

Hamatla Treaty Society  
1441 Old Island Highway  
Campbell River BC V9W 2E4  
Phone: 250-287-9460  
Facsimile: 250-287-9469  
Toll Free: 1-888-900-5720  
Email: hamatla@island.net



**Hamatla Treaty Society**  
**Proposal to participate in the**  
**Global Forum of Indigenous Peoples**  
**and the Information Society**  
World Summit of the Information Society  
**December 8-11, 2003**  
**Geneva**

**Hamatla Treaty Society**

The Hamatla Treaty Society (HTS), based in Campbell River, was established in November of 1994 to represent its member nations and to facilitate and support their efforts to sign a treaty with BC and Canada through the British Columbia Treaty Negotiation process. In August 1998, the member nations completed Stage Three of the Treaty Negotiation Process by signing a Framework Agreement with the governments of BC and Canada. HTS is now engaged in negotiation of an Agreement-in-Principle that will form the basis of a final treaty. The HTS represents 2500 plus citizens from its member Nations, the We Wai Kai (Cape Mudge), Wei Wai Kum (Campbell River), K'ómoks (Comox), Tlowitsis and Kwiakah.

What makes HTS unique at this forum is that we are presently in the process of negotiating a treaty with Canada and British Columbia. This is the first treaty that the member Nations will have with Canada and British Columbia so the HTS needs to establish its position and Aboriginal Title through documenting historical and prehistorical use of the territory: its water ways, timber, plant, marine and wildlife resources. This is primarily a lands and resource treaty but will include significant provisions to ensure the ability to self-govern, including authorities on taxation, land management, and law making.

In 2003, there is a vast array of technology available to Aboriginal organizations to assist in such endeavors. The HTS and its staff utilize this technology to support our negotiators in talks with the governments, to assist in research to support negotiations, to communicate with our Aboriginal communities, to communicate with the larger Canadian community and to communicate and support the internal, day to day, operations of HTS staff.

**Information Management and Technology Solution for Negotiations**

Example of how the HTS utilizes the available technology to tie together all the work to support negotiations

Traditional (Knowledge and Land) Use Study:

- Audio/Video of Elders recording oral traditions, traditional ecological knowledge, and history
- Take this information and move it into a digital format-transcription of interviews, digital audio/video
- Place the data from the interviews into a database
- Link through the database into GIS
- Enables data to be used in conjunction with other data, i.e.: environmental data, fish data, forestry data, watershed data, stream analysis data, archaeological data, etc.
- Result: Brings everything together to support negotiations.

The GIS culminates in maps, statistical data and information to assist in identifying “values” of the territory which are then considered in the land selection process and in identifying available resources that may become the subject of negotiations.

Three levels of communication result from the work of the HTS and various technologies is used at each level:

- **Internal:** Networked system, email, Xerox machine to help record, file, document and route data resulting in an ‘instant database’ of all information in the office, etc.
- **First Nations Community:** website, newsletters, community meetings with a/v presentations
- **General Public:** website, media coverage

Goals of the HTS and use of available technology

- Use technology to ensure our research is available to the negotiators, instantly during negotiations.
- Use technology to document the cultural connection to the territories thereby supporting Aboriginal Title.
- Use technology to communicate with youth at schools, citizens through home computer use, band offices through computer use and access to public information at the HTS, use interactive technology to make accessible interactive information via the website, make the library of information, including maps, available to the citizens via the website, etc.

Challenges in the use of technology

- Capacity, it is expensive to train people to use the technology
- It is expensive to maintain current equipment to ‘keep up’ with technology

### **DocuShare and Flowport**

Xerox hardware and software is an integral part of the Hamatla Treaty Society solution. Both Docushare and Flowport allow us to manage over 200 pages of information daily specific to our treaty work and objectives. These documents are routed and tracked through the software to appropriate staff, negotiators and committees. These software packages allow us to process information, and more importantly integrate this information in to specific and overall strategies, in minutes – from what used to take weeks.

In addition, hundreds of thousands of pages of past file documents have been entered in to Docushare. This technology allows us to draw out information in seconds - compared to weeks – for immediate use in Treaty negotiations, working and planning sessions, and day-to-day operations. All of which has provided a significant advantage and efficiency in our work.

### **Contribution to the Global Forum**

In keeping with the objectives and theme of this international forum HTS believes we can impart our experience and knowledge to assist other Indigenous Peoples, whether in Canada or elsewhere in the world, become truly full participants in the Information Society.

While our community and long-term aspirations are foremost we have leveraged the technologies to meet that end. Our presentation to the world Indigenous community will focus on the following points:

1. How technology assists in protecting, and documents our Aboriginal heritage, traditions and culture.
2. How the HTS uses technology to advance its Treaty Negotiation objectives.
3. How modern technologies have empowered us to be competitive, professional, and experts and not compromised traditional community and cultural values.

### **Exposure for Xerox Canada**

We believe that we can convey the Xerox Aboriginal Program **Knowledge is a Community Resource: *Protect it. Preserve it. Manage it. Share it.*** theme and message for Aboriginal community knowledge management. As there will be more than 200 Aboriginal and Canadian representatives at this event our live presentation will surely receive Canadian support and exposure. The international attention for this event will be significant and may open up new opportunities to advance Xerox unique approach (**Total Community Approach to Knowledge Management**) to supporting Indigenous community development. We will ensure that attendees receive contact information for Xerox National Program Manager

### **Budget for Hamatla Participation**