



FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

NEWS RELEASE

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First Nations Summit congratulates the Huu-ay-aht First Nation on their vote to support the Maa-Nulth Final Agreement

Coast Salish Traditional Territory/Vancouver – The First Nations Summit congratulates the Huu-ay-aht First Nation, who voted last Saturday, with 90% of those voting, in favour of concluding a treaty with B.C. and Canada.

“As the First Nations Summit Chiefs have stated time and time again we come together in an atmosphere of respect and support the autonomy and decisions of each First Nation. In that spirit, we applaud the decision of the Huu-ay-aht people. However, we need to remember the four other First Nations at the Maa-Nulth table will vote later this year”, said Grand Chief Edward John, a member of the First Nations Summit’s political executive. “At the same time it remains clear that other First Nations negotiating with Canada and BC do not see these ratified agreements as templates for their agreements and are demanding changes to the mandates of Canada and BC. The First Nations Summit continues to work closely with these First Nations as well.”

“The Huu-ay-aht First Nation has taken an important step of self-determination”, said Dave Porter, a member of the First Nations Summit’s political executive. “Clearly, this is a bold statement that indicated the Huu-ay-aht people see this agreement as a tool for becoming a self-sustaining and prosperous First Nation”, said Porter.

“When the people speak the leadership must listen. And without question, in this instance, the people of the Huu-ay-aht First Nation sent a strong confirmation to their leadership to proceed toward a treaty with the Crown based on the terms contained within the Maa-Nulth Final Agreement,” said Chief Judith Sayers, a member of the First Nations Summit’s political executive.

The Huu-ay-aht First Nation is one of five Nuu-chah-nulth tribes located on the west coast of Vancouver Island negotiating at the Maa-Nulth Treaty Table. The remaining four First Nations within the Maa-Nulth treaty group – Ucluelet First Nation, Toquaht Nation, Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nation, and Uchucklesaht Tribe will conduct similar votes on the Maa-Nulth Final Agreement later this year.

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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.

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