



FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

NEWS RELEASE

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First Nations Summit Congratulates Tsawwassen First Nation on Historic Vote

Coast Salish Territory/ Vancouver - The First Nations Summit congratulates the Tsawwassen First Nation on its vote to finalize an agreement with Canada and British Columbia that reconciles its Aboriginal title and rights with those of the Crown.

"The Tsawwassen First Nation has made a courageous decision to accept a final agreement," said Grand Chief Edward John, a member of the political executive of the First Nations Summit. "The Tsawwassen leadership should be congratulated for having their long years of hard work ratified" said John.

"We must recognize that this agreement is unique, particularly given their urban location," said Dave Porter, member of the First Nations Summit political executive. "Other agreements will be concluded based on their own unique circumstances," added Porter.

"There are 203 First Nations communities in B.C. and we are on the verge of the first treaty under the current treaty process," said Chief Judith Sayers of the political executive of the First Nations Summit. "That is something to celebrate, especially given that such a large majority of members support it," said Sayers.

The Tsawwassen First Nation Final Agreement now needs to be passed by the federal and provincial governments before becoming law. Provincial and federal settlement legislation is expected to be debated in upcoming parliamentary sessions before being voted on by each parliament.

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

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