



November 14, 2024

An Open Letter in Response to the Social Media Post on the November 14, 2025 Gathering at Tulista Park and the reading of a new Territorial Declaration

To WSÁNEĆ Elders, WÍCKINEM Eric Pelkey, LESĆIM Simon Smith Sr., XÁLÁTE Vern Jacks, TELAXTEN Paul Sam Sr. and SXÁLIYE Vernon Harry

This is a response to the social media post regarding a gathering at Tulista Park on November 13, 2024, to read a "declaration" and to support an immediate closure of the Herring Fishery in the Salish Sea.

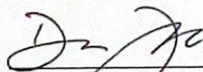
The elected Chiefs of the WSÁNEĆ Nation are aware of the "declaration" and the statements regarding the Herring Fishery but were never approached to discuss the "declaration" or the response to the proposed closure of the Herring Fishery, or any potential collaborative pathways forward.

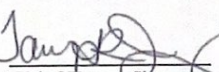
While the elected Chiefs of the WSÁNEĆ Nation also support measures for the protection of herring stocks, including the closure of the Food and Bait Herring Fishery set to open on November 24th, we believe that any statements made on behalf of the WSÁNEĆ people should first involve discussion with the elected leadership.

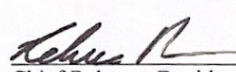
The elected Chiefs and Councils are open to addressing priorities through respectful dialogue and a clear process. It is important for us to engage with the community to explore the roles of hereditary titles, governance, and accountability, as well as how hereditary statements interact with title and rights holders. We require time to ensure proper consultation, acquire consent, and gather direction from our people.

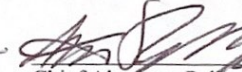
Moving forward, we ask that any public statements representing the WSÁNEĆ people and territory be discussed with the elected leadership first. This approach will help us avoid conflicts, present a united front, and ensure that our actions reflect the collective voice of the Nation.

HÍ SWŪE,


Chief Don Tom
Tsartlip First Nation


Chief Tanya Jimmy
Tseycum First Nation


Chief Rebecca David
Pauquachin First Nation


Chief Abraham Pelkey
Tsaywout First Nation