

First Nations Summit

STATEMENT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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First Nations Summit Congratulates Premier Eby and thanks outgoing Premier John Horgan

(xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səlilwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh), Vancouver, British Columbia – The First Nations Summit today congratulated Premier David Eby on his swearing in as BC's 37th Premier of British Columbia and thanked outgoing Premier John Horgan for his years of service and significant contributions.

We look forward to working with Premier Eby, in particular, continuing to work in partnership with the government to take all necessary steps to undertake the important work of implementing the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA)*, particularly the alignment of all BC laws with the UN Declaration.

As we have previously stated, the success of the Province of British Columbia and Indigenous communities are closely tied. If we are to seriously address the challenges facing our province, then a key priority must continue to be working in cooperation and partnership with First Nations people across BC. That includes the recognition and implementation of existing treaties, as well as the negotiation of fair and honourable treaties, agreements, and other constructive arrangements. We must continue to walk this common path together to have any chance of achieving true reconciliation.

We commend Premier Eby for conducting today's historic swearing-in ceremony on the traditional territory of the *xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Nation)*, and more importantly, respecting the cultural protocols of the *xʷməθkʷəy̓əm*. This is powerful signal of Premier Eby's commitments to ensuring a positive relationship between his government and BC First Nations.

We also hold our hands up to the Honourable John Horgan and thank him for his five years of service as BC's 36th Premier. From day one, Premier Horgan committed to improving the provincial government relationship with BC First Nations. A key part of this was his commitment to work with BC First Nations to co-develop DRIPA, the Province's legislative framework for reconciliation and our collective relationship moving forward.

The First Nations Summit looks forward to Premier Eby naming his new cabinet in the coming days and meeting with him to continue discussions on how we can collectively work together to close the disproportionate socio-economic gaps faced by our communities.

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The First Nations Summit speaks on behalf of First Nations involved in treaty negotiations in British Columbia. The Summit is also an 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.

For further information:

Robert Phillips, FNS Political Executive:
Cheryl Casimer, FNS Political Executive:
Hugh Braker, FNS Political Executive:

778-875-4463
778-875-2157
604-812-2632

