



NEWS RELEASE

First Nations Summit recognizes leadership of former Chief Justice Donald Brenner in landmark Aboriginal decisions

For Immediate Release

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Coast Salish Territory/Vancouver – First Nations leaders extend their deepest condolences to the family and friends of former Chief Justice Donald Brenner, a man recognized for his leadership in formative legal decisions concerning Indian Residential School survivors.

It is upon the foundation of key legal cases in which he presided that the residential school system became a legal issue, forcing Canada to stand up and listen to the stories of loss, alienation and abuse.

“Donald Brenner had a significant impact on the lives of Canada’s Aboriginal people. Mr. Brenner was the only justice to acknowledge the need for the Government of Canada to apologize to Canada’s Aboriginal people for the devastating impacts of the Indian Residential School system,” said Grand Chief Edward John of the First Nations Summit political executive.

“As a result of his leadership, today we have survivor settlement agreements across Canada, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission,” added Chief Douglas White, also of the First Nations Summit political executive.

In his role as Chief Justice, Mr. Brenner worked to achieve a final agreement for residential schools survivors in BC.

“As a result of Mr. Brenner’s key rulings, the federal government shifted from a position of denial to acknowledgement. BC’s and Canada’s Aboriginal people will forever owe a debt of gratitude to his efforts,” said Dan Smith, of the First Nations Summit political executive.

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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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