



FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

NEWS RELEASE

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FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT CALLS ON ATTORNEY GENERAL PLANT TO HOLD PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO FRANK JOSEPH PAUL'S DEATH

Vancouver, B.C.—The First Nations Summit and leaders from First Nations organizations across B.C. strongly support Police Complaint Commissioner Dirk Ryneveld's recommendation to hold a public inquiry into the death of the Frank Joseph Paul and have called on Attorney General Geoff Plant to order the inquiry immediately.

Frank Joseph Paul, a Mi'kmaq man, died of hypothermia in December 1998 shortly after being released by the Vancouver police department into an east Vancouver alley.

"We believe that the surviving family and relatives of Mr. Paul deserve to know exactly how and why Mr. Paul died, as does the B.C. public," said Grand Chief Edward John, a member of the political executive of the First Nations Summit.

"We expect a responsible and accountable police force and in the case of Mr. Paul, we firmly believe that the unusual circumstances surrounding his death require further investigation," added John.

The First Nations Summit urges the Attorney General to ensure that the public inquiry also provides recommendations on provincial policing practices involving, and relating to First Nations and Aboriginal peoples, as well as reconciliation measures between First Nations and the Crown in the area of policing.

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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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