

First Nations Summit

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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First Nations Summit mourns the loss of renowned Nisga'a leader Dr. Joseph Gosnell

(Xʷməθkʷəy̍əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and sə́ilwətaʔ/seílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh)/Vancouver, BC) — The First Nations Summit (FNS) executive is deeply saddened by the passing of Dr. Joseph Gosnell and extend their deepest sympathies to the family and friends of this great Nisga'a leader.

Dr. Gosnell was instrumental in igniting the modern treaty process in British Columbia. While the province and our nation mourn the loss of this respected leader, his legacy will live on for many generations to come.

"Joseph was a giant, a visionary who dedicated much of his life to bettering not only the lives of his people, but all Indigenous people," said Cheryl Casimer, member of the FNS Political Executive. "He negotiated the first modern treaty of our time and achieved what is the truest form of reconciliation.

"Dr. Gosnell was a great leader and a great voice for Indigenous people. He had the ability to connect in a meaningful way with people young and old, across Canada and internationally," added Robert Phillips, also of the FNS Political Executive.

"Joseph was unwavering in his commitment that Indigenous people own their land. Today, we all benefit from this strength and resilience. It is a great loss to all of us," said Lydia Hwitsum, FNS Political Executive.

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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 an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Further background information on the Summit may be found at www.fns.bc.ca.

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