



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 6, 2018

### **Memorandum of Understanding continues progress and innovation in treaty negotiations**

VANCOUVER – Congratulations to Ktunaxa Kinbasket Treaty Council (KKTC) and the governments of Canada and British Columbia on the signing of the Ktunaxa Nation Rights Recognition and Core Treaty Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

The MOU is a unique approach to expediting negotiations and advancing the treaty table based on a rights recognition approach. The MOU also sets out the intentions of the parties to develop a “core” treaty with supplemental side agreements.

“This is the second MOU transitioning a table to Stage 5 this year, demonstrating that treaty negotiations are keeping pace with other government policy initiatives,” said Chief Commissioner Celeste Haldane. “The Ktunaxa peoples has been rebuilding their nation through treaty negotiations, and reaching this milestone shows that their hard work is paying off.”

KKTC is a multi-community First Nation representing four communities: ʔAkisqʔnuk (Columbia Lake), ʔAqam (St. Mary’s Indian Band), ʔAkinʔumʔasnuqʔiʔit (Tobacco Plains Band), and Yaqaŋ Nuykiy (Lower Kootenay Band). There are approximately 1,120 KKTC members, with traditional territory including the Kootenay, Flathead, and Columbia River watersheds within the area that extends from the Arrow and Kinbasket Lakes east to the Alberta border.

Chief Commissioner Celeste Haldane and Commissioner Tanya Corbet were in attendance last week to witness the signing.

### **Quick Facts**

- For more information and to read the MOU, visit <https://news.gov.bc.ca/18602>
- Stó:lō Xwexwilmexw Treaty Association signed a similar MOU in October, the first of its kind.
- 36 First Nations, representing 70 current or former *Indian Act* bands, are in active or completed negotiations.
- As of December 4, 2018, there are 9 First Nations, representing 26 *Indian Act* bands, actively negotiating in Stage 5 of the BC treaty negotiations process.
- There are 7 First Nations implementing modern treaties negotiated through the BC treaty negotiations process.

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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.