

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BC Treaty Commission congratulates federal ministers on recent cabinet appointments**

VANCOUVER – The BC Treaty Commission congratulates the Honourable Carolyn Bennett on her re-appointment as Canada’s Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and the Honourable Bill Morneau for his re-appointment as Minister of Finance.

Several important initiatives were supported by Ministers Bennett and Morneau in the previous government, in partnership with First Nations, the First Nations Summit, and the Government of British Columbia. Last week the Treaty Commission released its annual report, which focuses on the significant milestones and progress in treaty negotiations that have contributed to a new era of Indigenous rights recognition in BC.

“Since October 2018, seven negotiating tables, representing 21 *Indian Act* bands, advanced to Stage 5 treaty negotiations, and we have not had this much progress since 2015,” says Chief Commissioner Celeste Haldane. “Advancing self-determination and self-government through treaty negotiations requires the participation of all political parties working together to advance the recognition of Indigenous lands and rights.”

“We look forward to assisting the Principals in implementing the new tools at individual negotiations to continue the positive progress we have seen over the past year,” says Chief Commissioner Celeste Haldane.

The Treaty Commission welcomes and congratulates all new cabinet appointments, including Minister of Indigenous Services Marc Miller, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Bernadette Jordan, Minister of Transport Marc Garneau, and Minister of Environment and Climate Change Jonathan Wilkinson. The recognition of Indigenous rights and reconciliation requires a whole of government approach, and the Treaty Commission looks forward to working with all Ministers to ensure successful negotiations in British Columbia.

The Treaty Commission is eager to work with Canada and the other Principals to the BC treaty negotiations process to ensure the fair and effective negotiation of treaties, agreements, and other constructive arrangements that advance the recognition and protection of Indigenous rights in BC.

**Quick Facts**

- BCTC’s annual report is available at [bctreaty.ca](http://bctreaty.ca).
- Endorsed by Canada, British Columbia and the First Nations Summit in September 2019, the [Recognition and Reconciliation of Rights Policy for Treaty Negotiations in British Columbia](#) further rejects notions of extinguishment and surrender of rights.
  - This policy encourages flexible, innovative, and collaborative approaches to the negotiation of treaties, agreements, and other constructive arrangements.
- Signed by Canada, British Columbia and the First Nations Summit in December 2018, the [Principals’ Accord on Transforming Treaty Negotiations in British Columbia](#) rejects the notions of extinguishment and surrender of rights.

-30-

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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**About the BC Treaty Commission**

The Treaty Commission is the independent body responsible for overseeing treaty negotiations among the governments of Canada, BC and First Nations in BC. It has three roles: facilitation, funding, and public information and education.