



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BC Treaty Commission celebrates achievements in advancing Indigenous rights on National Indigenous Peoples Day

VANCOUVER – This National Indigenous Peoples Day, we celebrate the rich cultures and governance of Indigenous Nations. Today, the BC Treaty Commission acknowledges the increased commitment from Indigenous Nations and the federal and provincial governments to reconciliation, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UN Declaration), and treaty negotiations.

Recently, the House of Commons passed Bill C-262, ensuring Canadian laws are in harmony with the UN Declaration. In January 2018, the Principals to the BC treaty negotiations process strengthened the Treaty Commission’s mandate to include supporting the implementation of the UN Declaration.

“Modern treaties are the best mechanisms to implement the UN Declaration,” said Chief Commissioner Celeste Haldane. “We acknowledge Indigenous Peoples efforts to protect their culture, governance, and rights, which strengthens Indigenous Nations and strengthens our country.”

As we celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day, the Treaty Commission looks forward to working with Indigenous Nations, Canada, and BC to conclude negotiations and implement modern treaties in British Columbia.

Quick Facts

- Eight First Nations are implementing modern treaties in BC: Nisga’a, Tsawwassen First Nation, the five Maa-nulth First Nations, and Tla’amin Nation.
- 38% of *Indian Act* bands in BC are actively negotiating or already implementing a modern treaty.

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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 to learn more about the Treaty Commission.