



FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

NEWS RELEASE

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FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT DISTRESSED OVER DISPROPORTIONATE RATE OF ABORIGINAL CHILD DEATHS IDENTIFIED IN BC CORONERS SERVICE REPORT

Coast Salish Territory (West Vancouver) – The Leadership of the First Nations Summit is distressed over statistics contained in BC Coroner’s Service Child Death Report which was released this morning by Chief Coroner, Terry Smith. In every category of the report where the data identified ethnicity, aboriginal children were disproportionately high.

“We are extremely concerned that Aboriginal children are dying, whether it is by suicide, accident, natural causes or other circumstances, at rates that far exceed other ethnic groups” said Grand Chief Edward John, a member of the First Nations Summit Political Executive. “We agree with the recommendation contained in the report that suggests all levels of government, educators, parents and aboriginal leaders and communities work together to forge new relationships in an effort to address this disturbing statistic”.

The leadership of the First Nations Summit will be contacting Chief Coroner Terry Smith to a meet in the near future to discuss the findings of the Child Death Review report.

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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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