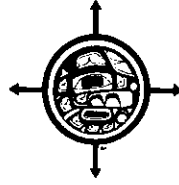


OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

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**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 21, 2004**

Storm Clouds of Economic Uncertainty Gather Over British Columbia Natives Predict Provincial-wide Blockade

(Coast Salish Territory/Vancouver, May 21, 2004) Aboriginal Elders, youth, community members, leaders and supporters from every corner of the province finished an historic trek to Victoria yesterday to demonstrate unity in the face of increasing assaults on their land. The province-wide Native Caravan to Victoria came together to protest the aboriginal policies and legislation of the Gordon Campbell government. Protesters gathered by the thousands in front of the BC Legislature yesterday at noon.

Chief Stewart Phillip, President of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC), commented today on recent comments from government officials stating "The Campbell Government's shameful crusade to secure economic certainty to fast-track the sale and privatization of BC's lands, resources and assets knows no bounds. It is disgusting and abundantly clear that the Campbell Government is taking advantage and preying on the appalling poverty of First Nations with 'take-it or leave-it' accommodation agreements forcing us to give up our ability to exercise our rights in order to access pitifully small amounts of money and timber volume."

Chief Phillip challenged the BC Forests Minister Mike de Jong's assertions that those who participated in the Title and Rights Alliance's Spring Caravan and yesterday's rally on the steps of the BC Legislature were not willing to "getting down to the tough work involved in moving forward."

"Quite the contrary, the Title and Rights Alliance is an unprecedented and new alliance of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, the First Nations Summit, the Council of Haida Nation, Treaty 8 Tribal Association, the Northwest Tribal Treaty Nation, tribal councils and bands. All of us are standing unified in the face of threats by the Campbell Government and resource industries to our Aboriginal Title and Treaty Rights. We have discussed and have begun and fully prepared to use all available means to achieve recognition and most importantly an immediate and substantive accommodation of our Aboriginal Title and Rights. We are sick and tired of the beads and trinkets and nickel and dime approach of the Campbell government."

On May 19, 2004, Caravan participants attended a day long meeting in Victoria which entailed a legal review of Aboriginal Title and Rights case law and an update on Aboriginal Title and Rights litigation currently before the Courts. Throughout the day Caravan participants discussed provincial-wide legal, political and economic strategies that may be initiated across the entire Province of British Columbia.

Chief Stewart Phillip concluded, "The Courts have consistently stated that governments must negotiate in good faith to address Aboriginal Title and Rights. In addition, the courts have stated that third party

interests must also engage in consultations with First Nations in respect of any activities that may impact or infringe Aboriginal Title or Rights. Economic certainty can only be achieved through the full recognition and accommodation of Aboriginal Title interests. Anything less will only result in deepening the economic uncertainty and ultimately the erosion of investment confidence in respect to access to land and land use in British Columbia.

“Finally, if the Gordon Campbell government continues to pursue its policy of denial and delay as opposed to recognition and accommodation we shall be forced to close this Province down. Without question, if the issue of unresolved Aboriginal Title in BC remains outstanding, we can look forward to many hot summers leading up to the 2010 Olympics!”

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
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Video footage of the May 20 Title and Rights Alliance March and Rally at the BC Legislature call the New VI (CHUM Television) in Victoria at (250) 381-2484.