

**FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT
TO
NEGOTIATE A TREATY**

This Agreement is dated July 27, 2007.

AMONG

THE HUPACASATH FIRST NATION as represented by the Chief Councillor of the Hupacasath First Nation (the "**Hupacasath**")

AND

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF CANADA as represented by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development ("**Canada**")

AND

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA as represented by the Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation ("**British Columbia**")

(collectively the "**Parties**")

WHEREAS:

- A. The Hupacasath assert that we are the original governing people, that we have unceded title, rights, ownership, and the right to govern ourselves within our Traditional Territory.
- B. The Hupacasath assert that this Framework Agreement does not preclude the Hupacasath from protecting our asserted aboriginal title, rights and interests outside of the BCTC Process.
- C. Canada, British Columbia and the Hupacasath are committed to negotiating with the intention of concluding a treaty among Canada, British Columbia and the Hupacasath in accordance with the BCTC Process.
- D. The *Constitution Act, 1982* recognizes and affirms existing aboriginal and treaty rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada, and treaty rights include rights that now exist by way of "land claims agreements" or that may be so acquired.