



Meeting with Premier & Cabinet an Opportunity for BC to Move Treaty Negotiations Forward

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The First Nations Summit, which speaks for BC First Nations involved in the treaty negotiating process, is hoping that its meeting Monday with Premier Gordon Campbell and the Cabinet today will provide a basis to put BC treaty negotiations back on track.

The First Nations Summit will be coming to Monday's meeting with proactive solutions to put the treaty negotiations on a new and positive course and will be tabling a document entitled "*First Nations Summit Statement on the Treaty Negotiation Process, September 16, 2002*".

"The courts of this province and country have grown impatient with the ongoing strategy of denial and intransigence on the part of governments," said Grand Chief Edward John of the First Nations Summit Task Group.

"Governments need to recognize in their legislation, policies and mandates that there has been significant development in the law regarding Aboriginal title, treaty and Aboriginal rights," Grand Chief Edward John said. "The time has come to determine jointly how we will implement the legal duties and responsibilities imposed by the courts."

"The BC Court of Appeal in the recent *Taku River Tlingit* and *Council of the Haida Nation* cases demonstrated that the Crown and industry have a legally enforceable duty to consult with and accommodate the legal interests of Aboriginal peoples," said Satsan (Herb George) of the First Nations Summit Task Group.

"According to the United Nations' Committee on the Elimination of Racism, Canada has provided its assurance that it would not longer require a reference to extinguishment in any land claims agreements," said Lydia Hwitsum of the First Nations Summit Task Group.

"Canada and British Columbia must abandon and renounce their colonial policies to seek certainty through the extinguishment or surrender of Aboriginal title and rights," Lydia Hwitsum said. She added that Canada's human rights record will come into sharper focus as BC goes for the 2010 Winter Olympics bid.

The time is right to show the world that Canada and BC back up their talk about human rights with positive actions.

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