

First Nations Summit

Statement

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First Nations Summit welcomes federal review

Coast Salish Territory/Vancouver, BC— Leaders of the First Nations Summit are welcoming the federal review of laws and policies related to Indigenous Peoples and the establishment of a Cabinet working group to be chaired by the Hon. Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice, to oversee the review. The federal initiative was announced this morning by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as a continuation of the federal government's commitment to a renewed nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

The election of the Federal Liberal Government in October of 2015, combined with a platform that included several commitments on key Indigenous issues, brought with it very high expectations. We see this federal review as a necessary continuation of the work to implement those promises in an effort to close the socio-economic gaps faced by Indigenous communities and citizens across Canada.

The First Nations Summit hopes the creation of the working group is an indicator that the federal government is elevating Indigenous issues as a top priority within the Liberal government's agenda. We look to the working group to prioritize key commitments made during the 2015 federal election including;

- *Undertaking a full review of regulatory law, policies, and operational practices, in full partnership and consultation with First Nations to ensure that the Crown is fully executing its consultation, accommodation, and consent obligations, including on resource development and energy infrastructure project reviews and assessments, in accordance with constitutional and international human rights obligations;*
- *Conducting a full review of the legislation unilaterally imposed on First Nations by the federal government, and reverse measures in conflict with Aboriginal and Treaty rights, or that are inconsistent with good governance;*

The First Nations Summit looks forward to having a dialogue with the Cabinet Working Group members as they undertake their work in the months ahead. We particularly look forward to a continued dialogue on improving Title and Rights negotiations in BC as well the establishment of a Federal Reconciliation Framework including mechanisms to advance and strengthen self-government, as well as resolve grievances with Treaty implementation and modern land-claims agreements.

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The First Nations Summit speaks on behalf of First Nations involved in treaty negotiations in BC. 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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