

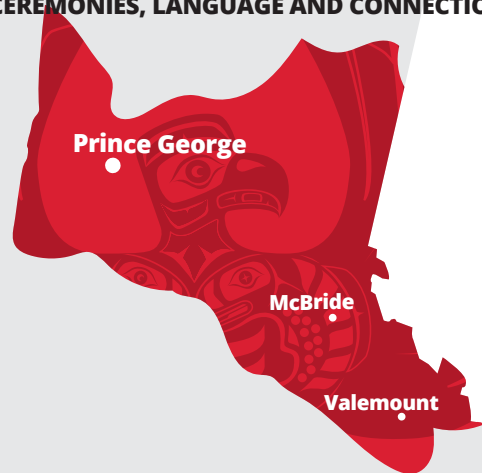
# LHEIDLI T'ENNEH FIRST NATION DECLARATION

APRIL 21ST, 2022

TO CANADA, BRITISH COLUMBIA AND ALL THOSE PERSONS AND NATIONS OF THE WORLD WHO ENTER OUR UNCEDED LANDS AND TERRITORY, TAKE NOTE.

WE ARE THE LHEIDLI T'ENNEH PEOPLE, WE ARE OF DAKELH ORIGIN FROM THE CONFLUENCE OF THE TWO RIVERS, THE NEE INCHA KOH (NECHAKO RIVER; MEANING RIVER WITH STRONG UNDERCURRENTS) AND THE LHITA KOH (FRASER RIVER; MEANING BIG MOUTH RIVER). WE ARE THE SOVEREIGN INHABITANTS AND THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS, OCCUPIERS AND USERS OF OUR VAST AND UNCEDED TERRITORY AND RESOURCES.

WE, THE LHEIDLI T'ENNEH PEOPLE, DECLARE THAT notwithstanding our present geographic residences, Canada's assimilationist and genocidal treatment towards us throughout history, Canada's forced dispossession of our territory and all resources, and its destruction of our language and culture through Residential School and continued colonial policies and laws of the Federal Government of Canada enacted through the Indian Act in 1876, **WE ARE UNITED AS THE SOVEREIGN INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF LHEIDLI T'ENNEH THROUGH OUR OWN POLITICAL, LEGAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS, AND THROUGH OUR TRADITIONS, CEREMONIES, LANGUAGE AND CONNECTIONS TO OUR TERRITORY.**



**WE DECLARE THAT WE HAVE INHERENT AND INALIENABLE RIGHTS AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLE** and that these rights are considerably broader than those presently recognized by the colonial government of Canada, or by Canadian courts pursuant to their under-inclusive and non-expansive interpretation of section 35 of Canada's Constitution Act 1982:

- (1) The existing aboriginal and treaty rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada are hereby recognized and affirmed.
- (2) In this Act, "aboriginal peoples of Canada" includes the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada.
- (3) For greater certainty, in subsection (1) "treaty rights" includes rights that now exist by way of land claims agreements or may be so acquired.
- (4) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the aboriginal and treaty rights referred to in subsection (1) are guaranteed equally to male and female persons.

**WE DECLARE THAT BOTH CANADA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA IN THEIR ASSERTIONS OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER OUR UNCEDED TERRITORY AND RESOURCES, AND ALL THOSE PERSONS RESIDING IN, DEVELOPING AND EXTRACTING RESOURCES FROM OUR UNCEDED TERRITORY WITHOUT FORMAL CONSENT, TERRITORY AND RESOURCES, ARE ENGAGED IN AN ONGOING BREACH OF OUR INHERENT AND INALIENABLE RIGHTS AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, UNLESS THEY HAVE BEEN PROVIDED THE FREE, PRIOR AND INFORMED CONSENT FROM LHEIDLI T'ENNEH FOR THEIR ACTIONS.**

  
Chief Dolleen Logan

  
Councillor Joshua Seymour

  
Councillor Crystal Gibbs

  
Joe Goshell, Executive Director

  
Councillor Dominic "Domo" Frederick

  
Councillor Marcel Gagnon