



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BC Treaty Commission congratulates parties on initialling Lheidli T'enneh Treaty

VANCOUVER – Today, the parties of the Lheidli T'enneh negotiations gathered in Prince George to initial the new treaty. The BC Treaty Commission congratulates the Government of Canada, the Government of British Columbia, and Lheidli T'enneh First Nation (LTFN) for their continued commitment to reconciliation through treaty negotiations. A second ratification vote for LTFN will be held in June 2018.

“The negotiating parties sitting down again to update the Lheidli T'enneh Treaty demonstrates a commitment to the relationship developed during negotiations,” said Tom Happynook, the Commissioner assigned to the LTFN negotiating table.

The parties first initialled the treaty in 2006. LTFN held a treaty ratification vote in 2007 and membership voted not to accept the agreement. Since that time, the parties have updated the treaty to include new wording enabling the agreement to change as certain key provincial and federal policies for Indigenous Peoples are developed.

“These changes are an important step in making the Lheidli T'enneh Treaty a living document,” said Chief Commissioner Celeste Haldane. “It enables Lheidli T'enneh to protect its lands, resources, and self-governance now, and not wait for changes to key government policies for Indigenous Peoples. The First Nation can act now for the betterment of its people without fear of losing out on potential policy changes in the near future.”

The Lheidli T'enneh Treaty will provide LTFN with 4,330 hectares of treaty settlement land, approximately 1,183 hectares of which will be located within the City of Prince George. In addition, the First Nation will receive a capital transfer payment of approximately \$37.1 million over 10 years, \$502,000 annually in resource revenue sharing payments for 50 years, and a combination of \$15 million in one-time funding and \$2.29 million in annual funding to support programs and implementation of the treaty.

Quick Facts

- Lheidli T'enneh entered the BC treaty negotiations process in 1993.
- The LTFN negotiating table was the first table to conclude an agreement in principle (2003) and a final agreement (2006).
- Lheidli T'enneh has approximately 440 members, with traditional territory around Prince George, including the Nechako Fraser River basins to the Alberta border.

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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 to learn more about the Treaty Commission.