



FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

NEWS RELEASE

First Nations Summit Chiefs Support First Nations Economic Development Action Plan

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Coast Salish Territory (Vancouver, BC) – First Nations Summit Chiefs, meeting in North Vancouver this week, have passed a resolution supporting the *BC First Nations Economic Development Action Plan*. The action plan is a framework for BC First Nations to take advantage of new and emerging economic and business development opportunities in their efforts to create sustainable communities without having to compromise their cultures, heritage and traditional territories.

“This is a critically important plan to assist First Nations to close the devastating economic gaps that exists between First Nations and other British Columbians”, said Grand Chief Edward John, a member of the First Nations Summit political executive.

“Improved opportunities for jobs and businesses are absolutely critical for the ongoing well-being and development of our people and our communities. This plan provides much needed focus and direction for the individual and collective efforts of First Nations to promote healthy, sustainable and prosperous communities”, added Chief John.

The *BC First Nations Economic Development Action Plan* was developed by the BC Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit and Union of BC Indian Chiefs following a series of regional sessions in 2007 and a province wide forum in February 2008. These sessions brought together First Nations leaders from throughout BC to develop visions, goals and principals for the plan. A copy of the plan can be found on the First Nations Summit Website at www.fns.bc.ca/pdf/BC_FN_EconAction0708.pdf.

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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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