



FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

NEWS RELEASE

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First Nations Summit Supports International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2012

Coast Salish Territory (Vancouver) — The First Nations Summit respectfully acknowledges the 18th commemoration of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, which will be held on Thursday, August 9, 2012 at the UN Headquarters in New York.

Official statements will be delivered on behalf of the Chairperson of the NGO Committee on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, Roberto Múcaro Borrero (Taíno, Puerto Rico); the Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon; the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and Coordinator of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, Wu Hongbo; the Chairperson of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Grand Chief Edward John (Tl'azt'en, Canada), and others.

At the conclusion of the statements an interactive dialogue on the theme of this year's International Day, which is "Indigenous Media, Empowering Indigenous Voices" will take place.

The events will be webcast at the following UN webcast address: <http://webtv.un.org/>, from 12:00 noon PDT/3:00 PM EDT to 3:00 PM PDT/6:00 PM EDT.

Similar to this country's National Aboriginal Day and its celebrations, the basis of the International Day of the World's Indigenous People is to bring attention to the achievements and diversity of Aboriginal peoples everywhere. The day also provides an opportunity to recognize the many threats faced by indigenous people as they struggle to maintain their cultural identities and traditional practices.

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The **First Nations Summit** speaks on behalf of First Nations involved in treaty negotiations in British Columbia. The Summit is also a NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Further background information on the Summit may be found at www.fns.bc.ca.

For Further Information:

Grand Chief Edward John, FNS Political Executive
Cell: 778-772-8218