



## FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

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### *News Release*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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#### **First Nations Summit calls on Premier to act on the Representative for Children and Youth's progress report**

**Coast Salish Traditional Territory/West Vancouver** – The First Nations Summit calls on Premier Gordon Campbell to act positively on the just released 2007 Progress Report on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the BC Children and Youth Review (“Hughes Review”), by the Representative for Children and Youth (“Representative”).

“We note with concern that the Representative found that key recommendations of the Hughes Review have not yet been implemented by the Ministry of Children and Family Development,” said Grand Chief Edward John, a member of the First Nations Summit’s political executive.

“In particular, we are concerned that the welfare of First Nations children will continue to suffer if the Hughes Review recommendations are not fully implemented,” he added.

“As the Representative observes, 51% of children in care across the province are Aboriginal,” said Chief Judith Sayers, a member of the political executive. “In some parts of the province, such as the North, up to 76% of children in care are Aboriginal. This situation is completely unacceptable.”

“We strongly support the Representative’s recommendation that the Minister of Children and Family Development needs to work with “greater urgency” to implement the recommendations of the Hughes Review,” said Dave Porter, a member of the political executive. “This is why we have written the Premier urging him to take the findings of the Representative seriously.”

The First Nations Summit, as part of the First Nations Leadership Council, fully supported the Hughes Review and its recommendations when it was released in April 2006.

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

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