

# Media Release

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## **Ktunaxa Nation flag to be raised at Canadian Rockies International Airport**

**Cranbrook / Ktunaxa Traditional Territory, British Columbia** - Today the Ktunaxa Nation flag was raised at Cranbrook International Airport (YXC), and flew proudly beside the flags of Canada, British Columbia and the City of Cranbrook. It marked a historic moment in the relationship between the City of Cranbrook and the St. Mary's Indian Band which a member community of the Ktunaxa Nation.



Cranbrook is proud to have the Ktunaxa Flag displayed at the International Airport," said Cranbrook Mayor Scott Manjak. "This is a important and symbolic event that builds on the continuing relationship between the City and our First Nation neighbours. Visitors who enter our region through the International Airport will now know that they are in Ktunaxa Traditional Territory."

St. Marys Chief, Cheryl Casimer echoed Mayor Manjak's comments, and was thrilled for the opportunity for the Ktunaxa Nation flag to be raised at the International Airport.

"This event allows the citizens of St. Mary's and Ktunaxa Nation to take another step towards reconciliation for historic issues that we have carried with us," said Chief Casimer. "I would like to commend the City of Cranbrook and Mayor Manjak for their forward thinking, and ability to build bridges with our community. We look forward to working with Cranbrook to provide benefits to both of our communities and to make our region stronger."

The ceremony comes on the heels of a previously announced joint project for land use planning surrounding the International Airport, as well as the commitment by Cranbrook for Ktunaxa features to be incorporated into the interior design of the International Airport terminal.

The Flag Ceremony took place on National Aboriginal Day, an annual event which allows communities to connect and celebrate with Aboriginal People across Canada. Mayor Manjak and Chief Casimer were joined by MLA Bill Bennett, MP Jim Abbott, as well as regional leaders from RDEK and Ktunaxa Nation.

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