



### **The Silver Covenant Chain of Peace and Friendship Belt**

*Presented by the First Nations of Canada by National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo to the Crown representatives The Right Honourable Prime Minister of Canada Stephen Harper and His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada*

*January 24, 2012  
Crown - First Nations Gathering*

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The Covenant Chain belt represents one of the earliest treaties between the Crown and First Nations peoples and established the foundation for First Nations - Crown relationships for generations thereafter.

The belt shows that the Crown is linked by a chain to the First Nations peoples of this land. The three links of the chain represent a covenant of friendship, good minds, and the peace which shall always remain between us. The covenant chain is made of silver symbolizing that the relationship will be polished from time to time to keep it from tarnishing. This was the basis of the Nation to Nation relationship between the British Crown and the First Nations who became their allies in the formation of early Canada.

According to Haudenosaunee oral history, “this relationship will be everlasting for future generations as the rising faces of our new born on Mother Earth will benefit. It shall stand as long as the sun shines upon the earth, as long as the waters flow, and as long as the grass grows green. Our relationship shall be binding, as long as the Mother Earth is in motion.”

The relationship and commitment was repeated by Crown representatives in future dealings with all First Nations of Canada.