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For immediate release

## News Release

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# Tsawwassen First Nation secures its rightful place

VANCOUVER – All party support in Parliament for the Tsawwassen First Nation Final Agreement marked the final step yesterday in a long and arduous journey for the Tsawwassen people in securing their treaty.

“The arrival of the first treaty in the BC treaty process is a significant achievement for all those people who worked so diligently and determinedly to build the agreement and see it through to ratification by all three parties to the agreement,” said A/Chief Commissioner Jody Wilson. “It’s a positive development for all British Columbians, and an encouragement for other First Nations to seek their own unique treaties.”

The treaty, previously ratified by the First Nation and in the BC legislature, recognizes the historic presence of the Tsawwassen people and re-establishes the First Nation’s footprint in its traditional territory. Ultimately, the Tsawwassen treaty is about reconciliation through the accommodation of differences.

“We know the path taken by Tsawwassen people has been a difficult one,” said A/Chief Commissioner Jody Wilson. “We know that reaching agreement was not easy and tough choices had to be made.”

The treaty clears the way for Tsawwassen First Nation to secure its rightful place in the larger community and to begin placing itself on an equal footing with its neighbours. The treaty, as the Tsawwassen First Nation acknowledges, provides the tools to manage change and to benefit from economic opportunities.

The Treaty Commission commends Tsawwassen First Nation for the leadership it has shown to move its community forward in building an economically and culturally healthy community.

### **About the BC Treaty Commission**

The Treaty Commission is the independent body responsible for overseeing treaty negotiations within the six-stage BC treaty process among the governments of Canada, BC and First Nations in BC. It has three roles: facilitation, funding, and public information and education.

Established in 1992, the Treaty Commission comprises five commissioners – a provincial appointee, a federal appointee, two First Nations Summit appointees and a chief commissioner chosen by agreement of all three principals. For more information about the BC Treaty Commission please visit [www.bctreaty.net](http://www.bctreaty.net).

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