

“SUPPORT FOR INDIGENOUS CITIZENS’ ACTIONS ON SOVEREIGNTY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS”

A DECLARATION OF THE FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

We, the Indigenous leaders of British Columbia, acknowledge and appreciate the unwavering commitment and resolve of our citizens to raise awareness and work towards a better future for our children and communities.

We are proud to support the courageous, principled and inspirational stand of First Nations peoples to strengthen, assert and exercise our inherent, constitutionally-enshrined and judicially-recognized Aboriginal Title, Rights and Treaty Rights to our respective territories.

As Indigenous leaders of British Columbia, we are listening to our youth, women, elders, and citizens participating in Idle No More and other peaceful movements. We hear the call for us to unite and we are reminded again of the desperate social problems facing our peoples; of the precarious situation with respect to the environment so central to our cultures; of the unwillingness of government to listen to our peoples’ calls for change; and, perhaps most importantly, of the strength of our people in the face of oppression.

We recognize the barriers, real and imagined, that exist between and among our citizens and communities. Many of these barriers are part of the colonial legacy that Indigenous peoples are committed to move beyond.

We, the Indigenous leaders of British Columbia acknowledge and appreciate that the actions of our citizens are helping to create critical political momentum and will continue to be essential in ensuring fundamental change in the relationship between First Nations and Canada, a requirement for the better future we all desire. In particular, we recognize Chief Theresa Spence, elder Raymond Robinson, Gene Sock, and others for their efforts to bring to the attention of the Canadian Government and all Canadian people, the suffering and significant challenges facing our communities every day.

We reconfirm our commitment, as Indigenous leaders in British Columbia, to continue the difficult work of strengthening our peoples and our nations, of nation building and rebuilding. Critical to this work is meaningful community engagement, which requires that we actively involve all of our citizens, including our youth, women and elders, and both those living at home in our communities and those living away. We are further resolved to increase efforts to keep our citizens informed of our efforts as Indigenous leaders in British Columbia.

As Indigenous Peoples, we have the sacred duty and inherent obligation to defend and promote the health, dignity and well-being of our communities as well as the environmental integrity of our respective territories. We shall continue to be firm in our resolve to defend our homelands. We welcome other First Nations not present today to support to this Declaration if they so choose.

Signed this 25th day of January 2013

Musqueam Nation Territory

NAME

REPRESENTING

ROBERT SHINTAH CHIEF

Ts'kw'AYLAXW

Lucinda Phillips Chief

Lil'wat Nation

Chil'kwa Ferkuk

Sechelt Nation

Andy Phillips, chief

Scow'itc

MIKE FISHER

LEGARDEL

B.G.

Fort Nelson First Nation

Re Peters

Chawathil First Nation

Chief

Soowahlie First Nation

Kulpi'ngay Wila

Skatsin / Neskonlith / Secwepemc

[Signature]

Sto:lo Tribal Council

[Signature]

Heiltsuk Nation

NAME

REPRESENTING

~~_____~~

Tseshaot First Nation

Chousnit

Ntseems - Smapaa - Nakopax Nation

Janet Webster

Chief Lytton First Nation

CHIEF KAKLIP - SIC'ATICUM NATION

CHIEF OF PENTICTON INDIAN BAND

Chief James Hobart Spuzzum FN
NNTC

PAUL JAMES

DAYL DENA COUNCIL

Kurtz Inese

Ktunaxa Nation

Richard Williams

? Agam Band - Ktunaxa

Elmer Moody

Gitksan

Shackan Indian Band

Wakwaka FN

Chief Len Campbell

Squamish Nation

Julie Morrison

Gitanmaax Band Chief Councillor

NAME

REPRESENTING

Hand M

Coldwater Band.

Duff

Nicomex Indian Band

[Signature]

WILLIAM LAKE INDIAN BAND

Kwasintoo Michel

Chief Noositch Band.

Bob Chamberlain

Kwikwasutinuxw Haxwamis FN
President:

Stallup - Grand Chief

Union of BC Indian Chiefs

Don Smith

First Nations Summit

Doug G

Sunweymuxw / FNS

[Signature]

Regional Club / SCAN.