



FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

NEWS RELEASE

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Prime Minister Harper's budget not only fails to "put wheels" on Kelowna Accord, he stops it altogether

Coast Salish Territory/Vancouver – Today's federal budget, consistent with the recent federal Throne Speech, provides more bitter disappointment for First Nations in BC who were hoping for financial commitments from the Conservative Government to support the Kelowna Accord and BC Transformative Change Accord which were signed at the conclusion of the First Ministers meeting last November. There was, in fact, no mention of these important agreements at all.

"The Conservative's budget today takes the wheels off the commitments made in the Kelowna Accord," said Grand Chief Edward John, a member of the First Nations Summit Political Executive. "It looks to us like a budget for the next election campaign. Today's budget, combined with the government's disappointing throne speech, will do little to strengthen the federal government's relationships with First Nations".

"In today's budget speech, the Conservative government talks about creating a better life for all Canadians as their highest priority, but it's obvious to us that addressing the deplorable socio-economic conditions of Aboriginal people in this country is not a high priority for them," added Chief John.

In spite of today's disappointment, the First Nations Summit will continue to pursue the critical goals contained in the Kelowna Accord, and the related BC Transformative Change Accord.

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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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