

# First Nations Summit

## STATEMENT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
APRIL 18, 2023**

### First Nations Summit congratulates Treaty 8 First Nations

*(xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh), Vancouver, British Columbia* – The First Nations Summit is sending congratulations to the Blueberry River First Nations, Doig River First Nation, Halfway River First Nation, Saulteau First Nation, and the West Moberly First Nation regarding the April 15, 2023 announcement that they have reached a final agreement with BC and Canada on their Treaty Land Entitlement claims. These agreements will undoubtedly lead to economic prosperity for the Northeast region of BC.

This agreement is long overdue. We commend the Treaty 8 Nations' leadership and community members for their steadfast perseverance to ensure that they received the land and compensation due to their communities for more than 100 years since the original signing of the Treaty 8 agreement in 1899. No First Nation should have to wait 100+ years for governments to live up to obligations in historic treaty agreements.

The recognition and respect for historic treaty agreements is important for reconciliation in BC as is governments remaining committed to the negotiation of modern-day treaty agreements.

The First Nations Summit remains committed to working with BC and Canada to also ensure future success for those First Nations committed to negotiating modern day treaty agreements. Many First Nations remain frustrated by the continuing lack of government resources and mandates which contribute heavily to slowing down the pace of the modern-day treaty negotiation process.

We remain committed to the BC treaty negotiation process and to working with Canada and BC to provide opportunities for successful outcomes for all First Nations working to conclude treaty agreements as a means to reconcile Indigenous and Crown titles and the Crown's assertion of sovereignty with our pre-existing sovereignty. We strongly urge Canada and BC to address their capacity and mandate challenges, with adequate financial and human resources and through meaningful implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, an important foundation for the BC treaty negotiations framework.

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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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