



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FEBRUARY 24, 2012

### **First Nations Summit Congratulates Grand Chief Edward John (Akile Ch'oh) on receiving a 2012 National Aboriginal Achievement Award**

**Coast Salish Territory (Vancouver)** — The First Nations Summit is sending congratulations to Grand Chief Edward John, a longstanding member of the First Nations Summit political executive and recognized BC First Nations Leader, who will be receiving a 2012 National Aboriginal Achievement Award (Politics) at a ceremony this evening at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre in Vancouver.

“We congratulate Chief John on this well-deserved honour. He is a highly respected leader who has dedicated his entire life to the pursuit of social and economic justice for Indigenous people at the local, provincial, national and international levels”, said Chief Doug White, a member of the Summit’s political executive.

“Chief John’s impact on the First Nations political landscape has been significant. He has consistently stepped out in a leadership role to fight and advocate for the recognition and protection of our rights and title as well as to close the social and economic gaps faced by our communities”, said Dan Smith, also a member of the Summit’s political executive. “Chief John has been at the forefront of First Nations politics for decades. Whether through his leadership in helping to establish the process for treaty negotiations in BC or his involvement in the development of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, he has always fought to better the lives of aboriginal people.”

Grand Chief Edward John, a Hereditary Chief of Tl'azt'en Nation located in Northern BC, has been a lawyer for more than 30 years. He holds a B.A. from the University of Victoria, an LL.B from the University of British Columbia and an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Northern British Columbia. He is currently serving his ninth consecutive term as an elected member of the First Nations Summit political executive. He is also in the second year of a three year term as the North American Representative to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII).

The Summit is also sending congratulations to other recipients of 2012 National Aboriginal Achievement Awards. Other BC recipients include; Richard Stewart Hardy from K'omoks First Nation in Environment & Natural Resources category and Richard Peter from Cowichan First Nation in the Sports category.

-30-

The First Nations Summit speaks on behalf of First Nations involved in treaty negotiations in British Columbia. The Summit is also a NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Further background information on the Summit may be found at [www.fns.bc.ca](http://www.fns.bc.ca).

For Further Information:

Colin Braker, First Nations Summit: Office: 604.926.9903/Cell: 604.328.4094