



LAND CLAIMS AGREEMENTS COALITION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Emerging Indigenous leaders learn about treaty negotiation and self-government

X^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), S^kwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səfilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh)
VANCOUVER – The third national Treaty Simulation takes place this week, providing emerging Indigenous leaders with an opportunity to experience what it is like to negotiate and implement a treaty.

The Treaty Simulation, organized by the Gordon Foundation, the Land Claims Agreements Coalition, and the British Columbia Treaty Commission, runs online from March 9 to 12, following a preparation day on March 3.

Participants aged 18-29 from British Columbia, Yukon, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Saskatchewan will develop the education chapter of a self-government agreement (within a modern treaty) for a fictitious Indigenous Nation. They will take turns representing the Government of Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories, and the Indigenous Nation, as they first negotiate a vision for education, before agreeing on a plan to implement it.

Expert advisors Frank Dragon (Negotiator, Ka:’yu:’k’t’h’/Che:k’tles7et’h First Nations Financial Fiscal Agreement, Maa-nulth Final Agreement, British Columbia), Robin Bradasch (Associate Vice President, Indigenous Engagement and Partnerships, Yukon University) and John B. Zoe (Negotiator, Tłı̨chǫ Agreement) will be available throughout the simulation to offer guidance and support.

Modern treaties (also known as Land Claim Agreements) are important shapers of the relationships between Indigenous peoples and Canada. Since 1975, 26 have been signed, recognizing Indigenous ownership of more than 600,000 km² of land.

It is imperative that emerging Indigenous leaders have treaty negotiation and implementation knowledge, as future agreements will define the rights of many Indigenous peoples and create paths for self-determination.

“The intergenerational transfer of knowledge that occurs during a treaty simulation is as valuable as the skills that participants learn,” explained The Gordon Foundation’s President and CEO Sherry Campbell, “the next generation of Indigenous leaders are inspired to shape the future of their communities.”

“Self-governance and reconciliation through modern treaties is the foundation for a better future for our children, grandchildren and generations to come. By preparing our emerging leaders, we are not



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only strengthening Indigenous Nations, but also creating even brighter futures for all,” shared BC Treaty Commission, Chief Commissioner Celeste Haldane.

[The Gordon Foundation](#) is a charitable organization dedicated to protecting Canada's water and empowering Canada's North.

[The Land Claims Agreements Coalition](#) works to ensure that comprehensive land claims (modern treaties) and associated self-government agreements are respected, honoured and fully implemented.

[The BC Treaty Commission](#) is an independent body that advocates for and facilitates the recognition and protection of Indigenous rights and title, and the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples through the negotiation of modern treaties, amongst Indigenous Nations and the governments of Canada and BC. It is the only independent tripartite statutory body in Canada mandated to support reconciliation.

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For more information and interview opportunities, please contact:

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Find out more at [Understanding Our Treaties](#).