



NEWS RELEASE

*For Immediate Release
October 26, 2010*

FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT OPTIMISTIC WITH APPOINTMENT OF HON. BARRY PENNER AS MINISTER OF ABORIGINAL RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION

Coast Salish Territory/Vancouver – The First Nations Summit is welcoming the appointment of Barry Penner as the new provincial Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation following yesterday's Cabinet shuffle and wish former Minister George Abbott well in his new role as Minister of Education.

"We are looking forward to a positive and constructive dialogue with Minister Penner in moving forward in our collective efforts to address the needs of First Nations people in BC and to ensure the negotiation of fair and just treaties that are founded on the principles of recognition and respect instead of denial" said Chief Douglas White, a member of the First Nations Summit political executive.

"We will work with Minister Penner in moving forward with the New Relationship vision, ensuring the provincial government honourably implements existing treaties, and determining how we can work together to close the serious social and economic gaps faced by First Nations people in BC", added Dan Smith, another member of the First Nations Summit political executive.

"First Nations feel the relationship between the government of British Columbia and First Nations is at a critical juncture. Real and tangible progress is needed in the immediate future to establish the respectful and cooperative relationships that are needed for a future of prosperity and well-being for First Nations and all British Columbians," Chief White concluded.

The First Nations Summit will be sending Minister Penner a request for a meeting as soon as possible to brief the Minister on key concerns and issues faced by First Nations in BC.

-30-

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.

For Further Information:
Colin Braker
First Nations Summit
Office: 604.926.9903/Cell: 604.328-4094