

First Nations Summit

STATEMENT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
DECEMBER 11, 2024**

First Nations Summit mourns the passing of Jim Aldridge, K.C.

Vancouver, BC— The First Nations Summit is deeply saddened by the passing of lawyer Jim Aldridge, K.C. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his six children, his family and friends. He was a strong family man who openly expressed love for, and pride in, his children, encouraged his children to do the best they could, and taught them his values.

Jim's long career as a lawyer was constantly highlighted by his work on, and advocacy for, First Nation issues. He believed in, not only the value of, but the absolute need for treaties between the non-treaty First Nations and the Crown. He was an important advocate in the development of the Nisga'a Treaty and continued to work for the implementation of the treaty. He acted in all levels of court including the Supreme Court of Canada where he appeared many times on important cases involving First Nation rights and title. As a younger lawyer, his work with the late Thomas Berger helped set the stage for his later work with First Nations people.

Jim believed strongly that Canada must seek reconciliation with First Nations for Canada's history of ill treatment of First Nations people. Treaty making, he once remarked, was part of the reconciliation process.

Jim Aldridge will be missed as a friend, as an important advocate for First Nations rights and title and as an articulate lawyer for First Nations.

To coin an old phrase, his will be big shoes to fill.

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The First Nations Summit speaks on behalf of First Nations involved in treaty negotiations in British Columbia. Further background information on the Summit may be found at www.fns.bc.ca.

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