

## **News Release**

For Immediate Release: JANUARY 21, 2009

## First Nations Summit Saddened at Passing of Stan Hagen

**Vancouver (Coast Salish Territory)** – The First Nations Summit is saddened at the sudden passing of Stan Hagen and extends heartfelt sympathies to his family.

"First Nations have lost a good friend and strong ally", stated Grand Chief Edward John, Political Executive Member of the First Nations Summit. "Minister Hagen was a man of great integrity who worked tirelessly for his constituents and as a member of the provincial government. As a Cabinet Minister in ten different ministries, First Nations had a great number of dealings with Minister Hagen, and felt that he 'heard' their issues clearly," added Chief John.

"Stan Hagen was an advocate to First Nations and was one Minister who championed the *New Relationship* with First Nations and tried to find ways to implement this important government-to-government relationship", added Grand Chief Doug Kelly, another Member of the First Nations Summit Political Executive.

"Stan Hagen had a great relationship with many First Nations," stated Dan Smith, a Member of the First Nations Summit Political Executive. "He was one of a kind and will be sorely missed. On behalf of First Nations in BC, we extend our deepest condolences to his wife and family."

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The First Nations Summit speaks on behalf of First Nations involved in treaty negotiations in British Columbia. Further background information on the Summit may be found at <u>www.fns.bc.ca.</u>

For Further Information:

Colin Braker Communication Director First Nations Summit: Office: 604.926.9903/Cell: 604.328.4094