

# First Nations Summit

## STATEMENT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
FEBRUARY 27, 2018**

### **First Nations Summit fully welcomes federal budget commitment to forgive treaty loans**

**Coast Salish Territory, Vancouver, British Columbia** – The First Nations Summit leadership fully welcomes Canada's commitment to forgive loans to First Nations to negotiate treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements.

We have always maintained that we should not have to borrow money from the very governments who wrongfully took all Indigenous lands in BC in the colonial era ...without any notice, consent or agreement.

Complete forgiveness of treaty negotiation loans remains our top priority. Treaty negotiation debt has left First Nations at a significant financial and economic disadvantage. This debt has also had detrimental economic, social and political impacts on First Nations working to resolve the outstanding land question in BC through treaty negotiations.

The forgiveness of treaty negotiation loans is fundamental to the advancement of reconciliation through treaty negotiations. Loan forgiveness will result in the removal of a significant barrier to the conclusion and ratification of treaties and the economic burden for First Nations that have participated in treaty negotiations in BC.

The First Nations Summit welcomes this development as a necessary step to implement loan forgiveness and remains optimistic that Canada will take the much-needed path to fully implement loan forgiveness.

As one of the three Principals to treaty negotiations in BC, First Nations Summit Executive will arrange for meetings with appropriate federal Ministers as soon as possible to discuss these important issues.

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For further information:

Grand Chief Edward John, FNS Political Executive:	778-772-8218
Robert Phillips, FNS Political Executive:	778-875-4463
Cheryl Casimer, FNS Political Executive:	778-875-2157

*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](http://www.fns.bc.ca).*

