

FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE
IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 26, 2019



**BRITISH COLUMBIA
ASSEMBLY OF
FIRST NATIONS**

1004 Landooz Rd
Prince George, BC
V2K 5S3



**FIRST
NATIONS
SUMMIT**

100-100 Park Royal South
West Vancouver, BC
V7T 1A2

Ph: 604-926-9903
Fx: 604-926-9923
Toll Free: 866-990-9939



**UNION OF
BRITISH COLUMBIA
INDIAN CHIEFS**

401 – 312 Main Street
Vancouver, BC
V6A 2T2

Ph: 604-684-0231
Fx: 604-684-5726

FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL HOSTING BC FIRST NATIONS CANNABIS FORUM THIS WEEK IN VANCOUVER

(Lheidli T'enneh Territory, Prince George, BC – Mar. 26, 2019) – The First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) is hosting the BC First Nations Cannabis Forum at the Westin Bayshore, Vancouver on Wednesday, March 27, 2019. This event is an opportunity for BC Chiefs, delegates, and experts to discuss the legislative and regulatory framework, First Nations jurisdiction, economic development opportunities, legal implications on-reserve and health considerations. A strategy report flowing from the forum will highlight priorities for the First Nations Leadership Council to help guide their engagement on the **Joint Working Group** on the Legalization and Regulation of Non-Medical Cannabis.

“The legalization of cannabis has spurred much dialogue and increased knowledge but it is critical to ground and connect information about cannabis, and government priorities, within the context of First Nations communities, and this forum will ensure our priorities and concerns are brought forward. As well, we will explore economic opportunities that may be available within this new industry,” stated Regional Chief Terry Teegee.

“The legalization of recreational cannabis has created a new and emerging marketplace. It is critical that BC First Nations have full jurisdiction within their respective territories and be provided with equal and early access to the market in order to take advantage of the significant economic opportunities the recreational cannabis industry provides. Government must also come to the table to engage with BC First Nations on revenue sharing”, said Cheryl Casimer of the First Nations Summit Political Executive. “This week’s forum will provide a much-needed opportunity for BC First Nations delegates to come together to share important information on both economic opportunities and health considerations”.

Kukpi7 Judy Wilson, UBCIC Executive member stated, “The federal cannabis legislation was imposed without First Nations consent or involvement. With implementation of laws and regulation we must ensure that our voices are heard in the emerging medicinal and economic cannabis sector. With this in mind, it is essential that safety and good health for our communities are paramount, this First Nations Cannabis Forum is place for us to work together towards these goals.”

The event will be **webcast live** on the BCAFN YouTube channel at:
www.youtube.com/channel/UCJHyjwUe6xh7lSh0f2xotPA/live

The event **agenda** is available at:
bcfn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/March-27-BC-First-Nations-Cannabis-Forum-Agenda.pdf

For more information visit the BCAFN event **webpage** at:
bcfn.ca/event/bc-first-nations-cannabis-forum/

You can still **register** at:
www.eventbrite.ca/e/bc-first-nations-cannabis-forum-registration-58450220182

For further information, contact:

Sarah Froese, Policy Analyst, phone (778)945-9911, BC Assembly of First Nations.