



TŜILHQOT'IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

253 – 4th Avenue North - Williams Lake, BC V2G 4T4 - Phone (250) 392-3918 - Fax (250) 398-5798

PRESS RELEASE

Tsilhqot'in Nation committed to working with other First Nations as it moves forward with Nenqay Deni Accord

Williams Lake, BC (February 29, 2016) On February 11, 2016, the Tsilhqot'in Nation and the Province of British Columbia entered the historic Nenqay Deni Accord, setting out an innovative framework for reconciliation negotiations.

In the coming weeks, the Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG) plan to be respectfully meeting with neighbouring First Nations, including the Carrier Chilcotin Tribal Council and the St'at'imc Nation, to discuss moving forward and working together on reconciling our mutual interests.

The TNG will take this opportunity to explain the designation of lands within the Tsilhqot'in territory, as outlined in the Nenqay Deni Accord. Within the recently signed Accord, the Tsilhqot'in Nation and provincial government have agreed to negotiate areas within the Tsilhqot'in territory as Tsilhqot'in owned and controlled lands, also known as "Category A Lands."

The location and size of these designated areas have not been determined. The Tsilhqot'in Nation will continue to work throughout this process on strengthening its relationships with its neighbours and finding positive ways to work together for the health of the lands and waters, and for future generations.

As stated within section 17 of the Accord, TNG and BC are "committed to engaging with other First Nations in an open and positive manner in order to attempt to resolve differences, reconcile interests and find mutually agreeable solutions."

Quotes:

Chief Joe Alphonse, Tribal Chairman of the Tsilhqot'in National Government and Chief of Tl'etinqox:

"The Accord is a first step for us - a high level framework that secures resources for us to negotiate on behalf of our people. The work done through the many years in court and negotiating has been done for the benefit of all First Nations. We understand that even in the best case scenario, we may not all agree 100 percent, but things will need to keep moving forward."

"Misunderstandings have a way of getting the best of people. We must celebrate this agreement for what it is – the beginning of conversations between ourselves and government to reconcile our interests in the land and wildlife and to acknowledge that, we as First Nation people, are rightfully the appropriate governors of our own Nations. We have traditional ways to work through conversations with our neighbouring First Nations which is our cultural duty – we look forward to these conversations."

Media Contact:

Myanna Desaulniers
Communication Coordinator
Tsilhqot'in National Government
778-836-0122