

# First Nations Summit

## STATEMENT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**FEBRUARY 9, 2023**

### FNS Statement on the pending retirement of John Horgan

**(xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh), Vancouver, British Columbia** – The First Nations Summit holds our hands up in deep appreciation to former Premier John Horgan for his many decades of public service, following his announcement today that he is planning to retire from politics next month.

We thank John Horgan for his tireless efforts to work to improve the lives of British Columbians, particularly First Nations. We have always appreciated his steadfast commitment to recognize and respect BC First Nations. Premier Horgan set a new standard with his progressive agenda which always included a willingness to listen to, and engage in, a two-way thoughtful dialogue with First Nations.

We appreciated his willingness and desire to learn about our history, cultures, traditions, and different systems of governance. His deep understanding of BC First Nations issues and the importance of recognizing the value of the *United Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) as an important human rights instrument, has been instrumental in a renewed government-to-government relationship with BC First Nations Title and Rights holders. It was this renewed relationship that led to the co-development of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, leading BC as the second government in the world to legislate UNDRIP implementation.

Premier Horgan was quick to recognize that the success of the Province of BC and First Nations communities are closely tied and thus there is extreme value in working in cooperation and partnership, a key component to working towards achieving true reconciliation.

We wish John Horgan good health and all the best for him and his wife Ellie in his retirement.

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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](http://www.fns.bc.ca).*

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