of Division was signed off by all parties, including the Chief and Council.
- INAC approved the TOD.
- Approval of amendment to have 1 referendum vote as opposed to 2 votes. This will save time and money.
- Schedule 3 information sessions for community members
- Set referendum date to allow the people decide what they

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De-Amalgamation

The process to undo a historical INAC* wrongdoing

*Indian & Northern Affairs Canada

Oppressive INAC Policy

In 1959, without consulting with the communities, INAC arbitrarily amalgamated Binche, Tache, Dzitl'ainli (Middle River), Yekooche and Kuzche (Grande Rapids). Together these communities became known as the Stuart-Trembleur Lake Band.



Resurgence

Independence will allow our communities to work with our membership to develop a system that honours our own strengths. We will be able to more accurately gauge the gaps in services and develop the more appropriate response to the issues and utilize our strengths to address these issues.

The referendum is allowing the members to reconcile an INAC wrongdoing. INAC did not honour the diversity between our communities and forced us to work in a system that did not recognize our differences. The time is now to rectify this problem.

Prior to the amalgamation, 5 Chiefs represented these 5 communities, however INAC silenced the communities by decreasing the number of Chiefs down to one. On February 28, 2011 a motion was passed at a Binche community meeting to start the process to de-amalgamate from Tl'azt'en Nation. On April 5, 2011 a vote was held at a Band members meeting wherein the membership voted unanimously to proceed with the division.

Representatives from both communities have worked hard to negotiate a terms of division (TOD). December 2017, the TOD was approved by INAC however the INAC have requested one minor change – the referendum would be a single majority vote rather than a double majority.

Moving Forward

As it stands, it is required that 50% plus 1 of the voting population will need to vote for the referendum to be valid. If this 50% plus 1 does not turn out to vote, a second referendum will be called. Given that Tl'azt'en Nation has never had 50% of voter turnout, INAC have requested one referendum as opposed to two.* This saves on cost and time for both communities. The negotiation team must agree to this one amendment.

After the amendment is signed, 3 community information sessions will be scheduled and a referendum date will be set.

*The Yekooche separation set a precedent using the single majority vote.