FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Treaty Commission congratulates Carolyn Bennett and Jody Wilson-Raybould on cabinet appointments

VANCOUVER – The BC Treaty Commission welcomes today's appointment of Toronto-St. Paul's Member of Parliament Carolyn Bennett as Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs.

As a previous Minister of State for Public Health and Liberal Critic for Aboriginal Affairs, the Honourable Carolyn Bennett brings knowledge, experience and dedication to her new role. The Treaty Commission looks forward to working with Minister Bennett to move reconciliation forward with BC First Nations through fairly negotiated and honourable implemented treaties.

"In our 2015 annual report we highlighted the significant progress being made in BC treaty negotiations. This includes four First Nations signing Agreements in Principle and entering Final Agreement negotiations this year," said Acting Chief Commissioner Celeste Haldane. "With commitment from the new government, almost a third of BC could be implementing a new future through modern treaties, demonstrating that the BC treaty process can lead the country in reconciliation."

The Treaty Commission would also like to congratulate former BCAFN Regional Chief Jody Wilson-Raybould (Puglaas) for being appointed Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada. "It is with pride that we welcome a First Nations person from BC, and one that we worked with as a former Treaty Commissioner, take on such an important and influential role within this new federal government," added Haldane.

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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.