

First Nations Summit

NEWS RELEASE

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First Nations Summit re-elects Executive

Coast Salish Territory/Vancouver – Grand Chief Edward John (Akile Ch'oh), Cheryl Casimer and Robert Phillips have been re-elected to the First Nations Summit Task Group (political executive) by leaders representing First Nations currently engaged in treaty negotiations in BC.

The First Nations Summit political executive speaks on behalf of those First Nations involved in the treaty negotiation process in British Columbia.

Chief John, a hereditary Grand Chief of the Tl'azt'en Nation, will be serving his eleventh term as a member of the Summit's political executive. He has represented and advocated for First Nations/Indigenous interests on the provincial, national and international stage for more than 40 years. Chief John is also currently serving his second term as an Indigenous Member of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) for North America for the term 2014-2016.

Cheryl Casimer will be serving her second term as a member of the FNS political executive. She is a citizen of the Ktunaxa Nation and currently resides in the community of ?aqam (St. Mary's Band) which is located in the southeastern corner of BC. Ms. Casimer is a former Chief and Councillor of ?aqam First Nation and a former Co-Chair of the First Nations Summit. Ms. Casimer is a longstanding advocate for First Nations issues and perspectives, and is committed to building better bridges of understanding between neighboring cultures.

Robert Phillips will be serving his second term as a member of the FNS political executive. Phillips is a member of the Northern Secwepemc te Qelmuw (Shuswap) of the Canim Lake First Nation. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University College of the Fraser Valley. Phillips previously served three terms as a Commissioner of the BC Treaty Commission. He also previously served as Chief Negotiator and prior to that as Self-Government Director at the Northern Shuswap Tribal Council from 1998-2007.

Leah George-Wilson (Sisi-ya-ama) of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation and Ray Harris (Shulqwilum) of the Chemainus First Nation were also re-elected as Co-Chairs of the First Nations Summit. This will be Ms. George-Wilson's sixth term and Mr. Harris' fourth term as Co-chair. The Co-Chairs are responsible for chairing First Nations Summit meetings as well as the Summit's administration and day-to-day operations.

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The First Nations Summit speaks on behalf of First Nations involved in treaty negotiations in British Columbia. The Summit is also a NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Further background information on the Summit may be found at www.fns.bc.ca.

For further information:
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