

For Immediate Release

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Treaty Commission examines the thorny question of First Nation overlapping claims

VICTORIA – The Treaty Commission today releases its 2014 annual report, *Recommendation 8: First Nations resolve issues related to overlapping traditional territories among themselves*.

The Treaty Commission draws on the experiences of current and past Chief Commissioners, former Lieutenant Governor Steven Point and Miles Richardson, as well as mediation experts including Vince Ready, and respected legal counsel Marvin R.V. Storrow, QC.

This annual report contributes to the ongoing dialogue and efforts to resolve First Nation overlap disputes. “First Nations have to resolve their overlaps and shared territories issues. This is more important than ever and everyone, including Canada and British Columbia, have a role to play in supporting First Nations reaching resolution,” says Chief Commissioner Sophie Pierre.

The annual report also looks at the Supreme Court of Canada’s *Tsilhqot’in* decision. The case demonstrates that the courts are ill equipped to deal with these complex issues and reach a reconciliation of competing interests of title, both between First Nations and the Crown and between First Nations themselves. “As I have said before, the greatest expression of reconciliation is a modern treaty, fairly negotiated and honourably implemented,” comments Sophie Pierre.

Live webcast of news conference:

<http://livestre.am/4DITw>

Report available online at: <http://www.bctreaty.ca> at 11:00 am.

Interviews: can be scheduled following the conference by contacting Sasha Leung at 604 619 2779, sleung@bctreaty.ca or Mark Smith at 604 803 2240, msmith@bctreaty.ca

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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.