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## **Kathryn Teneese named Chair of Ktunaxa Nation Council**

***Kootenays / Ktunaxa Traditional Territory*** – Kathryn Teneese has been named as the new Chair of the Ktunaxa Nation Council effective April 1, 2009. Ms. Teneese will be taking over from Sophie Pierre, former Chief of the St. Mary's Band who served as Chair of the Ktunaxa Nation for more than 20 years. Ms. Pierre was recently appointed to the position of Chief Commissioner of the BC Treaty Commission.

Kathryn Teneese, a member of the ?akisqnuq of the Ktunaxa Nation has served as the Chief Negotiator for the Ktunaxa Nation in their ongoing negotiations with Canada and British Columbia since 1996.

Ms. Teneese's long and active participation in First Nations public service began in the late 1960's first as a Band Councillor and then as the Band Manager at ?akisqnuq (formerly Columbia Lake Band) and as Area Coordinator for the Kootenay Indian Area Council (now the Ktunaxa Nation Council).

In the 17 year period between 1981 and 1998, Ms. Teneese lived in Vancouver and during that time was employed in senior level positions with a number of provincial Aboriginal organizations including the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of BC, the Centre for Indian Training and Research and the First Nations Summit.

She is also a former elected member of the First Nations Summit Task Group (2000-02) which is mandated and authorized by Summit Chiefs in Assembly to carry out specifically-mandated tasks on issues related to treaty negotiations and other issues of common concern to First Nations.

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*“Strong, healthy citizens and communities speaking our languages and celebrating who we are and our history in our ancestral homelands, working together, managing our lands and resources, as a self-sufficient, self-governing Nation.”*

*- Ktunaxa Nation Vision Statement*

*?akisqnuuk*

*Lower Kootenay*

*St. Mary's*

*Tobacco Plains*