

## **Native Treaties for Big Populations Stalled**

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A negotiator for natives says while three B.C. aboriginal groups may be close to reaching treaties, others appear to be at a stalemate after 13 years.

Brian Thom, a negotiator for natives in the Duncan area on Vancouver Island, said there are 47 negotiating tables in B.C. But only five to seven are willing to move ahead on the mandates the B.C. and federal governments are bringing forward.

In releasing its 13th annual report, the B.C. Treaty Commission said treaties are expected soon in Prince George, Tsawwassen and Port Alberni.

Thom said those areas showing progress are all small communities of 200 to 1,000 people.

Negotiators for big populations of aboriginals are not supporting the mandates the federal and provincial governments are bringing to the table, he said.

Thom said sticking points include how to allocate fish and land; the right to further claims after a treaty is signed; how to co- manage resources with other parties; and taxation.