

Treaty group wants update on complaintTreaty group wants update on complaint

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Vancouver Island's Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group wants to know the status of its human rights complaint against Canada.

The group was successful late last year in its bid for the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to consider holding a hearing into its complaint over land issues on the Island.

The group claims that 810,000 hectares of its traditional territory in southeast Vancouver Island was illegally confiscated in 1884 as part of a land grant given to the Dunsmuir Company.

Chief negotiator Robert Morales said that it was his understanding that Canada had until the end of March to submit a response on the complaint to the commission, but he has yet to hear back on whether the commission intends to hold a hearing.

IACHR spokeswoman Maria Isabel Rivero said Monday the commission treats the processing of a petition or a case as "confidential."

She said the only information the commission is going public with at this stage in the admissibility of the complaint, which was made in October and that the case is still in the merits stage, "but the IACHR doesn't give any details of the processing beyond that."

Officials from the Department of Justice, which is handling the case on behalf of Canada, couldn't be immediately reached for comment.

"We're still sitting here waiting for someone to respond," Morales said.

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