



Shuswap Nation Tribal Council

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Secwépemc Nation

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Agreement in Principle reached with the Columbia River Treaty Renewal with Canada and United States of America

The Secwépemc Nation acknowledges the completion of an Agreement in Principle (AIP) between Canada and the United States to modernize the Columbia River Treaty (CRT), which is a milestone in the Canada-US CRT negotiations:

Statement by the Prime Minister on an agreement-in-principle reached between Canada and the United States on the Columbia River Treaty

B.C. News Release: Canada, U.S. reach agreement-in-principle to modernize Columbia River Treaty

The Secwépemc are pleased that we are on a path of reconciliation with Canada and BC in relation to the CRT and look forward to the ongoing related domestic negotiations over the coming months.

Our participation in the negotiations along with the Ktunaxa and the Sylix Okanagan (Indigenous Nations) have led to positive terms in the Agreement in Principle that include:

- The new treaty will have provisions that support Indigenous cultural values, ecosystem health, the restoration and strengthening of salmon populations and adaptive management. Canada can use up to 4-million-acre feet for these domestic purposes.
- There will be a Canadian Indigenous and US Tribal body to lead in recommendations on how treaty and other hydro-system operations can better support ecosystem needs and Indigenous and Tribal cultural values. This supports a “One River” approach and integrates an adaptive management framework.
- There will be coordination on salmon reintroduction studies and strategies from Indigenous Nations and Tribes on each side of the border. Canada will provide at least 1-million-acre feet of water to support salmon survival and migration.
- Compensation from the United States for Canada’s share of downstream power benefits (Canadian Entitlement) will continue as well as compensation for providing preplanned flood risk management for the U.S. Indigenous Nations will continue to negotiate for a share in these financial benefits.

Indigenous Nations title and rights were infringed when the Upper Columbia watershed was converted into a massive reservoir system to serve hydro-electric generation and flood control.

CRT operations have devastated enumerable plant and animal species as well as our ancestral burial and cultural sites and has prevented the exercise of our harvesting rights and ceremonies.

As the final modernized CRT language is drafted, Canada and BC have committed to seeking our Nation's free, prior, and informed consent to the CRT.

We consider that the current Canadian domestic negotiations with Indigenous Nations are integral to addressing the past and continued infringement of our Indigenous Title and Rights. These domestic negotiations include:

- Compensation for impacts,
- Sharing of benefits from the CRT, and
- Providing a real voice for our Nation in CRT-related decisions

The commitment to the successful negotiation of these domestic issues is a necessary condition for the provision of Indigenous Nations consent.

The Secwépemc are committed to ongoing negotiations and to staying on the path of reconciliation.

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