

# First Nations Summit

## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
MAY 20, 2016**

### **Federal Government must reject National Energy Board decision to conditionally approve the Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion project**

**Coast Salish Territory, Vancouver, British Columbia** – Leaders of the First Nations Summit are calling on the federal government to reject the National Energy Board's (NEB) conditional approval of the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion project.

"The NEB decision to provide conditional approval does not alter or negate in any way, the federal government's clear legal responsibility to consult and accommodate First Nations, especially given the precedent provided by a long list of Supreme Court decisions", said Robert Phillips of the First Nations Summit political executive. "As we have said repeatedly, the necessary consultation standard for any development project in BC, especially those with such a high potential for risk and negative impacts, must be to seek the free, prior and informed consent of each and every First Nation whose Aboriginal title and rights will be impacted by a proposed project".

"We fully expect the federal government to uphold their commitments as a 'full unqualified supporter' of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the Declaration) when making any final decisions regarding this project", said Cheryl Casimer, also of the FNS political executive.

"The Declaration clearly affirms the 'minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the indigenous peoples of the world' as well as rights of self-determination and requires that governments obtain free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples in decisions about lands and resource development on their lands. These principles must be at the forefront of any future decision by the federal government", concluded Ms. Casimer.

-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, Communications Director, FNS, Phone: 604-328-4094