



# FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

## NEWS RELEASE

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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

October 17, 2013

### **First Nations Summit denounces brutal force used by RCMP against Elisipogtog First Nations citizens**

**Coast Salish Territory/Vancouver** – The First Nations Summit is appalled by the brutal show of force used by the RCMP today against peaceful protestors from the Elisipogtog First Nation north of Moncton, New Brunswick.

“We are utterly shocked and dismayed that the RCMP have reportedly moved in with weapons drawn to break-up the peaceful protest of Elisipogtog First Nation citizens”, said Robert Phillips of the First Nations Summit political executive. “This is a sad example government and industry moving in to extract resources at any cost while casting aside and ignoring Aboriginal Title and Rights”.

The Elisipogtog First Nation has been protesting and trying to prevent seismic testing at a proposed shale gas development by energy company SWN Resources near their community. In spite of best efforts of Elisipogtog Chief and Council to resolve this issue peacefully, heavily armed members of the RCMP moved in today to aggressively enforce a court injunction to bar protestors.

“The Elisipogtog First Nation leadership have indicated all they seek is a proper consultation process on a planned project they fear could cause irreparable environmental degradation and damage to their traditional territory”, said Cheryl Casimer, also on the Summit’s political executive. “Unfortunately, this situation is a familiar example for other First Nations across this country. First Nations are tired of being ignored and cast aside in the name of profitable resource extraction and development without proper consultation. We commend the Elisipogtog people for attempting to peacefully stand up for their Title and Rights. We sincerely hope that common sense will prevail and that a peaceful dialogue will occur to prevent further senseless violence”.

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*The First Nations Summit speaks on behalf of First Nations involved in treaty negotiations in British Columbia. Further background information on the Summit may be found at [www.fns.bc.ca](http://www.fns.bc.ca).*

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