

First Nations Summit

NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
AUGUST 4, 2015**

First Nations Summit congratulates Kitselas First Nation and Kitsumkalum First Nation on the signing of their Agreements-in-Principle

Coast Salish Territory/Vancouver, BC – The First Nations Summit (FNS) congratulates Kitselas First Nation and Kitsumkalum First on the signing today of their Agreements-in-Principle (AIPs) with the governments of British Columbia and Canada.

“Kitselas First Nation and Kitsumkalum First Nation have shown great patience and determination following more than twenty years of hard fought negotiations. We applaud both communities for their hard work and perseverance to negotiate AIPs they believe appropriate for their respective communities”, said Cheryl Casimer of the FNS political executive. “These AIPs mark much needed progress as Kitsumkalum and Kitselas now formally move on to Stage 5 of negotiations and continue their efforts to reach final agreements in their efforts to becoming self-governing nations.”

“The Kitselas and Kitsumkalum AIPs as well as the others that have been signed recently are critical signals for other First Nations that remain committed to the negotiation of fair, just and honourable treaties and show that real progress through good faith negotiations is attainable”, added Robert Phillips, also of the FNS political executive.

The FNS remains committed to engaging with BC and Canada in a serious dialogue about how to collaborate to improve treaty negotiations in BC, including undertaking a full review of the 43 recommendations contained in Eyford report released earlier this year. The Eyford recommendations are consistent with the inclusive and proactive approach of the FNS to work with Canada and BC to openly review, discuss and implement any and all recommendations aimed at improving treaty negotiations in BC.

“Despite the long and drawn out process of negotiations, First Nations who continue to be engaged at negotiating tables remain committed. We expect Canada and BC to remain committed to these outcomes as well, especially following the upcoming federal election”, concluded Phillips.

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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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