

First Nations Summit

NEWS RELEASE

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First Nations Summit congratulates Tla'amin First Nation on the effective date of the Tla'amin final agreement

Coast Salish Territory/Vancouver, BC – The First Nations Summit (FNS) congratulates Tla'amin First Nation on reaching a milestone that marks the effective date, the first day of implementing the Tla'amin Final Agreement.

“Today is a momentous day for the Tla'amin people and is reflective of the patience and determination the entire community has shown over the past twenty years of negotiations”, said Cheryl Casimer of the FNS political executive. “Every First Nation across this country strives to see a day when they are no longer governed by the archaic and outdated Indian Act. Today is that day for the Tla'amin people”.

The Tla'amin Final Agreement is the eighth modern treaty agreement to be implemented in BC.

“Implementation of the Tla'amin Final Agreement is an important sign for other First Nations that remain committed to the negotiation of fair, just and honourable treaties with Canada and BC. It shows that real progress towards becoming a self-governing First Nation is achievable through good faith negotiations”, added Robert Phillips, also of the FNS political executive.

“Despite the long and drawn out process of negotiations, many First Nations who continue to be engaged at negotiating tables remain steadfastly committed. The First Nations Summit also remains committed to continuing to engage with BC and Canada in a serious dialogue to create avenues to improve the treaty negotiations process in BC in an effort to set a new path where agreements such as the Tla'amin final agreement can be achieved in a more timely manner”, concluded Phillips.

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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.

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