

# First Nations Summit

## STATEMENT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**JULY 26, 2018**

### **First Nations Summit congratulates AFN National Chief Perry Bellegarde on his re-election**

**Coast Salish Territory, Vancouver, British Columbia** – The First Nations Summit (FNS) Executive congratulates Perry Bellegarde on his re-election as National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations.

First Nations leadership from across Canada are meeting in Vancouver, BC this week for the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Annual General Assembly and the election for National Chief. Mr. Bellegarde was re-elected to a second term as National Chief on the second ballot, garnering 63% of the vote, pushing him past the necessary 60% for election.

The FNS looks forward to a positive working relationship with National Chief Bellegarde on the recognition and implementation of First Nations' Title and Rights; ongoing treaty negotiations; the recognition and implementation of existing treaties in BC; implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action; and improving the overall economic and social conditions in our communities.

The FNS is hopeful that Indigenous communities in Canada will be united in our collective efforts at the local, regional, national and international levels to close the disproportionate socio-economic gaps faced by our communities while also ensuring the preservation of our cultures and languages.

The First Nations Summit expresses appreciation to the other four candidates for National Chief, Russ Diabo (Kahnawake), Grand Chief Sheila North (Keewatinowi Okimakanak), Miles Richardson (Haida Nation) and Katherine Whitecloud (Wipazoka Wakpa Dakota Nation) for their courage and commitment to running in the election for National Chief and for their significant contributions in their respective leadership to improve the lives of Indigenous peoples in Canada.

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

For further information:

Colin Braker, Communications Director, FNS  
Phone: 604-926-9903

