



BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **FIRST NATIONS LEADERS MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST MINISTERS**

**(Lheidli T'enneh Territory, Prince George, BC – Dec. 7, 2018)** – Regional Chief Terry Teegee joined First Nations, Inuit and Métis leaders as they met with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and First Ministers this morning in Montreal for a significant discussion on economic development issues. This annual First Ministers meeting provides an important opportunity for the four levels of government to meet to discuss important issues. National Chief Perry Bellegarde led the discussions alongside several executive members of the Assembly of First Nations.

Regional Chief Teegee stated, “These are important gatherings of leadership in Canada. The BCAFN highlighted the positive relationship First Nations leaders have cultivated with the government of B.C. I urge other First Ministers from the rest of Canada to model the development of their own Nation-to-Nation relationships on Premier John Horgan and the government of British Columbia’s commitment to work with First Nations. It’s not perfect but the path of reconciliation with First Nations is not an easy one and we have much work to do.”

Regional Chief Teegee brought forward regional priorities to be immediately addressed including implementation of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, fisheries, environmental assessment reviews, trade missions, employment, education and skills training, and housing. Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Dominic LeBlanc, Environment Minister Catherine McKenna, Finance Minister Bill Morneau and Canada’s ambassador to the United States, David MacNaughton, joined the group for these discussions.

The Regional Chief Teegee, together with National Chief Perry Bellegarde and the AFN Executive Committee, will meet again with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in January 2019.

**For further information, contact:**

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