

**HTG Holds General Assembly
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When Chemainus First Nation signed onto B.C.'s provincial treaty process 14 years ago, Willie Seymour said they thought "it would be a simple matter to resolve these long standing issues."

After the annual general assembly of Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group members Wednesday, Seymour says he's not so sure.

"As we can see today," he says, "we are faced with issues that are far from simple. The task our chiefs have here is momentous," he said in an HTG press release.

Chief negotiator for the treaty group, Robert Morales, says member tribes, which includes Chemainus, Penelakut, Lyackson, Halalt, Cowichan and Lake Cowichan, face significant issues to securing a treaty settlement.

He describes current negotiations as having hit a "snag" with "critical" issues unresolved, such as compensation for lands that were made private by the 1884 E&N Railway grant, questions about the legal nature of post-treaty governance, outstanding fisheries agreements, and "inadequate" fiscal financing arrangements and tax exemption provisions.

The member First Nations of the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group spent \$3.9 million on the project in the last fiscal year, bringing their total invested in the treaty process to more than \$16 million.

The 130 community members who met at the Legion Hall in Chemainus on Nov. 7 were served a "feast" of salmon and octopus.