

FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



BRITISH COLUMBIA
ASSEMBLY OF
FIRST NATIONS

1004 Landooz Rd.
Prince George, BC
V2K 5S3

Ph: 778-945-9910
Fx: 778-945-9916



FIRST
NATIONS
SUMMIT

1200-100 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

September 1, 2021

Erin O'Toole
Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada
1720-130 Albert St.
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5G4

Dear Erin O'Toole,

It is very disappointing that less than 24 months after the last federal election, we are now headed back to the polls despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and other emergent circumstances, including the devastating wildfires in British Columbia. While we are frustrated by this untimely election, we are committed to seeking answers from candidates on questions of importance to First Nations in BC so they can make an informed decision when voting.

First Nations in BC have a unique nation-to-nation relationship with the federal government which is grounded in our Aboriginal Title, Rights and Treaty Rights, which are protected in section 35(1) the Canadian Constitution. First Nations in BC continue to engage collaboratively on a number of matters to bridge the differences in socio-economic standards between First Nations citizens and other British Columbians and Canadians, reconcile Aboriginal Title and Rights and establish new relationships based on mutual respect and recognition.

In 2018, the Government of Canada released 10 guiding principles for its relationship with Indigenous Peoples. These Principles are rooted in section 35, guided by the UN Declaration, and informed by the Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP) and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)'s Calls to Action. In addition, they reflect a commitment to good faith, the rule of law, democracy, equality, non-discrimination, and respect for human rights. They will guide the work required to fulfill the Government's commitment to renewed nation-to-nation, government-to-government, and Inuit-Crown relationships.

As we indicated 24 months ago, First Nations remain committed to changing the course of First Nation-Crown relations in BC in ways that empower our Nations and result in real, concrete changes for our children, families, and communities. First Nations' socio-economic successes will benefit all Canadians.

The 2021 federal election represents a significant and continuing opportunity to address these numerous gaps. Recognizing this opportunity, First Nation leaders across the country are actively engaging First Nations citizens and encouraging and aiding their efforts to participate in the September 20, 2021 federal election. Data has shown that First Nations voters can and have significantly influenced results in more than 50 ridings across the country, many of which are in the province of BC.

Similar to our efforts in 2015 and 2019, the First Nations Summit, the BC Assembly of First Nations and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, working together as the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), bring forward some key concerns and questions of BC First Nations for consideration and response by federal political parties.

The FNLC is preparing a 2021 Federal Election package to be disseminated to all 204 BC First Nations. To inform First Nation voters, we are posing a series of questions to federal parties on issues of keen interest to First Nation voters. The questions, along with the responses we receive, will be included in the 2021 Election package for BC First Nations. The package will also include basic voting information and the various parties' platforms on First Nations issues.

The responses to our 2015 and 2019 questions proved to be very valuable information for BC First Nations voters and we trust your party's responses to the following questions will be just as valuable a resource.

Following are questions relating to BC First Nations' concerns:

1. Reconciliation, Recognition and Affirmation:

- a. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (the UN Declaration) was adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2007 after more than 20 years of discussions. In 2016, Canada officially adopted and promised to implement the UN Declaration fully and in 2021 Parliament passed Bill C-15 - *An Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

While the UN Declaration contains preambular paragraphs and 43 Articles, following are three Articles of great importance to Indigenous peoples in BC.

Article 26

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.
2. Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.
3. States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.

Article 27

States shall establish and implement, in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned, a fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent process, giving due recognition to indigenous peoples' laws, traditions, customs and land tenure systems, to recognize and adjudicate the rights of indigenous peoples pertaining to their lands, territories and resources, including those which were traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used. Indigenous peoples shall have the right to participate in this process.

Article 28

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to redress, by means that can include restitution or, when this is not possible, just, fair and equitable compensation, for the lands, territories and re- sources which they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used, and which have been confiscated, taken, occupied, used or damaged without their free, prior and in- formed consent.
2. Unless otherwise freely agreed upon by the peoples concerned, compensation shall take the form of lands, territories and resources equal in quality, size and legal status or of monetary compensation or other appropriate redress.

If elected, how will your government work to implement the Act Respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in particular the above three articles, including working meaningfully and in partnership with Indigenous peoples?

- b. The ground-breaking SCC *Tsilhqot'in* decision, which reaffirmed the existence of First Nation Title in Canada, reinforced the need for a reconstituted consent-based Crown-First Nations relationship, one which needs to address Aboriginal Title and Rights in a real and meaningful way. This relationship needs to be based on the negotiation, conclusion, and implementation of Treaties and other agreements. The decision also confirmed that establishing Aboriginal Title happens two ways: 1) Court Declaration, or 2) Negotiations. In September 2014, following the SCC decision in *Tsilhqot'in*, First Nations Chiefs and Leadership in BC identified "Four Principles" as the basis of recognition and reconciliation work, which have been endorsed through resolution. The Four Principles state:
 - Acknowledgement that all our relationships are based on recognition and implementation of the existence of Indigenous Peoples' inherent title and rights, and pre-confederation, historic and modern treaties throughout BC.
 - Acknowledgement that Indigenous systems of governance and laws are essential to the regulation of lands and resources throughout BC.
 - Acknowledgement of the mutual responsibility that all of our government systems shall shift to relationships, negotiations and agreements based on recognition.
 - We immediately must move to consent based decision-making and title based fiscal relations, including revenue sharing, in our relationships, negotiations and agreements.

In light of Parliament's passage of the Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adoption of the UN Declaration, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) 94 Calls to Action, if elected, how will your government work to transform the current relationship between First Nations and the Government of Canada in the implementation, negotiation and conclusion of Treaties, Agreements and other constructive arrangements, inside the current BC Treaty negotiations framework, as well as outside of that process?

2. Residential Schools

- a. It is urgent that the federal government take leadership to ensure that appropriate and comprehensive steps are put in place to establish a proper response and legal framework governing the protection and investigation of the unmarked mass burial sites that have been discovered, as of now and in future, at former Indian Residential School sites across Canada. This framework must also be appropriately designed to be able to be address all mass burial sites.

It is urgent that such a framework be co-developed with First Nations survivors and First Nations governments. Such a framework must ensure that the identification, preservation, and investigation over time of these mass burial sites occurs according to human rights standards with proper legal protection, documentation, and accountability.

The loss of life of students at the schools, disappearances, and instances where there was a failure to document or protect the deceased children, are matters of national and international concern. Victims' families, survivors and First Nations governments must be actively involved and supported through this process. While legal protections for the exhumation and identification of the remains will be one concern for the Government of Canada, a sole focus on this is clearly too narrow. There must be a proper focus on restorative justice and protecting the memory of the lives of the children and families. Every step from here forward must actively and respectfully empower and permit the survivors and our First Nations communities to be culturally safe, free from continued discrimination based on racism and denigration of our culture and language. We must be supported to document and share the impact this is having on us today and into the future, with full support from the Government of Canada, so that we do justice to this travesty.

If elected, how will your government work with First Nations governments and residential school survivors to co-develop a framework that ensures that the identification, preservation, and investigation over time of these mass burial sites occurs according to human rights standards with proper legal protection, documentation, and accountability.

3. Justice and Policing:

- a. The justice system, as it currently exists in BC, often results in the systemic, cultural discrimination of First Nations. The system does not recognize that differences in culture, values, language and traditions directly impact the experience and treatment of First Nations in the justice system, including in court appearances, defense case reasoning, choosing pleas of defense, confronting accusers, and showing emotion in court – the system assumes that punishment equally affects all persons regardless of background or culture. There are many reports illustrating that First Nations people are disproportionately represented at all levels of the criminal justice system.

If elected, how will your government challenge current approaches that contribute to the growing overrepresentation of Indigenous men and women in incarceration, and in particular, the alarming and drastic increase of Indigenous women being incarcerated as the fastest growing incarcerated population?

Will your government commit to implementation of an Indigenous-led National Indigenous Justice Strategy?

- b. Unlike all other policing institutions in Canada, First Nations police services are not all governed by legislation. First Nations police services are funded as programs through agreements with the federal and provincial governments and can be cancelled at any time. The Auditor General of Canada has reported that policing services on First Nations reserves fail to meet the standards applying to police services in non-aboriginal communities.

If elected, will your government commit to co-developing legislation with Indigenous communities to recognize and fund First Nations Policing as an essential service and not a program and satisfy all the recommendations made by the Auditor General to ensure that First Nations policing services meet the same standards applied to police services in non-aboriginal communities.

4. Children and Families:

- a. Better supports are required for First Nations children and youth in care, along with stronger enforcement of policies meant to protect the vulnerable. This includes the application of Jordan's Principle, which is a child-first principle that applies equally to all First Nations children, whether resident on or off reserve. Jordan's Principle makes sure all First Nations children living in Canada can access the products, services and supports they need, when they need them.
Evidence shows that, once a person has been involved in the child welfare system in their youth, the chances are higher that they will be involved in the criminal justice system, and that their own children will be involved in the child welfare system. Statistics show that while Aboriginal people account for 4.3% of the Canadian population, nearly 50% of the 30,000 children and youth in foster care are Indigenous. On January 1, 2020, Bill C-92, *An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* received Royal Assent, recognizing and affirming the inherent jurisdiction of Indigenous peoples over child and family services. This *Act* recognizes and affirms the inherent jurisdiction that Indigenous peoples have over their children and provides a legislative framework to begin to address the over-representation of Indigenous children in care. Since the *Act* coming into force, First Nations have continued to express concerns with adequate funding and the ability to access funding has

remained a barrier to being able to meaningfully stand up their laws and jurisdiction over child and family services.

If elected, what will your government do to ensure that a funding regime based in the principles of substantive equality is developed and implemented immediately for First Nations child welfare?

If elected, how will your government ensure that Jordan's Principle is immediately implemented and adopted, equally, in all Provinces and Territories?

- b. The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) has found funding allotted to child welfare and health services for First Nations children to be discriminatory and has ordered Canada to immediately cease and address this issue in a matter that is consistent with the principles of substantive equality. Despite this ruling, and numerous non-compliance orders issued since, including a recent ruling on September 6, 2019, that Canada must compensate First Nations Children and Families who have been unfairly discriminated against, including being denied essential services, Canada continues to fight First Nations children and families in court.

If elected, how will your government respond to the CHRT rulings and ensure that children and families are adequately compensated for this ongoing discrimination?

- c. Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework. Political support for federal implementation of the Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Framework is crucial. The federal government must be held to its commitments to continue the work of implementation of First Nations-led affirmative early learning and child and family supports without delay. The Framework, which was endorsed by Canada, and National Indigenous Organizations, in October 2018, is the product of extensive First Nations engagement and consultation. First Nations communities feel their leadership in First Nations ELCC is long overdue and culturally vital.

If elected, how will your party work in partnership with First Nations to support ongoing implementation of the Framework which is intended to build capacity of First Nations to support children and families directed by First Nations authorities, values and practices?

5. Education:

- a. **BC Tripartite Education Agreement** – In July 2018, BC, Canada and the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) signed a renewed BC Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA) to advance First Nations Control of First Nations Education, and to support system changes that will improve outcomes for First Nation students, wherever they attend school in BC. Regional Education

Agreements for First Nations across Canada represent a commitment set out in the jointly developed (AFN and Canada) Policy Proposal, Transforming First Nations Education, which was approved by Cabinet in 2018.

Given the diversity of First Nations across Canada, do you support full regionalization of all national First Nations education programs?

BCTEA promotes increased achievement for all First Nation learners in BC, regardless of where they attend school. However, the federal government funds k-12 students living on reserve inequitably, depending on whether they attend an on-reserve First Nations school or an off-reserve public school. For example, support funding may be provided for those attending a First Nations school that isn't available to those attending public schools.

What will your party do about this inequitable and discriminatory funding model?

6. Action Plan to implement the Final Report and Recommendations of the *National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*:

- a. The National Inquiry's Final Report reveals that persistent and deliberate human and Indigenous rights violations and abuses are the root cause behind Canada's staggering rates of violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people. The two-volume report calls for transformative legal and social changes to resolve the crisis that has devastated Indigenous communities across the country. The Final Report delivered 231 individual *Calls for Justice* directed at governments, institutions, social service providers, industries and all Canadians. Recently, following over two years of consultations, a National Action Plan was announced by the federal government. This long-drawn-out process and the lack of clear and concrete accountable timelines in the Action Plan has been cause for serious concern.

If elected, what actions will your government take to work in partnership with Indigenous peoples to ensure all 231 Calls to Justice are implemented through a transparent, timely and accountable process?

7. Fisheries:

- a. In 1990, the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) issued a landmark ruling in the *Sparrow* decision, confirming First Nations' aboriginal right to fish for food, social and ceremonial (FSC) purposes, and that this right takes priority, after conservation, over all other uses of the resource. First Nations in many parts of BC have expressed continuing frustration at their inability to meet their food, social and ceremonial fish needs, particularly when DFO does not respect the priority of Indigenous fisheries and provides opportunities for commercial and recreational fisheries before some First Nations are able to access their constitutionally protected fisheries. Furthermore, the inability to meet these FSC needs may be the result of insufficient allocations, low returns, environmental conditions or other factors that hinder the ability to fish for preferred species, at preferred times and locations using preferred methods, as well as other barriers. Rising conservation and environmental pressures will likely exacerbate the challenge of ensuring First Nations' food fish access into the future. Increasingly, DFO cites "conservation concerns" as rationale to limit or close fisheries;

however, there is no consultation with First Nations and no agreed upon standard or threshold to determine what constitutes a conservation closure. First Nations are overwhelmingly bearing the brunt of conservation. Direct engagement between First Nations and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans is required to inform and improve the federal government's approach to fisheries management and implementing First Nations' Constitutional priority to fisheries.

If elected, how will your government uphold the mandate letter to the current Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the 10 Principles Respecting the Government of Canada's relationship with Indigenous Peoples, ensuring that the laws, policies, and practices relating to fisheries management are consistent with the UN Declaration and Canadian case law, and that the priority of access to fisheries resources be upheld and implemented for First Nations in BC to exercise their rights to fish for food, social and ceremonial purposes?

- b. Following the SCC *Sparrow* decision, Fisheries and Oceans Canada introduced the *Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy* (AFS) in 1992. One element of the AFS was the *Aboriginal Fisheries Guardian Program* (Guardian Program), intended to build capacity in First Nation communities to manage and monitor FSC fisheries in coordination with Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The Guardian Program was initially embraced by many BC First Nations, who viewed the program as an opportunity to build capacity to manage their food, social and ceremonial fisheries and to assume their inherent role in fisheries management. However, over time, the original purpose and objectives of the Guardian Program were neglected, and the program became vague, unstructured, and was poorly resourced. This shortfall was recognized in 1999, when the program underwent a review and again, in 2007, when the program was evaluated. Despite the inability for the Guardian Program to live up to the high expectations of both First Nations and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, both parties are aware of the existing and potential benefits of the Guardian Program. Recently, through a national program review, First Nations expressed the need for the recognition of jurisdiction and authority of designated Indigenous fishery guardians to manage, conserve and protect the resources in their traditional territories, to ensure an enforcement presence in territorial waterways with recognized authority, to receive respect and recognition for the fishery guardian role and position, and to be sufficiently funded to create and retain meaningful employment with career path options.

If elected, how will your government commit to re-working the Guardian Program to provide capacity and resources for First Nations to exercise their jurisdiction and authority to manage, conserve and protect the resources in their traditional territories?

- c. The federal government committed to implementing the *Wild Salmon Policy* through its *Wild Salmon Policy Implementation Plan 2018-2022*. A significant hurdle to protecting and restoring wild Pacific salmon continues to be major data deficiencies and the lack of government funding to assess biological statuses of Pacific salmon at the Conservation Unit levels. While many First Nations are ideally located and interested to take on increased fisheries responsibilities, they are challenged by the lack of funding and capacity to carry out new monitoring and assessment programs.

Consistent with Canada's commitment to new fiscal relationships, if elected, how will your government dedicate new long-term funding to support First Nations to design and implement new stock assessment and fish habitat monitoring programs and help Canada meet its commitments to the Wild Salmon Policy?

- d. Fisheries harvest has been a foundation for many Indigenous economies through both trade and participation in the commercial fisheries industry. The existing Aboriginal right to fish as quoted in the *SCC Sparrow* decision did not explicitly limit the right to exclude fishing for economic purposes, yet Indigenous peoples are made to participate through the costly and competitive broader commercial fishery in order to access fisheries resources for economic purposes, limiting Indigenous access to successful and self-sufficient fisheries economies.

If elected, how will your government ensure the Aboriginal right to fish affirms and enables Indigenous access to fishing for economic purposes?

- e. First Nations have expressed concern regarding the lack of consultation on existing open net-pen finfish farm operations in Pacific coastal waters. BC First Nations aspire to move towards a meaningful engagement process, based on their free, prior and informed consent, to guide decision making with respect to the development of the aquaculture industry and its operations in the Pacific. For many years, First Nations have identified serious concerns relating to finfish aquaculture regarding potential negative environmental impacts and interactions with wild salmon species, particularly the potential transfer of disease or pathogens from farmed fish to wild salmon.

If elected, will your government commit to developing and implementing policies and regulations to transition all existing open net-pen finfish facilities along the Pacific Coast to land-based closed containment facilities?

- f. The Pacific Salmon Treaty is an agreement between Canada and the United States on Pacific salmon management at the international level. First Nations in BC participate at the Pacific Salmon Commission through the Pacific Salmon Commission's First Nations Caucus and participate to help advance Canada's interests. In recognizing First Nations self-government as part of Canada's evolving system of cooperative federalism and distinct orders of government, BC First Nations' place at the Pacific Salmon Commission must include effective decision-making and governance mechanisms as part of Pacific salmon management and bilateral negotiations between Canada and the United States.

If elected, how will your government empower BC First Nations to advance First Nations fisheries rights at the international scale, including protecting food security for BC First Nations at the Pacific Salmon Commission?

9. Emergency Management:

- a. As we have once again witnessed in the devastating 2021 BC wildfire season, many First Nations are often underserved and lacking basic infrastructural amenities. These shortfalls increase the risks of injury and death during unforeseen emergencies, unnecessary risks that could be easily mitigated. In 2019, a tripartite MOU was signed by Canada, BC and the FNLC to try to, in part, address some of these important issues.

If elected, what initiatives will your government undertake to ensure comparable levels of servicing for addressing (ongoing and continuing) critical foundations of Emergency Management?

If elected, will your government commit to BC First Nations' direct inclusion (partnership) in all agreements related to the provision of Emergency Management (preparedness and response) Services?

10. Climate Emergency:

- a. The climate emergency endangers the security and way of life of Indigenous peoples throughout British Columbia and the world. The effects of the warming climate, such as rampant forest fires, flooding, drought, and elevated air and water temperatures, are impacting First Nations, their traditional territories and food sources, and ways of being that have been practiced since time immemorial. First Nations are seriously threatened by the climate emergency but are also essential drivers of effective climate change action. Indigenous ecological knowledge, authority and deep responsibilities to traditional lands and waters are critical to achieving world targets for greenhouse gas emission reductions and developing effective climate adaptation strategies. Several recent reports, such as the *Special Report on Global Warming under 1.5°C* by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and *Canada's Changing Climate Report (CCCR)*, have articulated the current state of crisis facing the world. In Canada, the climate has warmed 2.3 degrees and is projected to warm, on average, at double the magnitude of the rest of the world. On June 17, 2019, the federal House of Commons adopted the following motion: "*Canada is in a national climate emergency which requires, as a response, that Canada commit to meeting its national emission target under the Paris Agreement and to making deeper reductions in line with the agreement's objective of holding global warming below two degrees Celsius and pursuing efforts to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius.*"

If elected, how will your government safeguard the inherent, Treaty and constitutionally protected rights of First Nations, respect Indigenous knowledge, and uphold Treaties, Agreements and other constructive arrangements between First Nations and the Crown, and take urgent and transformative climate action that meets the requirements outlined in the reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and Canada in a Changing Climate to reduce emissions in Canada by 60% below 2010 levels by 2030 and reach net-zero emissions by 2050?

11. Indigenous Culture and Heritage

- a. While many acknowledge and celebrate Canada's rich and diverse cultural heritage, this diversity, as it relates to Indigenous Peoples, is under threat, and has been since contact. Colonial policies and practices have led to

intergenerational trauma and hardships in maintaining and transmitting cultural knowledge and values to future generations. Existing heritage paradigms themselves are often exclusionary of Indigenous concepts of heritage and history, taking a compartmentalized view of typologies and human/land relationships. This point of view results in heritage protection priorities favouring built heritage – imbued with colonial values and meanings – over Indigenous cultural heritage, which does not fit within this framework. Moreover, Indigenous cultural heritage is often inaccurately interpreted and narrowly presented to the public, with inequitable funding and support compared to settler heritage.

Given the urgent need to recognize and protect Indigenous heritage, if elected, how will your government ensure sustainable funding and support of an oversight Indigenous organization to carry out this important and complex work in Canada, the provinces and territories?

- a. For decades, much energy and resources have been invested in studies and inquiries, and First Nations people have generously shared their stories related to the impacts of the residential schools' system, and other damaging vehicles of colonization imposed on our ancestors, us, and future generations. The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, TRC Report, and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, all provide Calls to Action related to the rebuilding of our disrupted languages and cultures, the core of our very identities. In addition, the UN Declaration supports these recommendations.

If elected, how will your government commit to honour this work, implement meaningful financial reparations, and provide resources to Indigenous organization and communities to continue and increase our efforts to remedy the damage done to our societies?

12. Access to Broadband and Mobile Connectivity

- a. In the past, the BC First Nations Technology Council hosted regional engagement sessions across British Columbia. The roundtables were comprised of Indigenous leaders, elders, staff, youth, entrepreneurs, and other community and Indigenous organizations. Discussions, survey questions and breakout activities focused on how nations would like to use technology to advance self-determination as well as accessing career opportunities in the rapidly growing technology sector. Many Indigenous communities are unfortunately without equitable, affordable or sustainable access to internet connectivity. This reality was emphatically confirmed through the regional engagements as a barrier to economic development, training opportunities and efficiency and effectiveness of various governance initiatives.

If elected, what will your government do to ensure all Indigenous peoples have equal and affordable access to internet and mobile connectivity, considering the majority of Nations in BC are excluded from accessing the world's most powerful economic and social platform?

If elected, how will your government ensure that mandated Indigenous organizations, such as the First Nations Technology Council, and our emerging Indigenous Innovation Institute, are directly funded so that we can move the dial

on Indigenous representation in tech, where representation is currently less than 1.2% nationally?

Thank you for your consideration and attention to the critical issue of engaging First Nations voters.

As the election campaign has begun in earnest, we are asking for your responses to these questions to be returned by September 15, 2021, in order for your responses to be provided to all 204 First Nations communities in BC in advance of the September 20, 2021 Federal Election. Please reply either by hardcopy or email to cbraker@fns.bc.ca.

Sincerely,
FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

On behalf of the FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT



Cheryl Casimer



Robert Phillips



Lydia Hwitsum

On behalf of the UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip



Chief Don Tom



Kukpi7 Judy Wilson

On behalf of the BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS:



Regional Chief Terry Teegee