



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National Aboriginal Day brings attention to the need for reconciliation in Canada

VANCOUVER – It is an exciting time to celebrate National Aboriginal Day in Canada. The Treaty Commission encourages all Canadians to recognize the rich history and contributions of Indigenous Peoples to this country and current efforts to strengthen Canada through the modern treaty making process.

On April 5, 2016 the Tla’amin Final Agreement became the eighth First Nation to implement a constitutionally protected modern day treaty in BC. Tla’amin is now a self-governing First Nation no longer controlled by the *Indian Act*. The treaty will provide prosperity and strength for the Nation and the entire Powell River region and is good example of reconciliation.

In May, the federal government took an important step in furthering reconciliation. Carolyn Bennett, the Honourable Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, announced Canada’s full support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, without qualification.

The Treaty Commission believes modern treaties, fairly negotiated and honourably implemented, are the greatest expression of reconciliation and the Declaration. “This is a critical time for reconciliation, and the Treaty Commission is optimistic that the parties are renewing their commitment to completing treaty negotiations in BC,” said Acting Chief Commissioner Celeste Haldane.

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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.