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Ministry of Education

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USEFUL LINKS

B.C. Treaty Commission

www.bctreaty.net

Union of BC Indian Chiefs

www.ubcic.bc.ca

First Nations Summit

www.fns.bc.ca

BC Assembly of First Nations

<http://bcafn.ca>

Aboriginal Tourism Association of BC

www.aboriginalbc.com

Aboriginal Business and Entrepreneurial Skills Training (BEST)

www.smallbusinessconsultant.ca/best

BC Chamber of Commerce

www.bcchamber.org

First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Cultural Council

www.fphlcc.ca

First Peoples' Cultural Foundation

www.fpcf.ca

MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER



The New Relationship with First Nations is one founded on mutual respect and recognition of Aboriginal rights and title.

This relationship has moved beyond the failed approaches of the past and allowed us to be true partners in building a stronger B.C.

Together, we share a resolve to improve the quality of life and living conditions for Aboriginal people.

Together we can provide new certainty on the land base, clarity about our mutual legal rights and responsibilities, and a commitment to shared decision-making and to revenue and benefit sharing.

Since the New Relationship was conceived, we have seen tremendous progress. The future will not be won through denial or through the old relationship marked by confrontation, litigation and institutionalized inequity. It will be built through a new government-to-government relationship based on respect.

We are poised to repair the damage caused by so many years of mistrust and misguided policies. By working together to provide new economic opportunity for all citizens we will create new confidence in our economy and on the land base.

Honourable Gordon Campbell
Premier of British Columbia

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BUILDING THE FUTURE 
WITH A NEW RELATIONSHIP



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A BRIGHTER FUTURE

The British Columbia government is building a New Relationship with Aboriginal people. We have invested \$100 million in the New Relationship Trust which has been used to fund strategies in capacity, education, culture and language, youth and Elders and economic development.

Since the Province, the First Nations Leadership Council and the federal government signed the Transformative Change Accord in November 2005, all parties have been working hard to make progress on closing the social and economic gaps between First Nations and other British Columbians. By working in partnership, rather than unilaterally, there has been considerable success in achieving the goals of the Accord.

We are also committed to reconciliation of Aboriginal rights and title through treaties and lasting agreements, and are respectfully discussing options to provide greater clarity around Aboriginal rights and title.

FACTS ABOUT B.C.'S ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

Almost five per cent of B.C.'s population is Aboriginal.

- » There are more than 200 First Nations as well as Inuit, Métis and other Aboriginals.
- » Half of the Aboriginal population is under the age of 28.
- » The Aboriginal population rate in B.C. grew by 15 per cent between 2001 and 2006 — more than three times the rate of the non-Aboriginal population.
- » B.C. is home to 32 First Nations languages, roughly 60 per cent of Canada's Aboriginal languages.
- » Over half of Aboriginal British Columbians live in urban areas.

TREATIES — GAINING MOMENTUM

The Province is negotiating with over 100 First Nations at 47 negotiating tables under the B.C. Treaty Commission process, bringing together First Nations, B.C. and Canada to establish certainty over rights to land and resources through treaties.

In April 2009, the Tsawwassen treaty became the first under the B.C. treaty process to take effect.

As a new government, the Tsawwassen First Nation has signed agreements with the Corporation of Delta and Metro Vancouver to provide a variety of services, and Chief Kim Baird represents the TFN on Metro Vancouver's board.

The five Maa-nulth First Nations treaty recently received Royal Assent, successfully capping 15 years of negotiation. Preparations for implementation are underway.

Bilateral agreements have been concluded with Yale First Nation and In-SHUCK-ch Nation, Sliammon Indian Band and Yekooche First Nation are working toward a final agreement. These are momentous steps in the treaty process.

In addition to treaty progress, several other agreements advance the Province's commitment build the economic capacity of Aboriginal communities.

- » An economic benefits agreement with Blueberry River First Nations.

- » Settlements with the Kwadacha and Tsay Key Dene First Nations, BC Hydro and Canada regarding the impact of the Williston reservoir.
- » The resolution of the last four outstanding cut-off claims, the last of 22 specific land claims dating back to 1912.
- » B.C.'s first two Incremental Treaty Agreements (ITA), signed with the Klahoose and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations, that advance treaty benefits earlier in the treaty-making process.
- » Joint land use agreements clarifying government-to-government relationships and protecting First Nations traditional values, resources and land interests with over 30 First Nations.

BENEFITS TO MUNICIPALITIES

Since 2005, we have supported local government participation in the treaty process, providing \$1.7 million to UBCM programs, treaty advisory committees, regional districts and communities. We are also working with UBCM:

- » On the Memorandum of Understanding on local government participation in the New Relationship with First Nations.
- » Partnering with the UBCM First Nations Relations Office on key initiatives.

- » Encouraging formal and informal agreements between local governments and First Nations on common issues and activities.
- » In the B.C. treaty process, helping provincial and local representatives negotiate the chapter detailing the future relationship between local governments and First Nations.

NEW RELATIONSHIP MOMENTUM

B.C. recognizes the central role that Aboriginal heritage, culture and achievements play in our province. The vision for a New Relationship is founded on respect, recognition and reconciliation of Aboriginal title and rights.

The whole province benefits when we work to close the socio-economic gaps that exist between Aboriginal people and other British Columbians.

