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## News Release

For Immediate Release:  
January 23, 2012

### British Columbia First Nations Leaders are looking ahead to First Nations/Crown Gathering on January 24, 2012

**Ottawa, Canada** – 97 Chiefs and representatives from BC First Nations are registered along with approximately 400 Chiefs from across Canada to attend the Crown-First Nations Gathering to be held in the Old City Hall in Ottawa, January 24<sup>th</sup> 2012. The Crown-First Nations Gathering is a meeting between First Nations Leadership and the Crown as represented by the Governor General, Prime Minister and senior government ministers.

“Our peoples are experiencing a period of profound transition rebuilding our Nations and taking back control of our lives” stated Regional Chief Jody Wilson-Raybould. “The Gathering provides the Prime Minister with an opportunity to demonstrate that he is a true Canadian and committed to undertaking all the necessary steps to support our on-going efforts to ensure our Nations have fair access to lands and resources, strong and appropriate governance, quality education and improved health. The world is watching and Canada’s reputation as a Nation of caring and compassionate peoples is at stake,” added Wilson-Raybould.

“The Prime Minister must commit to follow-up and to ongoing communications,” says Chief Doug White. “First Nations need concrete outcomes and a commitment from the Prime Minister to reset the relationship through practical and results-based initiatives, and the achievement of significant transformative agreements within the next year.”

“We can do better. We must do better. The Honour of the Crown and the very integrity of Canada as a nation is at stake. Otherwise, an Aboriginal uprising is inevitable.” Grand Chief Stewart Phillip states.”

BC Assembly of First Nations, in conjunction with the First Nations Summit and Union of BC Indian Chiefs, and our BC First Nation Councils, have developed a BC Proposed Solutions and Desired Outcomes Document for the First Nations/Crown Gathering highlighting key action items mandated by BC First Nations through resolutions and refined through feedback from BC First Nations leaders (*see attached*).

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