



## SECHELT INDIAN BAND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ***shíshálh* (Sechelt) Nation Celebrates the Construction of a New Longhouse**

**Date September 18, 2014**

Sechelt, BC – Following the historical decision of the Supreme Court of Canada that recognized the Aboriginal Title of the Tsilhqot'in Nation over 1700 square kilometres of central British Columbia, the *shíshálh* Nation is celebrating a new future in this Province.

"*shíshálh* continues to govern our Territory to ensure sustainability of our lands and prosperity of our people. As we have done since time immemorial, we are out on the land using and regulating the use of our lands. Today we celebrate the construction of a new longhouse at our village site in *kálpílin* (Pender Harbour). The longhouse will be used by *shíshálh* members for a variety of cultural purposes. *kálpílin* is at the heart of our territory and the importance of the area cannot be overstated. This is a historic day and we are pleased to be celebrating this occasion with our neighbors. The presence of Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) Directors including Garry Nohr and Frank Mauro is just one example of our collaborative working relationship," said Chief Craigan.

*shíshálh* has clearly articulated its governing principles through our Lands and Resources Decision-Making Policy, our Resource Policies, as well as our Land Use Plan. These governing documents provide the place to begin a discussion regarding reconciliation of our interests. These are documents we expect will be used in all development within our Territory including in *kálpílin*.

The *shíshálh* Nation has made it clear to the Crown unjustified infringements through Crown authorizations have caused significant impacts in our territory. Typically authorizations occurred without respecting *shíshálh's* Title and Rights, and without our consent. Considerable impacts have occurred in *kálpílin* to cultural heritage sites, fisheries and other vital resources. *shíshálh* for years has sought to work collaboratively with local governments and the Province to seek resolution to the issues in Pender Harbour. We thought on several occasions that we had reached resolution only for the Province to change course at the last minute. We continue to work with the local governments and applaud the SCR D for their ongoing collaborative work. "*shíshálh* has clear evidence of title to Pender Harbour. It is time for the Province to come to the table in an honourable way, to meet *shíshálh* in good faith and seek resolution to these issues based on recognition of our Title and Rights. *shíshálh* will continue to implement the transformative principles outlined in the Tsilhqot'in decision. We expect that the Province will do the same," said Chief Calvin Craigan.

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