

## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Shuswap Nation Tribal Council

### **NATIONS RALLY IN OPPOSITION TO THE RECOGNITION & RECONCILIATION ACT**

With a firm resolve twenty-two chiefs in attendance at the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) quarterly council meeting voted in opposition to the continued engagement of the UBCIC executive and the Recognition Working Group towards consultation concerning the proposed Recognition and Reconciliation Act.

At the March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 UBCIC council meeting the chiefs of the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council (SNTC) abstained from voting until more clarity was achieved and understanding was developed regarding this controversial legislation.

Without a tangible legislative document being shared with the public, several regional sessions have been planned by the Leadership Council in order to receive community input and advice on what should be included in the comprehensive agreements, what provisions should be included, and who should be negotiated with in the development of these comprehensive agreements.

The first regional session held in Prince George revealed the astonishing extent of the opposition with the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council's announcement of opposition, and a supportive list of recommendations.

"We are not opposed to recognition and reconciliation; we are opposed to the opaque framework of the proposed Recognition and Reconciliation Act," clarifies Chief Wayne Christian of Splatsin. "We want nothing more than for our Aboriginal rights and titles and our authority over said matters to be recognized. A hundred years ago we agreed to approach Canada on a nation-to-nation basis, and believe that the federal government should be brought to the negotiation table."

It was made clear by the concerns voiced at the UBCIC quarterly council meeting last week that the principles of the new legislation were not being opposed, but rather the opposition took issue with the framework by which it was being presented. The Province does not have the jurisdiction or authority to deliver through this draft legislation true recognition or protection of indigenous jurisdiction over indigenous territories leaving the indigenous peoples of British Columbia vulnerable.

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