



FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

STATEMENT

For Immediate Release
December 16, 2002

RE: Racist Remarks Made By Mr. David Ahenakew

The First Nations Summit is deeply disturbed by the racist and anti-Semitic remarks attributed to Mr. David Ahenakew in today's media reports. We wish to make it clear that Mr. Ahenakew does not represent the interests of First Nations in British Columbia and the First Nations Summit does not in any way condone his offensive statements against the Jewish community. Further these statements do not reflect the views of First Nations in British Columbia.

The First Nations Summit is proud to have worked hand in hand with many ethnic groups in the past, including organizations and representatives of the Jewish community, to fight against the racist attitude Mr. Ahenakew represents with his offensive statements.

The First Nations Summit does not tolerate racism directed at Canada's indigenous people and as such will not tolerate it when it stems from within one of Canada's indigenous communities. We sincerely hope that mechanisms are enacted to ensure Mr. Ahenakew is held accountable for his statements. We also urge Mr. Ahenakew to issue an immediate statement of apology to those he has inflicted pain upon with his statements.

-30-

The First Nations Summit speaks on behalf of First Nations involved in the treaty negotiation process in British Columbia. Background information on the Summit may be found at www.fns.bc.ca.

For Further Information:

Colin Braker
First Nations Summit
Office: 604.990.9939
Cell: 604.328-4094