



**Assembly of
First Nations
BC Region**



**First
Nations
Summit**



**Union of
British Columbia
Indian Chiefs**

LEADERSHIP ACCORD

This Leadership Accord is effective from the 17th day of March, 2005

BETWEEN

The First Nations Summit ("Summit")

- AND -

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The Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs ("UBCIC")

- AND -

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The BC Assembly of First Nations ("BCAFN")

WHEREAS the First Nation people in British Columbia respect and recognize each other's Aboriginal title, rights and interests and treaty rights.

WHEREAS the Summit represents those First Nations participating in or supportive of the treaty negotiation process in British Columbia and provides a forum for those First Nations to address issues related to treaty negotiations as well as other issues of common concern.

WHEREAS the UBCIC is an organization of First Nations in British Columbia, founded in 1969, dedicated to promoting and supporting the efforts of First Nations to affirm and defend Aboriginal Title and Rights. It is the goal of UBCIC to help First Nations exercise of their inherent rights and by holding the Crown to its obligation to honour and respect those rights.

WHEREAS the BCAFN works to advance the rights and interests of First Nations people in British Columbia, restore and enhance the relationship among First Nations people in British Columbia, the Crown and the people of Canada, develops and promotes programs and policies for the benefit of First Nations people in British Columbia, and works in coalition with other organizations that advance the rights and interests of indigenous peoples.

WHEREAS the Summit, the UBCIC and the BCAFN recognize each other's respective mandates to represent the interests of their respective membership.

WHEREAS over the years, the Summit, the UBCIC and the BCAFN have developed a relationship through sharing, information exchange, dialogue and respect for and recognition of each other's interests. They each desire to build upon this relationship by affirming their mutual respect for and recognition of each other's respective mandates and establishing a formal, ongoing political process to work cooperatively together to advance the interests of First Nations in British Columbia.

THEREFORE in the spirit of mutual respect and continued cooperation, the Summit, the UBCIC and the BCAFN agree as follows:

1.0 Purpose of Accord

1.1 The purpose of this Accord is to:

- a) affirm mutual respect, recognition and support of each of the Parties for one another,
- b) formalize a cooperative working relationship of the Parties to politically represent the interests of First Nations in British Columbia and develop strategies and actions to bring about significant and substantive changes to government policy that will benefit all First Nations in British Columbia,
- c) focus on a range of agreed upon issues and initiatives of common interest or concern among First Nations in British Columbia, including:
 - i) engaging with the provincial and federal governments regarding implementation of the Crown's honourable duty to consult with and accommodate First Nations,
 - ii) advancing the interests of First Nations in British Columbia in national processes, such as the Prime Minister's Canada-Aboriginal Peoples Roundtable process, and

- iii) iii) addressing social and economic program and service issues with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, BC/Yukon Region.

2.0 Guiding Principles

2.1 The Parties agree that the implementation of this Accord will be guided by the following principles:

- a) the Parties recognize and respect each other's respective mandate,
- b) the Parties will be mindful that they each represent a diversity of perspectives on issues relating to Aboriginal title, rights and interests,
- c) the Parties commit to work to advance the interests of First Nations in political level discussions amongst themselves and with governments,
- d) the Parties will represent their respective memberships in any discussions that directly involve government and industry.

3.0 Ongoing Process

- 3.1 The Parties commit to engage in an ongoing process of dialogue through regular leadership meetings to achieve the purposes of this Accord and, where possible, develop common understandings, strategies and/or positions on identified issues of mutual concern or priority.
- 3.2 Each Party agrees to take individual responsibility for decisions made at the leadership meetings and required follow-up.
- 3.3 The Parties may establish joint working groups on identified issues of mutual concern or priority to assist the Parties in advancing issues politically.

4.0 General

- 4.1 This Accord may be terminated by any Party by the Party providing written notice to the other Parties of their intention to terminate the Accord.
- 4.2 This Accord does not create, define, limit, prejudice, abrogate or derogate from any of the Aboriginal title, rights and interests or treaty rights of any First Nation.
- 4.3 This Accord does not limit or affect the mandate or the ability of either Party to pursue their respective political mandates provided by their membership from time to time.

Signed this 17th day of March, 2005

On behalf of the First Nations Summit:



Grand Chief Edward John
Task Group Member



Grand Chief Doug Kelly
Task Group Member



Dave Porter
Task Group Member

On behalf of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs:



Chief Stewart Phillip, President

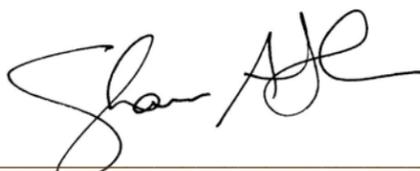


Chief Robert Shintah, Vice-President



Chief Mike Retasket, Secretary-Treasurer

On behalf of the BC Assembly of First Nations:



A-in-chut (Shawn Atleo), BC Regional Chief