FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 20, 2026

BC TREATY COMMISSION

Commissioner for Modern Treaty Implementation Act Receives Royal Assent

Xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish) and səl̓ ilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) VANCOUVER – The BC Treaty Commission celebrates the passage of Bill C-10, the *Commissioner for Modern Treaty Implementation Act,* which establishes independent oversight of the federal government's implementation commitments and strengthens Canada's accountability to Indigenous Treaty Partners.

"This legislation is the culmination of more than 20 years of tireless advocacy by Indigenous leaders and Modern Treaty partners to strengthen accountability and ensure Canada honours its commitments under Modern Treaties," said Chief Commissioner George Abbott. "Modern Treaties are a living embodiment of reconciliation, creating stronger communities and shared prosperity across the country."

Modern Treaties, constructive arrangements, and self-government agreements are enduring commitments between the Crown and Indigenous partners, and their implementation requires dedicated oversight that reflects the expectations and realities of those relationships. The new Commissioner will review and audit federal treaty implementation efforts, and report findings and recommendations to Parliament. By strengthening oversight, the Commissioner will help ensure Canada delivers on its obligations under *Canada's Collaborative Modern Treaty Implementation Policy* and *the United Nations Declaration Act Action Plan*.

Modern Treaties support Indigenous self-determination, cultural revitalization, and provide certainty on land ownership. In a news release issued by Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Rebecca Alty highlighted the benefits of Modern Treaties: "Modern Treaties are engines of economic growth, creating certainty for investors, the government, and Indigenous governments as well as durable partnerships that can help us work together on the things that matter. At a time of global uncertainty, fulfilling our Treaty commitments is essential to building a stronger economy and a more prosperous future for Indigenous Peoples and all Canadians."

The creation of the Commissioner's role is an important step toward a renewed relationship grounded in good faith, responsibility, and prosperity for First Nations, British Columbians, and Canadians.

Quick Facts:

- The Commissioner will be an independent Agent of Parliament, appointed for a term of seven-years and will cover all federal activities related to implementing Modern Treaties, including associated self-government agreements.
- Bill C-10 requires that Indigenous Modern Treaty partners be consulted on the Commissioner's appointment.
- Since 2003, the Land Claims Agreements Coalition has advocated at the federal level for treaty implementation matters.
- There are 29 modern treaties in Canada; 8 are implemented in British Columbia, representing one third of all Modern Treaties in Canada.
- There 8 self-governing Modern Treaty Nations in BC: Nisga'a Nation, Tsawwassen First Nation, Huu-ay-aht First Nations, Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations, Toquaht Nation, Uchucklesaht Tribe, Yuułuʔiɬʔatḥ (Ucluelet) First Nation, and Tla'amin Nation.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION
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ABOUT THE BC TREATY COMMISSION
The Treaty Commission is the independent body responsible for overseeing treaty and tripartite reconciliation negotiations among the governments of Canada, British Columbia and First Nations in BC. It has three main roles: facilitation, funding, and public information and education.