

# First Nations Tourism Accord

## Statement of Mutual Support & Cooperation

 Council of  
Tourism Associations  
of British Columbia



FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

British Columbia has an emerging world class tourism industry and is blessed with a diversity and richness of natural resources, First Nations culture, and First Nations heritage. The future prosperity of the tourism industry in British Columbia and the future prosperity of the First Nations of British Columbia is linked to the long term sustainability of these natural resources. It is also linked to the ability to jointly realize the tourism potential of both these natural resources and the diversity of First Nations culture and heritage.

April 9-10th, 1996 marked the beginning of a new era in the relationship between First Nations and the tourism industry when First Nations community leaders and tourism industry leaders from across the province met at Quaaout Lodge at Little Shuswap Lake and at the Stockmen's Hotel in Kamloops to discuss their respective visions of the future and to explore how First Nations and the tourism industry could work together to achieve these visions.

From this meeting, and from ensuing discussions, emerged an understanding that First Nations and the tourism industry have many interests in common and a recognition that the relationship required to jointly build a strong and more vibrant tourism industry must be based on the following principles and beliefs;

- British Columbia has the resources to develop a tourism industry without equal on a global basis;
- a strong and vibrant tourism industry benefits all British Columbians;
- a strong and vibrant tourism industry is dependent upon British Columbia remaining a safe and attractive place to visit, the ability to attract investment capital, the ability to train and maintain skilled workers, the ability to operate in a continuous manner over the long term, and access to an ongoing and diverse supply of tourism products;
- a fair settlement of First Nations claims, including claims regarding land, resources and governance issues, will benefit all British Columbians;
- settlements with First Nations should be negotiated in a manner that is timely and respects the interests of both First Nations and the tourism industry;
- tourism potential in British Columbia should be developed in a manner that respects First Nations heritage and culture;
- First Nations participation in the tourism industry should be increased in a manner that does not displace existing tourism operators;

- differences that may develop between First Nations and the tourism industry or individual tourism operators can be dealt with most effectively through dialogue that is direct and respectful and by avoiding confrontation and direct action such as roadblocks, blockades and other barriers that are harmful to the interests of the other;
- the natural resources of British Columbia should be managed in a sustainable manner such that they are passed on to future generations.


On behalf of our members, we commit to work together in the spirit of cooperation and partnership to build a strong and more vibrant tourism industry, to cooperate on matters of mutual interest, to seek to constructively discuss and deal with any issues that may arise between First Nations and the tourism industry in a manner consistent with the foregoing principles and to otherwise implement this Statement of Mutual Support and Cooperation. In doing so, we confirm that this Accord is not intended to be legally binding on either party or its members and is without prejudice to, or admission of, either party's right, title, or interest in any land or resources. This Accord is a reflection of political cooperation between the parties, of the mutual respect of the parties for each other, and of the mutual intention to proactively discuss any issues that may arise between the First Nations and the tourism industry in a constructive, non-confrontational way.

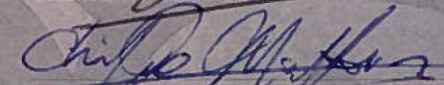
DATED December 4, 1997.

### COUNCIL OF TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS

  
Pat Corbett

### FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

  
Grand Chief Edward John

  
Chief Joe Mathias

  
Robert Louie