

First Nations Summit

MEDIA RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
JULY 18, 2017**

First Nations Summit Congratulates Premier Horgan *Encourages government to uphold commitments*

Coast Salish Territory, Vancouver, British Columbia – The First Nation Summit today congratulated Premier John Horgan on his appointment and swearing in of his cabinet. We take this opportunity to acknowledge the appointment of Melanie Mark, the first First Nations woman appointed to cabinet to the position of Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training. We also welcomed the appointment of Mr. Scott Fraser as the new Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.

The First Nations Summit fully expects that this new government will live up to and act on its commitments made to First Nations during the election period.

"We look forward to working with Premier Horgan and Minister Fraser and would strongly encourage them to uphold the key commitments identified in the Supply and Confidence agreement between the BCNDP and Green Party caucuses. We will in particular look to the new government to take immediate steps to formally adopt the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission calls-to-action and undertake full implementation of the Tsilhqot'in Supreme Court decision. These commitments will undoubtedly be the foundational pieces of the new government's relationship with Indigenous peoples in BC" - said Grand Chief Edward John of the First Nations Summit political executive.

"The success of the Province of British Columbia and Indigenous communities are closely tied. If we are to seriously address the challenges facing our province, then a key priority must be working in cooperation and partnership with First Nations people across BC. That includes the recognition of existing treaties, as well as the negotiation of fair and honourable treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements, added, Robert Phillips of the First Nations Summit political executive. "We must walk this common path to have any chance of achieving true reconciliation".

"We need the new government to make an early commitment to come to the table as a full partner to continue the tripartite work on child welfare reform. It is only by working together that we can address the systemic issues and sobering statistics surrounding Indigenous children in care in BC. We look forward to working with Premier Horgan and newly appointed Minister of Children and Family Development, Ms. Katrine Conroy on this important work", added Cheryl Casimer of the First Nations Summit political executive.

The First Nations Summit looks forward to early meetings with both Premier Horgan and members of his cabinet.

-30-

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 information on the First Nations Summit may be found at www.fns.bc.ca.



For further information:

Cheryl Casimer, FNS Political Executive
Grand Chief Edward John, FNS Political Executive
Robert Phillips, FNS Political Executive

Phone: 778-975-2157
Phone: 778-772-8218
Phone: 778-875-4463