



## BC TREATY COMMISSION

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### FOR RELEASE

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## Leaders sign Lheidli T'enneh treaty agreement

PRINCE GEORGE – The treaty initialling by Lheidli T'enneh, federal and provincial negotiators will focus attention on treaty making and the treaty process.

“This signing ceremony, a first for the BC treaty process, is a significant milestone that we’ve waited 13 years to witness,” said Chief Commissioner Steven Point. “This is an important event in the new relationship we are building among First Nations, and the governments of British Columbia and Canada.”

Lheidli T'enneh First Nation Chief Dominic Frederick, Premier Gordon Campbell and federal Minister of Indian Affairs Jim Prentice witnessed the treaty agreement at the ceremony Sunday in the Prince George Civic Centre. Provincial Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Michael de Jong was one of many dignitaries attending the event that included Treaty Commissioner Jody Wilson.

“This is a historic day,” said Chief Commissioner Point at the ceremony. “It marks the reconciliation of three governments – Canada, BC and the Lheidli T'enneh.”

Now that the chief and ministers have initialled the treaty, the agreement will go to all three parties for formal ratification, first by the Lheidli T'enneh members, then by the provincial legislature and finally by the federal parliament.

The Lheidli T'enneh Band has 312 members and entered treaty negotiations in 1993. They were the first to conclude an agreement-in-principal under the BC treaty process in July 2003.

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