



**Xatsùll First Nation opposes B.C.'s proposal to suspend key provisions of DRIPA, urges the Premier to uphold DRIPA and maintain path toward reconciliation together**

*Any pause or amendments would break trust with First Nations in B.C. and set reconciliation back generations*

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Xatsùll First Nation (Xatsùll) is urging Premier David Eby to uphold British Columbia's *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA), warning that the plan to pause key provisions of DRIPA and the *Interpretation Act* risks undermining reconciliation and eroding the trust that has been built between First Nations and the Province.

For Xatsùll, DRIPA represents more than policy — it reflects commitments made to advance respectful decision-making and rebuild relationships grounded in recognition of Indigenous Rights and Title. It affirms what has always been true, First Nations are rights holders and decision makers, not stakeholders. The Nation says moving away from those commitments would create uncertainty and signal a step backward at a time when progress toward reconciliation is still ongoing.

“Reconciliation is built through consistent and collaborative actions rooted in respect,” said Kukwpi7 (Chief) Rhonda Phillips. “Pausing sections of DRIPA would set a precedent for amending and weakening the legislation. This risks undoing the trust that has been earned through years of constructive work and dialogue.”

Xatsùll notes that DRIPA provides a framework for collaboration that helps prevent conflict by ensuring First Nations are meaningfully involved in decisions affecting their territories. Strong relationships and clear processes are essential to long-term stability for communities, governments and industry.

“This is not just about legislation — it's about shared decision making, consent and accountability,” said Kukwpi7 Phillips.

The Nation emphasizes that reconciliation is not achieved through words alone, but through maintaining commitments and continuing to work together in good faith. Any move to suspend or weaken DRIPA would risk returning to approaches that have historically strained relationships, delayed progress and end up back in the courtroom, creating uncertainty for all British Columbians.



“Certainty comes from trust,” Kukwpi7 Phillips said. “When commitments are honoured, partnerships grow stronger and decisions can move forward with confidence.”

Xatsùll is calling on provincial leaders to continue advancing reconciliation by upholding DRIPA and reinforcing the collaborative path already underway.

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