



FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

NEWS RELEASE

First Nations Summit Elects Celeste Haldane and Robert Phillips Commissioners of the British Columbia Treaty Commission

For Immediate Release:

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Coast Salish Territory/Vancouver – First Nations leaders who were gathered in North Vancouver this week for a regular meeting of the First Nations Summit, elected Celeste Haldane of the Musqueam Nation and Robert Phillips of the Northern Shuswap First Nation of Canim Lake as Commissioners of the British Columbia Treaty Commission. Following the election, the First Nations Summit appointed Ms. Haldane and Mr. Phillips to their positions as Commissioners by resolution.

“First Nations engaged in the BC treaty negotiations process look forward to a positive working relationship with both Ms. Haldane and Mr. Phillips in their roles as Commissioners of the BCTC”, said Chief Doug White, a member of the Summit’s political executive. “First Nations in BC have dedicated nearly two decades of effort to treaty negotiations with only a few agreements to date. Strong and vocal leadership by the BCTC is required now more than ever to assist in steering us towards the negotiation of fair, just, equitable and timely treaties”.

The re-appointment of Mr. Phillips and the appointment Ms. Haldane came following a 3 ballot election for the Summit’s two positions to the BC Treaty Commission. Ms. Haldane was elected on the first ballot and Mr. Phillips on the third ballot as five candidates vied for the two Commissioner positions. Both appointments are for two year terms and will expire in March 2013.

The First Nations Summit also thanked outgoing Commissioner Shana Manson for her important contribution and effective work in supporting treaty negotiations.

Bio of Celeste Haldane

This will be Celeste Haldane’s first term as a Commissioner. She is a member of the Musqueam located in Vancouver. She holds a Law degree as well as a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of British Columbia and is currently working on her Master’s Degree in Constitutional Law at Osgood Hall Law School. She has been a practicing member of the BC Bar since 2005 and has been the Treaty Manager for the Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council since 2006.

Bio of Robert Phillips

This will be Robert Phillips’ third term as a Commissioner. He is a member of the Northern Secwepemc te Qelmukw (Shuswap) of the Canim Lake First Nation.

Robert is married with three children. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University College of the Fraser Valley. Robert has served as Chief Negotiator and prior to that as Self-Government Director, at the Northern Shuswap Tribal Council. Robert also has an extensive background in Aboriginal justice and economic development.

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

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