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Declaration Of The Lheit-Lit'en Nation

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Declaration Of The Lheit-Lit'en Nation
June 16, 1991

We are the people of the Lheit-Lit'en Nation and we have gathered together on this day, June 16, 1991 at the meeting hall in the Administration building, to agree on working together in unity, to rebuild our Nation. We, as a Nation, have been lost for a long period of time, where we were subjected to other people's laws, values and beliefs. As a result, our Nation broke up under the subjection, and our people drifted through time living in another world.

Our people and our Elders met on January 20, 1991, to discuss the future of our Nation and agreed that the time has arrived to become all that we can become and to end our life of living in a vacuum. Our ancestors, through the help of our Creator, were self-determining, had their own culture, values and beliefs and their own form of governance and Traditional Territory. We agree that in order to determine our future direction, we must take from the past, we must set aside our learned subjected "values and beliefs," set aside our differences, and combine the past with the present.

1. WE DECLARE:

- 1.1 to preserve our distinct identity, our lands and resources, and our ways of being for future generations, and
- 1.2 reaffirm our place in the global community of nations with dignity, and
- 1.3 to establish the conditions necessary for a just and equitable relationship within Canada, founded on recognition and respect for our aboriginal title, rights and treaty rights, and the fundamental right to self-determination, and
- 1.4 to promote the advancement of social and economic well being within our nation, and
- 1.5 to enhance understanding and cooperation among ourselves:

WE COME TOGETHER IN THE SPIRIT OF MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION, AND IN THIS EXERCISE OF OUR INHERENT SOVEREIGN POWERS PASSED ON TO US BY OUR CREATOR, TO COMBINE OUR EFFORTS FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF OUR GOALS.

Accordingly, our peoples do hereby establish through this declaration the foundation of "THE LHEIT-LIT'EN ACT." We agree that as a result of our coming together that we will work together for a period of two years and that during that term, we will work with the following;

2. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

2.1 To collectively advance and protect aboriginal title, rights and treaty rights in Canada in accordance with the expressed wishes of the members of the Lheit-Lit'en Nation.

2.2 To advance the rights of the Lheit-Lit'en Nation within the international community of nations.

2.3 To reaffirm our existence as distinct societies possessed of the right of self-determination.

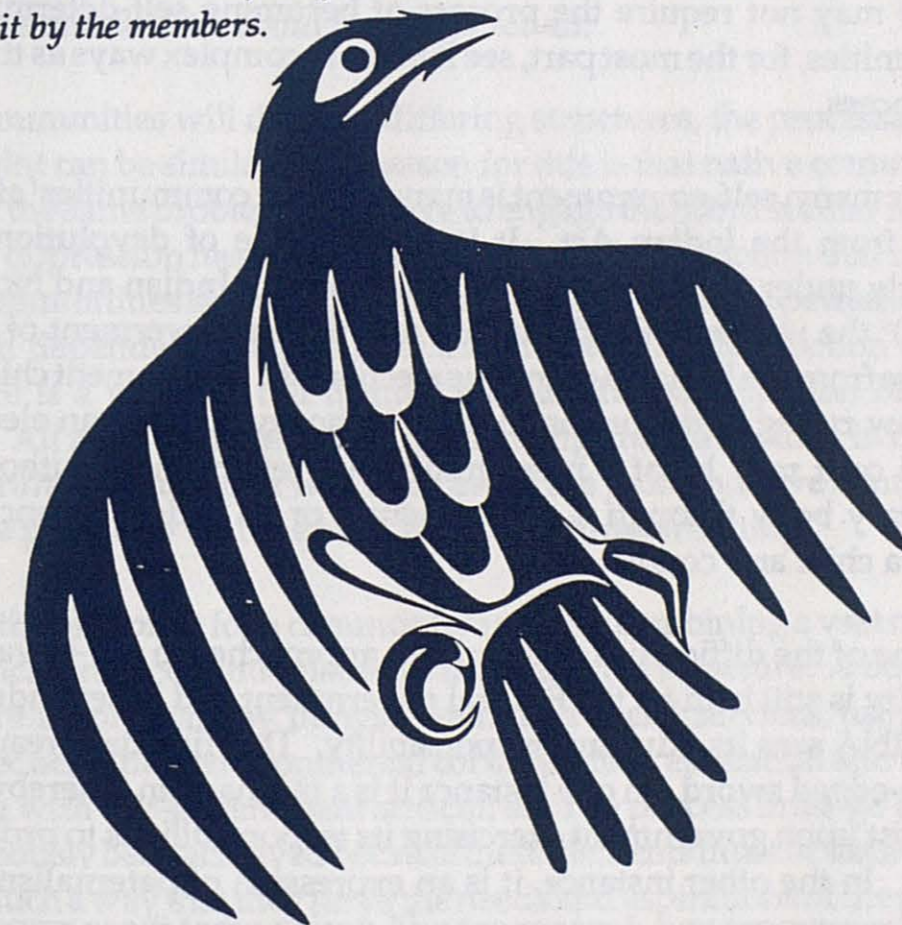
2.4 To develop better understanding and communication among all First Nations through mutual respect and cooperation.

2.5 To function as a centre for harmonizing the actions of our members in the attainment of our common end through open discussions.

2.6 To provide technical support and assistance to any Nation members upon request, wherever possible.

2.7 To communicate the collective position of the Lheit-Lit'en Nation in British Columbia to the general public and lobby for the advancement of the rights and interests of the Lheit-Lit'en Nation.

This establishes the fundamental goals of the Lheit-Lit'en Nation. In so doing, it makes clear what the members expect of the Nation and the extent of authority that will be delegated to it by the members.



Ka-In/ Joe David, 1978
 from Edwin Hall Jr., Margaret Blackman and Vincent Rickard 1981.
Northwest Coast Indian Graphics. Vancouver: Douglas and MacIntyre.