



# **Indigenous Rights Recognition in Treaty Negotiations in Canada**

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## UN Declaration and Self-Determination

Key rights in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples are consistent with the 1991 Report of the BC Claims Task Force, the blueprint for treaty negotiations and the establishment of the BCTC.

Self-determination is core to the UN Declaration, and is a core goal of treaty negotiations.





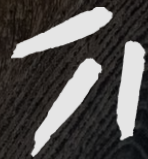
BC TREATY COMMISSION

## Role and Mandate

- Independent advocate for recognition of Indigenous title and rights
- Through our role in facilitating treaty negotiations the BCTC supports the implementation of the UN Declaration

**Treaty negotiations are based in the recognition of Indigenous peoples' inherent rights – not in extinguishment.**





BC TREATY COMMISSION

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BC TREATY COMMISSION



# ***Recognition and Reconciliation of Rights Policy for Treaty Negotiations in British Columbia***

- Negotiations based on recognition of inherent rights of Indigenous peoples, good faith, the Honour of the Crown, and the UN Declaration
- Brings policies in-line with original spirit and intent of process
- Recognizes legal and constitutional nature of Indigenous title, rights, Indigenous laws, and legal systems





# ***Recognition and Reconciliation of Rights Policy***

- Co-Development of mandates, policy and legislation
  - Environmental Assessment legislation in which the UN Declaration and FPIC are foundational underpinnings
  - Developed with Indigenous peoples and Nations
- Overlapping and Shared Territories
  - Veto – colonial construct of divide and conquer
  - Supporting inter-Indigenous agreements



We never deviated from the fact our lands were taken wrongfully, and that we need to find our place in our own territories, and find a place where we are making decisions about our lands, our territories, and resources.



**Grand Chief Edward John**  
First Nations Summit, 1991-2019  
BCTC Agreement signatory, 1992





# Rights recognition has always been the intention of treaty negotiations



**Negotiations, in our view,  
will not be based on that  
tired old notion of extinguishment.**

**We will not tolerate the extinguishment  
of our collective Aboriginal rights.**

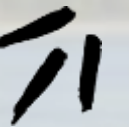
**Let us set that clear today.**

**- Chief Joe Mathias  
at the 1992 signing of the BCTC Agreement**





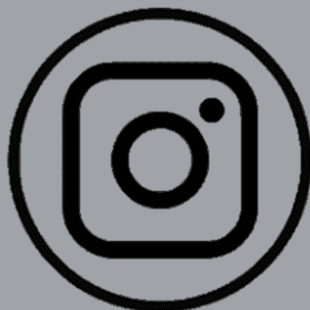
**First rights denial, then rights reluctance,  
and now officially in an era of Indigenous  
rights recognition.**





# For more information

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