

# First Nations Summit

March 20, 2015

Honourable Christy Clark  
Premier of British Columbia  
PO Box 9041  
STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, BC, V8W 9E1  
Via facsimile: (250) 387-1715

Dear Premier:

**Re: British Columbia Treaty Commission –  
Chief Commissioner**

We are writing in regard to the Principals agreement to appoint George Abbott as Chief Commissioner of the British Columbia Treaty Commission.

On March 18, 2015, representatives of the BC Government provided notice to the First Nations Summit Political Executive that the Province has determined that it is unwilling to support the appointment of George Abbott to the position of Chief Commissioner of the BC Treaty Commission (BCTC).

The First Nations Summit Political Executive is taken aback and extremely disappointed in this unexpected and late arriving decision, which comes after six months of discussions among the three Principals to the treaty negotiation process (Canada, BC and the FNS). This decision is inconsistent with the joint agreement that we made as Principals to appoint Mr. Abbott as Chief Commissioner, which was subsequently conveyed to him. Mr. Abbott accepted the nomination, acted upon this agreement in good faith and took steps toward acceptance of the appointment.

Based upon our agreement and Mr. Abbott's acceptance, the First Nations Summit promptly began its approval process, which is a legislatively required step in the appointment process.

Disturbingly, your decision comes after the passing of First Nations Summit Chiefs' Resolution #1014.02 formally appointing Mr. Abbott as Chief Commissioner. As you may recall, the First Nations Summit resolution #1014.02 was passed on October 17, 2014 and provided to the provincial and federal government and Mr. Abbott on that same date.

The Province's blatant disregard for the agreement among the Principals and processes already undertaken is wholly unacceptable. As a Principal to the treaty negotiation process, the First Nations Summit acted in good faith and informed the First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly of the joint agreement at the Principals level. We then promptly began our work to ensure timely approvals to best support federal and provincial order in council processes. We are now placed in a position of having to inform our Chiefs about this unexpected development.

As we had discussed with Minister Rustad on March 20, 2015, in order to allay growing frustration and questions surrounding the Province's commitment to seeing a successful treaty negotiations process in BC, it would be prudent to commit to the full implementation of the direction and recommendations set out in the BC Claims Task Force Report and to resolve the issues regarding the appointment of a new Chief Commissioner as quickly as possible.

We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

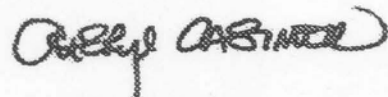
**FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT POLITICAL EXECUTIVE**



Grand Chief Edward John



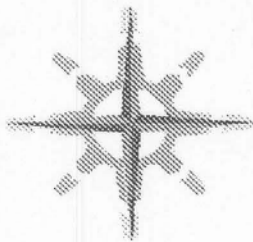
Robert Phillips



Cheryl Casimer

Enclosure (1)

First Nations Summit Resolution #1014.02 formally appointing George Abbott as Chief Commissioner.



# FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

## RESOLUTION #1014.02

**SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF GEORGE ABBOTT AS CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA TREATY COMMISSION**

### WHEREAS:

- A. The First Nations Summit, the Government of Canada and the Government of British Columbia have established the British Columbia Treaty Commission by joint operation of the British Columbia Treaty Commission Resolution (First Nations Summit Resolution No. 1.2) dated May 10, 1993, the *British Columbia Treaty Commission Act*, S.C. 1995, c. 45 and the *Treaty Commission Act*, RSBC 1996, c. 461 for the purpose of facilitating the negotiation of treaties (together the "British Columbia Treaty Commission Authorities").
- B. In accordance with section 7 of the British Columbia Treaty Commission Resolution, the First Nations Summit is required to jointly appoint the Chief Commissioner for a term not exceeding three years.
- C. The current term of Chief Commissioner Sophie Pierre expires on April 1, 2015.
- D. By First Nations Summit Resolution #0912.06 the First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly provided the First Nations Summit Task Group the authority to select and appoint the British Columbia Treaty Commission (BCTC) Chief Commissioner, on behalf of the First Nations Summit, until such time the authority is revoked by the Chiefs in Assembly.
- E. During a conference call convened on October 8, 2014 to discuss the Chief Commissioner of the British Columbia Treaty Commission, the Principals agreed to appoint George Abbott to the position of Chief Commissioner of the British Columbia Treaty Commission for a three-year term.

### THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- 1. That the First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly endorse the First Nations Summit Task Group's appointment of George Abbott as Chief Commissioner of the British Columbia Treaty Commission, to hold office during pleasure, for a term of three years, effective on a date to be agreed to by the three Principals, and ending on the earlier of:
  - a. three (3) years from the effective date of his appointment as Chief Commissioner, and
  - b. the date on which the appointment is terminated.
- 2. That the Chief Commissioner carry out the purpose and duties of the Commission set out in the British Columbia Treaty Commission Authorities.
- 3. That the Chief Commissioner be remunerated in accordance with the rate set out in the schedule to the federal order in council that, together with this resolution and an order in council of the Government of British Columbia, appoints him.

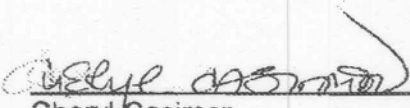
**PAGE TWO  
RESOLUTION #1014.02**

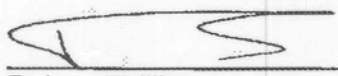
**SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF GEORGE ABBOTT AS CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF THE  
BRITISH COLUMBIA TREATY COMMISSION**

**MOVED BY:** Chief Wilf Adam, Lake Babine Nation  
**SECONDED BY:** Kathryn Teneese, Ktunaxa Nation  
**DATED:** October 17, 2014

Passed by consensus.

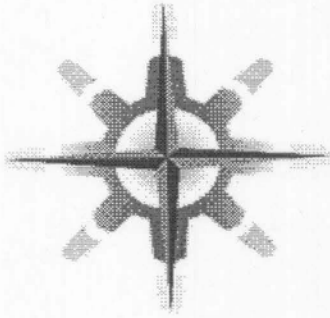
**ENDORSED BY:**

  
Cheryl Casimer

  
Robert Phillips

  
Grand Chief Edward John

CORRESPONDENCE



## FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

### Facsimilie Cover Sheet

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**To:** 12503871715@xmedius-fax.fns.l

**From:** Sandra Dunkin

**Fax Number:** 12503871715

**No. of pages:** 6 (including cover)

**Phone:**

**Date:** 3/20/15

**Time:** 3:58:05 PM

**Re:** Letter from FNS Re; British Columbia Treaty Commission - Chief Commissioner

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**Details:**



Please find attached a letter addressed to Premier Christy Clark regarding the BC Treaty Commission – Chief Commissioner Appointment, along with FNS Resolution 1014.02, *Appointment of George Abbott as Chief Commissioner of the British Columbia Treaty Commission*.

Regards,  
Sandra Dunkin



Sandra Dunkin, MLIS, CRM, RGP  
Records & Information Management Coordinator  
First Nations Second Step Society  
s.dunkin@fns2s.ca | www.fns2s.ca

From: s.22

Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 9:05 AM

To: Rustad.MLA, John LASS:EX; OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

Subject: George Abbott

Absolutely despicable performance on both your parts.

Absolutely UNACCEPTABLE behavior!

If you had one ounce of integrity you would both resign immediately.

You won't? Well, that answers the question on integrity.

s.22

## Doyle, Dan PREM:EX

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**From:** Doyle, Dan PREM:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, November 3, 2014 5:36 PM  
**To:** Cadario, Michele PREM:EX  
**Subject:** Re: GA OIC Details

Let us discuss

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 3, 2014, at 12:38 PM, Cadario, Michele PREM:EX <[Michele.Cadario@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Michele.Cadario@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

s.13,s.22

Michele

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

**From:** Campbell, Carolyn ABR:EX <[Carolyn.Campbell@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Carolyn.Campbell@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 3, 2014 12:36 PM  
**To:** Cadario, Michele PREM:EX  
**Subject:** GA OIC Details

Michele – let me know if you want to discuss further. GA will be receiving his MLA pension, however this salary **will not** be pensionable.

These details are moving fwd with his appointment:

s.12,s.13,s.22

Let me know if you want to discuss further.

C

***Carolyn A. Campbell***

Chief of Staff to the Hon. John Rustad  
Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation  
P: 250-953-4844 | E: [carolyn.campbell@gov.bc.ca](mailto:carolyn.campbell@gov.bc.ca)



## **Henderson, Kim N PREM:EX**

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**From:** Mayhew, Neilane ABR:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 11, 2015 8:23 AM  
**To:** Henderson, Kim N PREM:EX  
**Subject:** Chief Commissioner Lists

Below is the list of candidates that each of the three Principals provided. I was correct in my recollection that George Abbott was on the feds list as well.

### BC Candidates

George Abbott  
s.13,s.16,s.22

### FNS Candidates

s.13,s.16,s.22

### Canada's Candidates

George Abbott  
s.13,s.16,s.22

### **Neilane Mayhew**

A/ Deputy Minister

Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

Phone: 250 356-1439

Fax: 250 387-6073