

June 21, 2020

Treaty Commission celebrates National Indigenous Peoples Day

VANCOUVER – On National Indigenous Peoples Day, the Treaty Commission is asking all British Columbians and Canadians to reflect on reconciliation, particularly in the current context of heightened awareness of the systemic racism that Indigenous peoples face in our country.

Chief Commissioner Celeste Haldane states, “Today we celebrate the strength and resilience of Indigenous peoples in the face of Canada long colonial history and systemic racism. Now more than ever we need true allies. Together, contributing on all fronts, we need transformative change for the betterment of all.”

In September, the First Nations Summit, British Columbia and Canada took concrete steps towards reconciliation, endorsing the [Recognition and Reconciliation of Rights Policy for Treaty Negotiations in British Columbia](#). “The negotiation of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements, is bringing transformative change and honouring, protecting and recognizing Indigenous peoples, their rights, lands and cultures, for a stronger nation,” says Chief Commissioner Haldane.

The Government of British Columbia passed the landmark [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#), in November 2019. This legislation commits to taking necessary measures to ensure provincial laws are consistent with the UN Declaration, and strengthens reconciliation efforts in BC.

This month is National Indigenous History Month and the 5th anniversary of the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada \(TRC\) Calls to Action](#). The Treaty Commission is calling on all Canadians to actively engage in reconciliation efforts, and celebrate the rich history, cultures and diversity of Indigenous peoples to build positive relationships.

Quick Facts:

- There are 200 *Indian Act* bands in BC, 630 across Canada. Sixty-five (65) self-determining First Nations are in the BC treaty negotiations process, representing over half of the *Indian Act* bands in BC.
- The BC Treaty Commission’s mandate includes supporting negotiating Parties in implementing the [UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), the [TRC Calls to Action](#), the [Principles Respecting the Government of Canada’s Relationship with Indigenous Peoples](#), and the recognition of First Nations title and rights.
- [Recognition and Reconciliation of Rights Policy for Treaty Negotiations in British Columbia](#) was endorsed by Canada, BC, and the First Nations Summit in September 2019
- November 2019, [the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act \(Bill 41\)](#) received Royal Assent in British Columbia.

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.