

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 4, 2015

Treaty Commission Congratulates Parties on Kitselas and Kitsumkalum Agreement-in-Principle Signings

VANCOUVER – Congratulations to the Kitselas and Kitsumkalum First Nations, British Columbia and Canada on today's two Agreement-in-Principle (AiP) signings. The Treaty Commission commends all four parties on signing the third and fourth AiPs of this year.

"Today is a significant milestone on the journey to a Final Agreement for Kitselas and Kitsumkalum," said Acting Chief Commissioner Celeste Haldane. "Congratulations to both Nations for receiving strong community support for their Agreements-in-Principle."

Kitselas and Kitsumkalum are two of the five Tsimshian First Nations, which total approximately 3,460 members. Kitselas has a population of approximately 635, and Kitsumkalum has about 740. Their core lands and waters are located in the Terrace area.

Kitselas and Kitsumkalum both ratified their AiPs in the spring of 2013. They now join In-SHUCK-ch, K'ómoks, Lheidli T'enneh, Te'Mexw, Wuikinuxv and Yekooche First Nations in Stage 5 of the BC negotiations process, which is the last stage leading to the completion of a modern treaty. Collectively they represent thirteen *Indian Act* Bands that are negotiating Final Agreements.

Commissioner Tom Happynook was in Kitselas and Kitsumkalum today to witness the signings and celebrate with the three parties.

Quick Facts

- As of August 4, 2015 there are 8 First Nations, representing 13 *Indian Act* Bands, in Stage 5 of the BC treaty negotiations process. They are: In-SHUCK-ch, Kitselas, Kitsumkalum, K'ómoks, Lheidli T'enneh, Te'Mexw, Wuikinuxv and Yekooche.
- There are 8 completed treaties: the five Maa-nulth, Tsawwassen, Tla'amin and Yale First Nations.
- 1 additional First Nation, representing 4 *Indian Act* Bands, has finalized their AiP and is in the process of approval. It is the Northern Shuswap Tribal Council (NSTQ).
- There are 65 First Nations, representing over half of all *Indian Act* Bands in BC, which are participating in or have completed treaties through the treaty negotiations process.
- Active or completed negotiations involve 47 First Nations, representing 83 *Indian Act* Bands, totalling 41% of all *Indian Act* Bands in BC.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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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. Visit www.bctreaty.ca to learn more about the Treaty Commission.