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## TSAWWASSEN FIRST NATION FINAL AGREEMENT BILL

Third Reading of Bill C-34

Speech by:

The Honourable Larry W. Campbell

Thursday, June 26, 2008

**THE SENATE****Thursday, June 26, 2008****TSAWWASSEN FIRST NATION FINAL AGREEMENT BILL****THIRD READING**

**Hon. Larry W. Campbell:** Honourable senators, I am pleased to support Bill C-34, An Act to give effect to the Tsawwassen First Nation Final Agreement and to make consequential amendments to other acts.

This is truly a historic event. The settlement of long-standing treaty issues is a vital cornerstone in providing recognition to our Aboriginal communities across Canada. I believe that this, being the first urban treaty in Canada, will be a landmark for other treaties that are in place, not only in British Columbia but across our great country.

I sincerely thank the committee for its non-partisan study of the legislation and its commitment to ensuring that future generations are provided with opportunities that are desperately needed to improve their lives.

I also thank Chief Kim Baird and her councillors who have worked tirelessly to engage and negotiate with provincial and federal partners to secure this landmark agreement. This process has taken 14 years from start to finish. Kim Baird is the last of the chiefs at this time to have been involved with it. In my association with Chief Baird over the last few years I have seen commitment and dedication that is truly remarkable. She has guided this bill through the shoals and rocks that are always encountered when negotiations are as complicated and in-depth as this was.

Honourable senators, governments of all stripes have taken too long to settle these treaties. There is no doubt that Bill C-34 is only the beginning. I am personally dedicated to seeing the Tsawwassen First Nation succeed in its endeavour and for this settlement to be a model for future agreements. We are all better off because of the actions taken today.

Honourable senators, I am humbled to have taken part in this process. I thank everyone for their hard work, and I urge honourable senators to vote for this bill.

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