

**FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT
TO
NEGOTIATE A TREATY**

June
cc's to KW
Jnew
ORIGS to
BE } May 19/04
WTG }
CAN.

This Agreement is dated June 16, 2003.

AMONG

THE QUATSINO FIRST NATION, as represented by the Chief Councillor of the Quatsino First Nation (the "**Quatsino**")

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 Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Treaty Negotiations ("**British Columbia**")

(collectively the "**Parties**")

WHEREAS:

- A. The Quatsino 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 Quatsino assert that this Framework Agreement does not preclude the Quatsino from protecting our asserted aboriginal title, rights and interests outside of the BCTC Process.
- C. Canada, British Columbia and the Quatsino are committed to negotiating with the intention of concluding a treaty among Canada, British Columbia and the Quatsino 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.