

August 13, 2021

Agreements Advance Rights Recognition in BC

X̱w̱məθḵw̱əy̱əm (Musqueam), S̱ḵw̱x̱w̱ú7mesh (Squamish) and sə̱ḻḻw̱əta̱ł (Tseil-Waututh)
VANCOUVER – Several important tripartite agreements were completed between Indigenous Nations and the governments of Canada and British Columbia.

The *Tripartite Snuneymuxw Memorandum of Understanding*, the *Gitanyow Governance Accord*, and the *GayGahlda “Changing Tide” Agreement*, lay the foundation for new nation-to-nation relationships and paths forward for ongoing negotiations for future rights recognition agreements.

“We congratulate and hold up the Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs (Nation/Huwḻp), the Council of the Haida Nation, Snuneymuxw First Nation, and the governments of Canada and British Columbia on these achievements,” said Chief Commissioner Celeste Haldane. “The Treaty Commission supports innovative approaches to tripartite negotiations that advance reconciliation in British Columbia and these recent agreements signify the hard work of the negotiating parties, and the political will of the governments supporting them.”

Quick Facts and Links

- The Council of the Haida Nation and the governments of BC and Canada signed the [GayGahlda “Changing Tide” Agreement](#) on August 12.
- The Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs (Nation/Huwḻp) and the governments of British Columbia and Canada signed the [Gitanyow Governance Accord](#) on August 11.
- Snuneymuxw First Nation and the governments of British Columbia and Canada signed the [Tripartite Snuneymuxw Memorandum of Understanding](#) on July 28.
- In September 2019, the Principals endorsed the [Recognition and Reconciliation of Rights Policy for Treaty Negotiations in British Columbia](#).
- In 2019, British Columbia enacted legislation implementing the UN Declaration ([BC Declaration Act](#)).
- On June 21, 2021, Canada passed legislation to implement the UN Declaration (federal [UN Declaration Act](#)).

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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.