



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Treaty Commission congratulates parties on Ditidaht and Pacheedaht Agreement in Principle signing**

VANCOUVER – On June 28, 2019, Ditidaht First Nation, Pacheedaht First Nation, British Columbia, and Canada signed an agreement in principle (AIP), achieving a significant milestone towards treaty and a new relationship based on rights recognition, cooperation, respect and partnership. The Ditidaht and Pacheedaht negotiations table is now in Stage 5 of the treaty process.

“In the past nine months there has been a significant number of tables advancing to Stage 5, the final stage of negotiations. The political will to conclude treaties has never been greater,” said Chief Commissioner Celeste Haldane. “Most importantly, these agreements are based on the recognition of rights and title, and all remnants of the old colonial extinguishment policies are being eliminated.”

The AIP establishes key elements of two future treaties and sets up the parties. Elements include ownership and cooperative management of land and resources, self-government and a range of jurisdiction, harvesting rights, cultural and heritage protection, economic development opportunities and capital transfers.

“The negotiating parties have worked hard to reach this milestone, and I commend them for their dedication to reconciliation through treaty,” said Mary-Ann Enevoldsen, the Commissioner overseeing the negotiation table. “It was an honour to witness this signing and celebrate with the parties.”

Ditidaht and Pacheedaht join four other negotiations tables that have transitioned to Stage 5 in the past year.

Ditidaht and Pacheedaht are separate First Nations negotiating together. There are approximately 770 Ditidaht members and 280 Pacheedaht members. Ditidaht and Pacheedaht share a boundary with traditional territory that spans the southwestern corner of Vancouver Island.

#### **Quick Facts**

- Read the joint statement from the parties:  
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2019IRR0043-001364>

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#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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#### **About the BC Treaty Commission**

The Treaty Commission is the independent body responsible for overseeing treaty negotiations among the governments of Canada, BC and First Nations in BC. It has three roles: facilitation, funding, and public information and education.

Visit [www.bctreaty.ca](http://www.bctreaty.ca) to learn more about the Treaty Commission.