

First Nations Summit

STATEMENT

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First Nations Summit applauds announcement of new Indigenous Framework by Trudeau Government

Coast Salish Territory, Vancouver, British Columbia – The First Nations Summit welcomes and applauds today's announcement by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to engage Indigenous peoples to develop a new federal Recognition and Implementation of Indigenous Rights Framework which will lead to legislation for the full and effective implementation of Indigenous rights before the next federal election.

Today's commitments by the federal government to formally recognize and implement Indigenous Rights and Treaty Rights must ensure a seismic breakthrough for Indigenous-Crown relationships based on the full and effective implementation of Indigenous rights in the Constitution and in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Trudeau Government has committed to a relationship based on collaboration instead of the historical colonial approach based on conflict. This shift must result in Indigenous peoples no longer being forced into the courts to prove their existence as Indigenous peoples and that of the rights which they have inherited from their ancestors, the original peoples of this land. As well, this shift must ensure a significant breakthrough and much needed change in Canada's approach in negotiating treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements in BC.

As M.P. Romeo Saganash said in Parliament today, the new framework must be built on the foundation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We have been listening to these broken promises for 150 years, today's commitments must lead to transformative changes.

The First Nations Summit political executive looks forward to engaging directly with The Hon. Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and the Hon. Jody Wilson Raybould, Minister of Justice over the next few months to build this framework in collaboration and partnership.

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

