

First Nations Summit

STATEMENT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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First Nations Summit statement on 2017 BC Election Results: Indigenous issues must be at the forefront

Coast Salish Territory, Vancouver, British Columbia – Leaders of the First Nations Summit (FNS) congratulate all of the successful candidates in the 2017 BC election now that the final election results have been confirmed by Elections BC. Following the closest election outcome in decades, the FNS is once again encouraging all parties to put Indigenous issues at the forefront of their agenda.

Prior to the election, the First Nations Summit sought commitments from each of the political parties on their support for the fair and just settlement of treaties in BC. We have been encouraged by the commitments provided in writing by the BC Liberals and the BC Green Party as well as the verbal commitments provided by John Horgan, Leader of the BC NDP, at the October 2016 and February 2017 First Nations Summit meetings.

The FNS stated to each of the political parties, that First Nations-Crown treaty negotiations in BC must continue to be a made-in-BC process to reflect the unique requirements and interests of First Nations in this province, and any new government must commit to providing provincial representatives with comprehensive mandates that will overcome any barriers to best support efforts to address substantive treaty negotiations challenges on a priority basis.

The FNS will work collaboratively with whoever forms the next provincial government, whether it be by minority or coalition to find common ground as we move forward with Canada to address the outstanding land question in BC, seeking full recognition of Aboriginal and Treaty rights and title.

Background

The First Nations Summit remains committed to advocating for the just and fair settlement of treaties in British Columbia and recently sent correspondence to the BC Liberals, BC Green Party and BC NDP to seek their commitments on this important issue. Copies of the responses from the BC Liberals and BC Green Party can be downloaded at www.fns.bc.ca.

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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.

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