



First Nations Summit Elects New Executive

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Grand Chief Edward John (Akile Ch'oh), Grand Chief Doug Kelly (Tseem) and Dan Smith (Haliakalas) have been elected to the First Nations Summit Task Group by leaders representing First Nations currently engaged in treaty negotiations in BC.

The First Nations Summit political executive speaks on behalf of those First Nations involved in the treaty negotiation process in British Columbia.

Chief John, a hereditary Grand Chief of the Tl'azt'en Nation, will be serving his eighth term as a member of the Summit's political executive. Chief John was a member of the tripartite British Columbia Claims Task Force in the early 1990's which recommended the establishment of the independent BC Treaty Commission to facilitate treaty negotiations. Grand Chief John has represented and advocated for First Nations/Indigenous interests on the provincial, national and international stage for more than 30 years.

Grand Chief Doug Kelly is a tribal Chief of the Sto:lo Tribal Council, and a former Chief of the Soowahlie Band of the Sto:lo Nation. He previously served one term as a member of the Summit political executive from 2004 - 2006. He is currently involved in the BC First Nations Fisheries Council, First Nations Health Council, and acts as the Treasurer and Tribal Chief for Intergovernmental Relations for the Sto:lo Tribal Council. He previously acted as a Commissioner for the BC Treaty Commission and chaired the First Nations Chiefs' Health Committee.

Dan Smith is a member of the Campbell River Indian Band of the Laich-Kwil-Tach First Nation. He has an extensive history of working with First Nations, Aboriginal organizations and the federal government. His involvement has included serving as Vice President of the Native Council of Canada, President of the United Native Nations, member of the BC Human Rights Commission, as well as numerous other boards and committees. He has worked in senior positions with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Heritage Canada, and Canada Employment and Immigration. Currently, Mr. Smith is the Chief Negotiator for the Hamatla Treaty Society on Vancouver Island.

Chief Leah George-Wilson (Sisi-ya-ama) of the Tseil-Waututh Nation and Ray Harris (Shulqwilum) of the Chemainus First Nation were also elected as Co-Chairs of the First Nations Summit. This will be Chief George-Wilson's third term and Mr. Harris' first term as Co-chair. The Co-Chairs are responsible for chairing First Nations Summit meetings as well as the Summit's administration and day-to-day operations.

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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.

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