



FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

PRESS RELEASE

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An Open Letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Finance Minister Jim Flaherty

First Nations Summit Dismayed by Federal Budget 2007

COAST SALISH TERRITORY/VANCOUVER, B.C. – The First Nations Summit is deeply disappointed with the 2007 federal budget, announced on March 19, 2007.

In an open letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Minister of Finance Jim Flaherty, the Task Group of the First Nations Summit outlines their concerns with the budget, including:

- Backpedalling on support for the “principles and objectives of Kelowna”
- No consideration for the fiscal imbalance faced by First Nations governments
- No new resources to settle comprehensive and specific claims, despite the recent Senate Report, “Negotiation or Confrontation: It’s Canada’s Choice”

The First Nations Summit Task Group calls on the federal government to follow through on its commitment “to move forward in consultation [with First Nations] and build a financial plan that is sustainable and makes sense” by immediately engaging in discussions to implement the *Transformative Change Accord* it signed with BC First Nations and the Province of British Columbia.

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The First Nations Summit speaks on behalf of First Nations involved in the treaty negotiation process in British Columbia. Further background information on the Summit may be found at www.fns.bc.ca.

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