



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National Aboriginal Day a time to acknowledge reconciliation potential in BC

VANCOUVER – On National Aboriginal Day, the Treaty Commission encourages all Canadians, but especially British Columbians, to recognize the potential of BC treaty negotiations and support the efforts of First Nations, Canada, and British Columbia to reach lasting reconciliation.

The goals of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, self-determination and governance, and the building of renewed nation-to-nation relationships, can be achieved through modern treaties. This leads to new economic opportunities for First Nations and the province. When a First Nation prospers, the entire region prospers

“Modern treaties, fairly negotiated and honourably implemented, continue to be the best way to renew nation-to-nation relationships through self-governance and self-determination,” said Chief Commissioner Celeste Haldane.

British Columbia has the opportunity to lead the country, and the world, in reconciliation. There are several First Nations nearing completion of modern treaties. With political will and commitment from all parties, and all British Columbians, these negotiations can conclude within the next two to three years.

Quick Facts

- Eight First Nations are implementing modern treaties in BC: the five Maa-nulth First Nations, Nisga’a, Tla’amin Nation, and Tsawwassen First Nation.
- 38% of *Indian Act* bands in BC are actively negotiating or already implementing a modern treaty.

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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.