

No agenda in treaty talks: Feds

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Federal officials claim they don't negotiate with B.C. First Nations with a "pre-determined approach" to what final treaties should look like.

But Anita Boscarior, a negotiator with the Department of Indian & Northern Affairs, acknowledged there are some common "bottom line" issues around the constitutional status of treaty lands, the co-management of traditional territories and other concerns that senior levels of government are less willing to be flexible within the treaty processes.

Robert Morales is the chief negotiator for the First Nation Unity Protocol Group, which represents more than 60 B.C. bands including the Snuneymuxw First Nation. He recently told the Daily News that his group wants all aspects of treaty negotiations to be open to discussions and the FNUPG is not willing to accept templates of other completed treaties as the groundwork to try to break the impasse in their stalled treaty negotiations.

"We're not closing the door on negotiations with the Common Table (FNUPG), but there is certainly a need for further conversations with them to move the treaty process forward," Boscarior said.

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