



BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### BCAFN REGIONAL CHIEF APPLAUDS MP JODY WILSON-RAYBOULD

**(Lheidli T'enneh Territory, Prince George, BC – Mar. 2, 2019)** – The BC Assembly of First Nations' (BCAFN) Regional Chief Terry Teegee applauds Hereditary Chief Puglaas, Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, for her courageous and detailed testimony this week before the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights. The integrity and honesty of her words as she highlighted the value and respect for the rule of law and the constitutional principle of prosecutorial independence have shown how traditional teachings guide our First Nations leaders. We call on all Canadians to witness what has become an historic moment in Canadian politics.

Mrs. Wilson Raybould worked as a provincial crown prosecutor in Vancouver's Main Street courthouse after being called to the Bar Association in 2000. After a few years, in 2003, she took a position as a process advisor at the BC Treaty Commission and was shortly thereafter (2004) elected as a Commissioner of the First Nations Summit. Ms. Wilson-Raybould then went on to serve as the elected Regional Chief for the BC Assembly of First Nations for six years (2009-2015) and helped to create the *BCAFN Governance Toolkit: A Guide to Nation Building* which is a unique set of works outlining how Nations in B.C. transition their governance from under the Indian Act to one that reflects the recognition of Indigenous title and rights.

"Over the years BC First Nations leaders developed a deep respect and appreciation for Puglaas as she worked hard to empower the Nations to re-build and assert their rights and title as set out in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. Her legal and political history in British Columbia as she progressed aspects of aboriginal law, treaties, the environment, financial transparency, good governance and reconciliation have helped to move British Columbia ahead of other Canadian provinces. She is forging a path for the rest of us to follow," states Regional Chief Terry Teegee.

As the former attorney general of Canada, MP Jody Wilson-Raybould's resistance to submit to political pressures and hold true to her teachings and values in her position have provided Canadians with a glimpse of a political system that can work for all the people and not the interests of a few.

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