



2018 NATIONAL CHIEF CANDIDATE
Miles Richardson
FOR THE ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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MEDIA RELEASE

Miles Richardson, O.C., former Haida President & BC Treaty Chief Commissioner, launches campaign for National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations

VANCOUVER - Miles Richardson, former President of the Council of the Haida Nation and Chief Commissioner of the British Columbia Treaty Commission, launched his campaign for National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) today.

He is running on a platform to help transform the relationship between First Nations and Canada, from colonial oppression to a proper Nation-to-Nation relationship; to see recognition of Indigenous nationhood affirmed and supported by the federal government; to close persistent socio-economic gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people; and to support First Nations in building strong, sustainable economies as a basis of their nations' self-sufficiency.

Unveiling his platform, Richardson said: "We are at a crossroads. We can choose to try to fix the colonial Indian Act system or we can choose a new path: stand up as Indigenous Peoples, be who we know we are, and build a proper Nation-to-Nation relationship with Canada. Choosing to try to fix the colonial Indian Act system is a dead-end street for our people. I stand for being who know we are as nations and building a proper Nation-to-Nation relationship with Canada. Together, shoulder to shoulder, I know we can do this."

After graduating with his Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Victoria in 1979, Mr. Richardson served as Administrator for the Skidegate Band Council and directed the establishment of the Haida Gwaii Watchmen program. In 1984, he was the youngest person to be elected President of the Council of the Haida Nation (CHN), a position he held until 1996. During his tenure as President of the CHN, Mr. Richardson led the drafting of the Constitution of the Haida Nation; development of the first comprehensive Haida Nation land and marine use plan, enacted under Haida law; and negotiation of the Gwaii Haanas Agreement, the first Nation-to-Nation agreement between the Haida Nation and Canada, which protected the Gwaii Haanas area of his people's homeland, Haida Gwaii.

Mr. Richardson was a member of the BC Claims Task Force that made recommendations to First Nations in BC and the Governments of Canada and BC on a made-in-BC process to conduct negotiations to build a new relationship. From 1991 through 1993, Mr. Richardson was a delegate of the First Nations Summit Task Group, an executive body representing First Nations in BC. In 1995, he was nominated by the Summit and appointed a Commissioner to the BC Treaty Commission, a position he held for two terms. In 1998, Mr. Richardson was chosen as Chief Commissioner of the BC Treaty Commission by agreement of Canada, BC, and the First Nations Summit, and continued to serve in that role until 2004. In 2007, Mr. Richardson was named an Officer of the Order of Canada.

He is a founding Director of the David Suzuki Foundation, having served on its Board of Directors since its incorporation in 1990. He was also a founding member of the Bill Reid Foundation, which works to preserve the art and perpetuate the legacies of Bill Reid and deepen appreciation of Northwest Coast Indigenous art. From 2010 to 2013, he served as Co-Chair of the Indigenous Advisory Circle for the Institute on Governance and now serves as Senior Advisor for the Indigenous Leadership Initiative, is a member of the Steering Committee for the BC Indigenous Clean Energy Initiative, and is a Director on the Board of the New Relationship Trust.

Currently, Mr. Richardson is the Director of the National Consortium on Indigenous Economic Development, an initiative of the Peter B. Gustavson School of Business and Faculty of Law at the University of Victoria, and operates his own strategic advisory firm, building on over three decades of experience providing strategic advice on relationship building, Indigenous governance, community engagement, sustainability, and business development.

Richardson's platform, which is available on his campaign website, is centered on three core actions that are fundamental to a proper Nation-to-Nation relationship between First Nations and Canada:

1. Recognition and Affirmation of Our Inherent and Treaty Rights.
2. Closing the Gaps that have persisted between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people for generations.
3. Building Economies for Self-Sufficient Nations.

For more information, please visit <http://milesrichardsonfornationalchief.com/>

The election for the next National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations will take place at the 2018 AFN Annual General Assembly in Vancouver on July 25, 2018.

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