

# KAHLOU

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## Coast Tsimshian & Ridley Terminals Sign First Ever Protocol Agreement

Prince Rupert, BC – The Lax Kw'alaams First Nation, the Metlakatla First Nation, Allied Tribes of Lax Kw'alaams and Metlakatla, and Ridley Terminals Inc (RTI), have entered into a protocol agreement. The agreement was signed in Prince Rupert by John Helin, Chief Councillor of the Lax Kw'alaams Band, Harold Leighton, Chief Councillor of the Metlakatla Governing Council, and Daniel Veniez, Chairman of Ridley Terminals Inc., a federal crown corporation.

Chief Helin commented that "This is the first time that the coast Tsimshian have been shown such respect and recognition by a crown corporation in their traditional territory. Ridley has done its homework as to the proper cultural protocol for such an important recognition and tribal validation."

Chief Leighton suggested further that "We are looking forward to better relations with



Ridley under the improved leadership of their new Board. The contributions to the education of our youth and the key annual cultural/sporting event in our region are good signs of commitment to a better way of doing business."

As an immediate consequence of this agreement, RTI will provide an initial annual contribution of \$25,000



Photo: (from left to right) Chief John Helin, Daniel D. Veniez and Chief Harold Leighton.

(retroactive to January 2008) to a program to that provides scholarships for post-secondary education for eligible aboriginal students of the coastal Tsimshian communities.

RTI will also provide an initial annual contribution of \$5,000 to the All Native Basketball Tournament in Prince Rupert.

The agreement also serves as a formal recognition by RTI that

it is operating on the traditional territory of the Coast Tsimshian people. The parties wish to achieve, establish and maintain a respectful, positive, harmonious and productive working relationship. An important purpose of this agreement is to find ways and means to create, foster, and advance training, employment, business, and contracting opportunities in those

industrial/commercial sectors in which RTI and its partners are engaged.

The parties agree a Protocol will guide their conduct will be useful in facilitating efficient and effective consultation and communications, in assisting each to understand the positions of the other, and to find ways and means to achieve their mutual goals.

"RTI's future business

prospects depend on a close and productive working relationship with aboriginal communities. This agreement signifies this reality and formalizes our commitment to building meaningful and lasting partnerships with the coast Tsimshian people", stated Mr. Veniez.

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## Kahtou Thought

*"Life is a great big canvas and you should throw all the paint on it you can."*

- Danny Kaye

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