



**An Open Letter from the First Nations Summit to
Steven Harper, Jack Layton and Gilles Duceppe**

For Immediate Release

November 14, 2005

Coast Salish Territory (West Vancouver) — The First Nations Summit today released the attached letter to Stephen Harper Jack Layton and Gilles Duceppe. The letter was written to request that the leaders of the federal opposition parties refrain from tabling a non-confidence motion in the House of Commons that would trigger an election and result in the cancellation of the First Ministers meeting on Aboriginal Issues scheduled to take place in Kelowna, BC on November 24th and 25th.

The Summit has encouraged the three leaders to recognize the historic significance of the First Ministers meeting and the opportunities for improving the lives of Aboriginal people across Canada that will arise as a result. The Summit leadership encourages the 3 opposition leaders to accept Prime Minister Martin's invitation to attend the First Minister's meeting in Kelowna and to meet with Aboriginal leaders on these crucial issues

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The First Nations Summit speaks on behalf of First Nations involved in treaty negotiations in British Columbia. Further background information on the Summit may be found at www.fns.bc.ca.

For Further Information:

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FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

November 14, 2005

Hon. Jack Layton
New Democratic Party Leader
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Hon. Stephen Harper
Conservative Party Leader
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Hon. Gilles Duceppe
Bloc Quebecois Party Leader
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Sirs:

It has been widely reported that your parties intend to table a non-confidence motion on November 24, if Prime Minister Paul Martin does not agree to call an election in early January. We note that you have not discussed this matter with us, although a First Ministers Meeting on Aboriginal issues is scheduled to take place in Kelowna BC on November 24 and 25, 2005.

This First Ministers Meeting is an historic event; it is essential that it take place as scheduled. It is also essential that the commitments made, and processes initiated, through this First Ministers Meeting be honoured by the next elected government. We anticipate that these commitments will be the foundation for an improved relationship between First Nations and the federal Crown, and will be a starting point in improving the lives of First Nations citizens. As such, we strongly encourage you not to pass a non-confidence motion on November 24, allowing the First Ministers Meeting to proceed, and further, that each of you commit to supporting this new relationship-building process and commitments between the federal Crown and Aboriginal peoples.

We understand that each of you have been invited to attend this First Ministers Meeting and hope that you will accept this invitation. Further, we ask you to meet with us during this visit to British Columbia.

We await your positive response to this letter.

Sincerely,

FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT


Grand Chief Doug Kelly


Dave Porter


Grand Chief Edward John