



NEWS RELEASE

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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First Nations Summit Congratulates Grand Chief Edward John (Akile Ch'oh) on his appointment as Chair of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Coast Salish Territory/ Vancouver, BC – The First Nations Summit extends congratulations to Grand Chief Edward John, a longstanding member of the First Nations Summit political executive and recognized BC First Nations Leader, on his appointment as Chair of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) for a one year term (May 2012-May 2013).

Grand Chief Edward John is currently serving as a North American Representative to the UNPFII, a position to which he was appointed for a three- year term (2011-2013).

More than two thousand Indigenous representatives from around the world are gathered at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, New York from May 7-18, 2012 to participate in the 11th Session of the UNPFII. The UNPFII is an advisory body to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, with a mandate to discuss indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights.

Further information on the UNPFII and the 11th session of the UNPFII can be found at: http://social.un.org/index/IndigenousPeoples/UNPFII_Sessions/Eleventh.aspx.

Grand Chief Edward John, a Hereditary Chief of Tl'azt'en Nation located in Northern BC, has been a lawyer for more than 30 years. He holds a B.A. from the University of Victoria, an LL.B from the University of British Columbia and an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Northern British Columbia. He is currently serving his ninth consecutive term as an elected member of the First Nations Summit political executive. He is also in the second year of a three-year term as North American Representative to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII).

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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