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## NEWS RELEASE

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### UN Special Rapporteur Releases Report on the situation of Indigenous Peoples in Canada

(Coast Salish Territory/Vancouver) Today, Dr. James Anaya, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples released his report on the crisis facing Indigenous Peoples in Canada. After many months of refusal by the Harper Government to provide formal consent to Dr. Anaya to conduct the study in Canada, the First Nations Leadership Council is pleased to accept the release of Dr. Anaya's report.

"Dr. Anaya's critical study on the rights of Indigenous Peoples in Canada is a clear and objective report on the conditions facing Indigenous communities in Canada. As described in UBCIC's submission and confirmed in Dr. Anaya's report, the Harper Government continues to aggressively pursue a unilateralism legislative agenda that allows unsustainable resource development without meeting the government's legal and constitutional duty of consultation and accommodation on projects that impact our inherent Title, Rights and Treaty Rights," stated Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs. "The Harper government still relies upon ineffective, legally outdated, emaciated, prejudicial and dishonorable policies of engagement with Indigenous Peoples in Canada. As indicated by Dr. Anaya, this approach has contributed to an adversarial atmosphere of contentiousness and mistrust that does not allow for beneficial economic development or social peace. We absolutely expect Canada to carry out the recommendations that Dr. Anaya made, specifically the recommendation that Canada undertake a comprehensive inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women. Further, we remind the Harper Government that Canada endorsed the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) in November 2010 and the whole world is watching to ensure that Canada fully implements the important recommendations within Dr. Anaya's report."

"We thank Dr. Anaya for his thoughtful and comprehensive report on the situation of Indigenous Peoples in Canada. He has rightfully acknowledged that a crisis based on widening socio-economic gaps between indigenous and non-indigenous communities exists in this country and must be immediately addressed as the actions taken by the federal and provincial governments to date have clearly been insufficient," said Grand Chief Edward John of the First Nations Summit political executive. "As Dr. Anaya has pointed out, the only way to move forward is for Canada and the provinces to do so in manner based on

respect, recognition and reconciliation and to utilize mechanisms such as UNDRIP. We urge Canada to unequivocally accept this important report and take the necessary steps to immediately implement its recommendations”.

BC Regional Chief Jody Wilson-Raybould said, “Dr. Anaya’s conclusions and recommendations all speak to the need for strengthening our collective resolve to ensuring reconciliation between Aboriginal Peoples and the Crown, and to translating the promise of section 35 of the Canadian Constitution and the articles set out in UNDRIP into practical benefits on the ground in all of our communities”. She added, “While the Special Rapporteur’s report acknowledges that efforts are being made, all Canadians must surely agree with him that the pace of change is completely unacceptable in a country as prosperous as ours where the socio-economic conditions of Aboriginal peoples have not improved since the last visit of the UN Special Rapporteur over 10 years ago.” She concluded, “In support of our Nations rebuilding and moving beyond our colonial past, the federal government must follow the Special Rapporteur’s recommendations. This necessarily includes amending its policies and laws to reflect true reconciliation, under an overarching framework applicable to all federal departments and agencies. Working together we can and will create a stronger Canada.”

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