

Statement for Immediate Release
June 26, 2018

STATEMENT FROM THE BC ABORIGINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL FOLLOWING THE APPOINTMENT OF ANJA BROWN AND LINDA THOMAS TO THE PROVINCIAL COURT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Coast Salish Territories/Vancouver, BC – The BC Aboriginal Justice Council (BCAJC) wishes to congratulate Anja Brown and Linda Thomas, who were recently appointed as provincial court judges. The BCAJC is pleased to see that the Province of British Columbia has appointed Brown and Thomas, both of whom have worked tirelessly with and for Indigenous communities and families in such areas as child protection and governance. The BCAJC is hopeful that their depth of knowledge and experience will contribute positively to needed changes in the justice system that are now broadly acknowledged as necessary to achieve better outcomes for Indigenous peoples and all British Columbians.

The BCAJC is committed to the critical work of transforming the current justice system and supports a justice system that is inclusive of Indigenous peoples and of Indigenous histories and ways of knowing.

Anja Brown has worked with Mandell Pinder LLP in the service of Indigenous peoples, since 2009. A graduate from the University of British Columbia's with a bachelor of laws (LLB), Brown has worked throughout her career to support Indigenous communities on legal matters that include fisheries rights, child protection, taxation and governance. Brown has been adopted into the Brown, Hunt, Martin and White families of the Heiltsuk Nation. She has been honoured with the Heiltsuk names Habukvas Qvaxcu and Tlawiniqs.

Linda Thomas, of the Tk'emlups Indian Band, has experience working as a sole practitioner for First Nations government and non-profit organizations, with a focus on child protection, family law mediation and prison law. Thomas has worked to develop and facilitate workshops on legal information for law advocates, family support workers and Indigenous communities. Thomas is also a graduate from the University of British Columbia with a bachelor of laws (LLB).

Further information on the appointments can be found at:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2018AG0047-001262>

The BC Aboriginal Justice Council is a council with one member appointed by each of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, the BC Assembly of First Nations, the First Nations Summit, and the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of BC. Three additional council members are jointly appointed by these organizations based on their expertise in Aboriginal Justice. For more information on the BCAJC please visit bcajc.ca