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## **FINAL AGREEMENT INITIALLING CREATES ECONOMIC CERTAINTY**

VANCOUVER – The Business Council of British Columbia applauds the provincial and federal governments and the Lheidli T’enneh Band for initialing the first Final Agreement under the BC Treaty process, said Jerry Lampert, president and CEO today.

“The Final Agreement will create certainty and will help to allow for increased economic development opportunities which will benefit Lheidli T’enneh, the Prince George region and all of B.C.,” said Lampert. “This initialing will contribute to improving the business and investment climate in the province.”

The Final Agreement will provide the Lheidli T’enneh with 4,330 hectares of land. Also, the band will receive a capital cash transfer of \$13.2 million and \$400,000 a year for 50 years in resource revenue sharing payments. In addition, the Lheidli T’enneh will have access to natural resources and will be able to pursue economic development opportunities.

“We believe that Final Agreements pave the way for partnerships to grow between the business community, First Nations and governments,” Lampert said. “While this agreement will provide considerable benefits to Lheidli T’enneh members, it is clear that whole community will also benefit.”

The Business Council of British Columbia has supported the BC Treaty process since its inception. The Council has been a positive voice in furthering resolution of land claims and establishing respectful and constructive relationships with aboriginals and First Nations.

The Business Council of British Columbia, established in 1966, is an association representing approximately 200 large and medium-sized enterprises. The Council’s members are active in all major sectors of the provincial economy. Taken together, the corporate members and the associations affiliated with the Business Council account for approximately one quarter of all jobs in British Columbia.