

ʔEghulhts'en Newsletter

Spring 2025



Tsilhqot'in
NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

Teẓtan Biny Gagaghut'i

After three decades of defending Teẓtan Biny, the Tsilhqot'in Nation has reached a historic agreement with BC and Taseko Mines.

The *Teẓtan Biny Gagaghut'i* (agreement) is the culmination of years of resistance by Tsilhqot'in leaders, elders, members and allies to protect Teẓtan Biny and Nabas (an areas of profound cultural and spiritual significance) from a massive open-pit copper-gold mine proposed by Taseko.

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The strength of T̓silhqot'in opposition contributed to the rejection of both the Prosperity (2010) and the New Prosperity Mine (2014) proposals as well as a court injunction that prevented Taseko from carrying out an extensive drilling program (2017).

“For my oldest son, for many T̓silhqot'in, that conflict has always been there, for their entire lives. Now we are turning the page.”

Nits'il?in Roger William

What's in the Te̓ŋtan Biny Gagaghut'i?

- Consent - Ensures no mining or exploration in the area without the T̓silhqot'in Nation's consent.
- Land Use Planning – Establishes a land use planning process for the area declared by the T̓silhqot'in Nation as *Dasiqox Nexwagwez'an*.
- Investment in Culture – Provides funds to the T̓silhqot'in Nation to implement programs that support cultural development.



T̓silhqot'in Nits'il?in-Qi Signing Te̓ŋtan Biny Gagaghut'i (agreement) - June 5, 2025

This achievement strengthens T̓silhqotin jurisdiction, protects lands and waters, and charts a course for respectful resource stewardship that is based on free, prior, and informed consent. As holders of Aboriginal title in BC, the T̓silhqotin Nation is leading the country in establishing a consent-first model for resource development.

Read the full media release on the News section of our website.

“To our members, our elders, our past leadership, our allies, First Nations across BC and Canada, and everyone that has supported us over the years, nexwechanalhyagh (we thank you).”

Nits’il?in Otis Guichon



Težtan Biny



T̓silhqot'in ʔEsqax Sutsel Jeniyax

In May, we gathered as a nation to celebrate reclaiming our inherent jurisdiction of T̓silhqot'in families and children. The ʔEsqax Sutsel Jeniyax ("children growing up in a good way") law took effect on April 1, 2025. This marks a shift towards T̓silhqot'in-led, culture-based prevention services, and places T̓silhqot'in ways of being at the centre of family programs.

What are the next steps?

- **Partnerships** – T̓silhqot'in services will continue in partnership with Denisiqi Services Society and the province until full capacity is built.

- **Funding** – Both the provincial and federal governments are contributing funds to assist with the launch and operation of the first phase of T̓silhqot'in jurisdiction.
- **Ongoing Negotiations** – T̓silhqot'in Nation is working with Canada and BC to secure long-term, sustainable funding beyond the first phase.

Since time immemorial, the T̓silhqot'in have been raising their children according to their Dechen Ts'edilhtan and will continue to do so for future generations. The May celebration was a way of honoring all the T̓silhqot'in Deni who worked late evenings, early mornings, and long days to build T̓silhqot'in law and approach.

This is just the beginning, and the Nidlin team looks forward to continuing this work. Together we build families and communities, with the strength of our people and the unity of our Nation guiding us. The future is bright because T̓silhqot'in Nidlin. (We are T̓silhqot'in.)



“T̓silhqot'in problems require T̓silhqot'in solutions... We put our way of life, our values, and our children first.”

- Nits'il?in Otis Guichon





Nits'il?in-Qi push for Change at the United Nations

In April, a delegation of T̓silhqot'in Leaders and youth attended the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) at the United Nations (UN) in New York. The theme was "Implementing the UNDRIP within United Nations Member States and the United Nations system, including identifying good practices and addressing challenges."

Five T̓silhqot'in youth attended the forum:

- Loretta Jeff Combs - Youth Delegate Programme, UNA-Canada
- Peyal Laceese - Youth Delegate Programme, UNA-Canada
- Sierra William - Government of Canada Youth Representative

- Chantu William - Youth Diplomats of Canada (YDC)
- Dakota Diablo - T̓silhqot'in National Government

These youth organized an event at the UN titled "Repatriation as Resistance: Upholding T̓silhqot'in Rights under UNDRIP," where they spoke about the repatriation of ancestral belongings and shared the *Qat̓s'ay* short film.



Throughout the forum, the delegation delivered speeches with a focus on jurisdiction, justice, and children and families. The BC Native Women's Association (BCNWA) led a panel that included Loretta Jeff Combs who spoke on the importance of advancing Indigenous People's rights.

On April 24, the T̓silhqot'in delegation held a UN press conference to call for action on the toxic drug crisis in our territory and beyond. TNG called on Canada and B.C. to support First Nation communities:

- With the resources needed to deal with the issues in their own way, such as on-the-land treatment processes, supportive recovery through equine therapy programs, and funding to support culture and language teachings.

"We want to move forward and have jurisdiction on our own lands and our own resources."

Nits'il?in Roger William

- By including Indigenous voices in the spaces that address access services. For example, sitting in an emergency room all day to access detox services and facing racism and discrimination in these spaces.
- In securing safe housing. When people are appropriately housed, they do not need treatment. Safe and secure housing both inside and outside of community provides a place for families to come together and facilitates the social support needed to overcome addictions.



The forum also featured the T̓silhqot'in Unbreakable Exhibit for two weeks starting with an evening opening ceremony.

In attendance at the ceremony were Ambassador Bob Rae and Chief Willie Littlechild, museum representatives, and several friends and allies. For many, it was their first time hearing a drum song or seeing the practice of dipnetting. The event provided an

opportunity to share the T̓silhqot'in story in an international venue.

At the end of the forum, the UN incorporated all speeches into a report to be used to hold governments around the world accountable to indigenous issues and the need for change.





Visiting Museums in New York

During the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, delegation members from TNG and Xeni Gwet'in worked to advance the Nation's repatriation efforts. Delegates visited the Montclair Art Museum, the American Museum of Natural History, and the Brooklyn Museum to build relationships and view ancestral belongings.

The Montclair Art Museum in New Jersey, is a private museum that was established through the donation of an extensive private collection of Indigenous baskets, including 6 T̓silhqot'in qat̓s'ay. Staffing issues meant that the delegation could not

view the belongings during this visit, however, the group toured the museum's groundbreaking exhibit of Indigenous art, gaining inspiration and ideas for community displays.

The American Museum of History is one of the most significant museums in North America and holds over 80 T̓silhqot'in belongings, including casts of ancestral faces, a diverse array of hunting tools as well as several ceremonial items.

The Brooklyn Museum holds 10 T̓silhqot'in qat̓s'ay and TNG has been collaborating with the museum for several years. A formal request for the return of the 10 qat̓s'ay is currently being reviewed by the Brooklyn Museum.

Representatives from these museums attended the ceremonial opening of the T̓silhqot'in Unbreakable Exhibit at the United Nations. The exhibition gave the museum staff a deeper understanding of the Nation and contextualized current repatriation efforts within the long history of T̓silhqot'in efforts to protect their Indigenous rights and title.





L to R: BCWF Wetlands Practitioner Nadia Pagliaro, TNG Access Management Coordinator Mark Veenstra, Xeni Gwet'in Community Natural Resource Worker Alex Lulua, TNG Natural Resource Worker Ruthie Jackson, TNG Habitat Technician Lisa Bland, and BCWF Wetlands Practitioner Katerina Sofos. Photo: Lisa Bland

Wetland Assessment Training

This Spring, TNG Stewardship staff attended wetland assessment training with the BC Wildlife Federation. This training is essential for collecting data for the Canadian National Wetland Inventory (CNWI) and Wetland Ecosystem Services Protocol (WESP).

These databases support environmental conservation, climate change mitigation, and land-use planning.

The wetlands team will spend the next two field seasons conducting assessments in the wetland areas of the T̓silhqot'in Territory.

These assessments will confirm

existing and potential high value moose wetlands, help identify habitat changes to these areas over time, and add to the inventory of Canadian and BC standardized wetland assessments.

If you have any wetland areas of concern you would like added to the assessments, please email lisabland@tsilhqotin.ca and we'll include them on the list.



Xeni Gwet'in Community Natural Resource Worker Alex Lulua, TNG Natural Resource Worker Ruthie Jackson, and TNG Access Management Coordinator Mark Veenstra.

TNG STAFF REPORT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Solar Farm

I've had a few questions about the solar farm and want to share that it is operational - it was down for a short time due to equipment repairs. Since the new repairs, in the event of a shut down, we can start the solar farm remotely rather than have someone physically go out to the site.

We monitor the farm daily, and it continues to produce energy even during the greyest days of winter.

Economic Development Planning

We contracted Crystal Verhaeghe and Katrina Elliot to facilitate a new five-year economic development implementation plan, looking forward to a new roadmap for economic development initiatives at a Nation level.

Entrepreneurship Training

Excited to share that we recently hired Whitney Quilt to be our Entrepreneurship Development Worker and Leah Worthington as our Entrepreneurship Coordinator. Whitney and Leah have been busy with the planning of our spring and summer trainings.

At the end of January, we hosted a two-week Aboriginal Business Entrepreneurship Training program at the Lakeside office. The training covered key areas of business development, including business planning, market research, marketing strategies, operations, start-up costs, cost of doing business, pricing, and pro-forma financial sheets. Nine participants completed the program.

In early May, the virtual Aboriginal BEST (Business Entrepreneurship Skills Training) program wrapped up and marked the start of summer youth programming. We are happy to announce that the Bears' Lair Camp program that supports T̓silhqot'in youth in building entrepreneurial skills over several days is coming to Lac La Hache. You can find the registration for this program on our website and via the QR code to the right.



We are also developing a tailored entrepreneur curriculum with plans to deliver it to each community. We are working with all communities, including the youth workers, to schedule sessions that suit local timelines.

Our monthly entrepreneurship workshops continue to be offered, with this month's focus on business planning. One-on-one support is available to business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs seeking personalized guidance. In addition, Whitney and Leah are now certified to deliver Junior Achievement of BC (JABC) materials, with plans to bring these into both schools and community settings

By the time you read this we will have our 2nd session in progress which will be delivered virtually.

Please stay tuned as we will be having more training opportunities throughout the year.

T̓silhqot'in ʔEten Nadilitil (TEN)

TEN completed a contract with Dawson for Taseko/Nemiah Lake Road repairs and completed road assessments in the same area for upcoming work in the 2025/26 fiscal year, the proposed work includes culvert installs, surface gravelling, cattleguards and brushing, rip rapping and possible training.

TEN and Dawson Road Maintenance gathered together at the end of January for a planning session which focused on relationship building, capacity building and how best we can work together to ensure our T̓silhqot'in roads are well maintained.

After our planning session, we started our 'roadshow' and met with the five communities within the Area 17 road maintenance service area. Community members were invited to voice any concerns and hear from Dawson about their capacity needs. The following are areas that could assist in service delivery:

- Class 1, 3 or 5 (with air) drivers
- Traffic Control personnel
- Bridge workers (cleaning and inspection)
- General labourers
- Hand brushing/chainsaw work

If these are of interest and you seek further training, please contact the Economic Development team at (250) 392-3918.



TNG STAFF REPORT **STEWARDSHIP DEPARTMENT**



Woohooo, Spring is here and the weather is turning out to be awesome already.

Field season is upon us and the Stewardship Department (TSD) staff are in full field visit mode already. Mind you, some areas are still very wet, but it's not stopping staff from doing the necessary field visits.

There is so much going on with the TSD already and I hope you all enjoy reading in details some of the great work that the department is doing and planning on doing on the following pages from staff. But here is a quick snapshot.

Jessica Blaine has been busy with organizing and planning. It's great to have an admin that ensures that all the small to large details in the planning are being met.

Gene Cooper and his team are answering referrals as they come in. They are holding licensee's accountable with their field visits.

Trina Setah is knee deep in dealing with mining files and the provincial initiatives that are being brought in. She has been out to the communities to get input and this has been very helpful.

Randy Billyboy and his team in the fisheries department are always knocking it out of the park with their work to ensure the longevity of salmon for the nation.

Paul Grinder and the rangers are busy as always. It's nice to see the rangers taking courses to further their education for the betterment of the program.

Jeremy Boyd is always ensuring that the large provincial initiatives are being worked on for forestry such as the Timber supply review, Forest Landscape Planning and as always, involving the Tsilhqot'in Forestry Working Group.

Sarah Gash and her team are at the top of their game ensuring that we are all supported with the mapping and data needs. It's nice to see Mark back in the office after dealing with some health issues.

Mark Veenstra is busy ensuring boots will be on the ground this summer closing off roads for the access management side of things. Working with the communities, province, and licensee's has been great and rewarding.

Mitch Warne and his team are full steam ahead with the species management plans. It will be great once these are completed. Also, the wetland surveys being done this year will help aid us in more data collection.



TNG STAFF REPORT **TNG MINING, OIL AND GAS**



Accompanied Mines Inspection (The Collaborative)

In collaboration with Tahltan Central Government, Nisga'a Nation, Xat'sull First Nation, Lake Babine Nation, McLeod Lake Indian Band, a lot of great work has been coordinated to incorporate the First Nations lens and voice into the training material for Accompanied Inspections Process which is developed and implemented by the Ministry of Mines and Critical Minerals (MCM).

This designed partnership with the Accompanied Inspections Process provides the opportunity for co-led process between First Nations in BC and the Province (Compliance and Enforcement) an opportunity to engage in the field to integrate co-governance and provide Indigenous legal orders in alignment with the Crown's regulatory system to establish a shared compliance standard. Utilizing a statement provided by AIP provincial counterpart, it is 'an approach to uphold the Honor of the Crown and advances Reconciliation'. The intent in participating with this process in its initial stages, was to ensure that we are moving away from mistrust of the government processes while building a system to improve regulatory oversight, relationship-building and the future of mining co-management in BC which is built together. This team has provided valuable input

to four key documents utilized by the province to inform training and awareness materials that inform and support Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) First Nations field staff working across ministries on the compliance functions in mining inspections. A process that was co-developed and input from the Collaborative in January - February 2025.

This process has provided the team an opportunity to develop an important relationship collectively while looking at the joint-inspection program in partnership with the province. In preparation for the summer – fall months, a list has been gathered from the province on active permits over the past 10 years to assist in guiding the fieldwork attached to file responsibilities. The focus for the summer will be coordinating site visits on ‘mineral’ claims. Through this process of relationship building with the province, in a request submitted in the last fiscal year to coordinate compliance field reviews on the proponents within the Nenqay Deni Accord boundaries T̓silhqot’in Territory.



**T̓silhqot’in National
Government**

**T̓i Ts’edetalhdež Gwá
Déchen Déžiltan**

Mining Policy



The focus will be within Zone B of the Nenqay Deni Accord (Caretaker Areas) for active permits site visit and compliance review. There will be representatives from TNG (Trina and TNG Ranger), Accompanied Inspections Coordinator, Mineral Titles Inspector from the North, and T̓silhqot’in delegates/referral worker.

Within the past couple of years, through community engagement it was a point of concern for many of the membership in terms of proponents leaving their mess behind.

High - level, this was the recommendation brought back to the province and a request to assist in improving that process. As a response to that recommendation, this training and team building exercise was monumental for bridging those gaps. Additional to this process, a lot of work is also being coordinated to also access Gibraltar Mine site on the compliance and enforcement piece, which required scheduling and engagement for TNG and ʔEsdilagh First Nation.

There can be conversation on how to relay back to membership on the field visits for Tsilhqot'in membership on the outcomes once the season is completed.

Information of Interest

(Information shared with community referral worker/stewardship council representatives.)

- BC Hydro (UNDRIP) package provided to TNG by BC First Nations Energy and Mining Council (FNMEC)
- Summary from the meeting hosted by FNMEC
- Mineral Claims Consultation Framework (Placer referrals) are now in process and a new program additional to current workload, and a framework is being developed internally to support receiving the data through the TNG portal for future purposes. This is a new process for incorporating placer claims into the referral process with the province. There are still hiccups in terms of the management of the file, informing the Tsilhqot'in representatives (referral worker / TSC representative).

If you have comments or questions, please contact the TNG Mining, Oil & Gas Coordinator, Trina Setah by trina@tsilhqotin.ca.

TNG STAFF REPORT

FISHERIES



TNG Fisheries Department Update

Since our last newsletter update in March, the TNG Fisheries Department has been busy throughout the spring, including spring field work, our second year of full operations at the TNG Salmon Conservation Hatchery, and the ongoing TNG-led response to the T̕ilhqox Landslide. Here's an overview of our key areas of focus from late March to late May 2025, and looking forward to the 2025 fishing season.

Stock Assessment, Monitoring and Research:

Our highly experienced TNG Fisheries crew is now well into the busy fieldwork season. Spring field work programs include:

- **Chilko Ts'eman (sockeye) smolt (juvenile) outmigration** (April-May): This project is a collaboration between TNG Fisheries and DFO to assess juvenile Chilko Ts'eman as they begin their migration to the ocean. The smolt fence and upward-facing SONAR system operated from April 4 to May 16 to count smolts and collect critical early life stage information about T̕ilhqox Ts'eman that will return to T̕ilhqot'in territory in 2027. Data is still being analyzed, but as of late May, the crew's preliminary estimate is that 23.8 million smolts have passed the fence.

- **Chilko Ja̓s (Chinook) juvenile coded wire tag (CWT) release:** 134,000 smolts were released at Henry's Crossing on April 16 to support our Chilko Ja̓s stock assessment work. This project is a collaboration between TNG and DFO to track where juvenile Ja̓s go in the ocean, how many are harvested, and their overall survival. The Fisheries team is pleased to see so many smolts returned to the river.
- **Chilcotin River Tislagh (Steelhead) work:** Four helicopter flights are scheduled between May 12 and June 3 to conduct TNG-led aerial assessments for Chilcotin River Tislagh. The TNG Fisheries team, with support from the TNG Rangers and technical partner Ecofish, also successfully collected non-lethal genetic Tislagh samples (fin clips) in March as part of our TNG-led Tislagh genetics research. This TNG Fisheries-led work advances critical research to assess recovery options for this critically endangered population.
- **TNG-led Territory-wide Aquatic habitat monitoring:** This program, operating since 2021, monitors water quality and quantity in small streams in all 3 critical salmon nursery areas (Chilcotin, Chilko, and Taseko systems) for key watershed health indicators, including climate change impacts. Winston Bambrick is the field lead for this program. May 14-15, Winston and the TNG Fisheries crew, with support from the TNG Rangers, reinstalled monitoring equipment gauges (which are removed in the winter when water freezes) and collected freshet (spring runoff) measurements.



TNG Fisheries Technician Gerard William at the Chilko Ts'eman smolt fence (April 2025).



Winstom Bambrick, Leonard English, Hayden Grinder and Gerard William of TNG Fisheries attended the CWT Chilko Ja̓s smolt release on April 16.



Gerard and Hayden in the helicopter preparing to conduct the first Chilcotin River Tislagh aerial assessment flight on May 12.



Leonard and TNG Ranger Jeremiah Harry collecting non-lethal Tislagh DNA samples (fin clip) for critical DNA testing (March 2025).

Emergency Enhancement:

TNG Fisheries has been working on emergency enhancement (raising salmon in hatcheries from eggs to fry to increase survival) for priority vulnerable and endangered T̓silhqot'in stocks since 2020. This includes collecting brood (parent) stock (eggs and milt) and raising salmon in hatcheries from eggs to the fry stage to increase survival. Juvenile salmon are then released back to their natal streams in the spring.

On May 15, **approx. 12,000 Upper Chilcotin Ja̓ fry** were released by helicopter near Chezacut Ranch Bridge. These fry were the babies of brood/parents collected in summer 2024, and will return to T̓silhqot'in Territory as 5-year-old adult Ja̓ in 2029.



T̓silhqox Landslide Response

The T̓silhqox landslide that occurred on July 30, 2024 has continued to be a key focus of the TNG Fisheries department. In response to the slide, TNG rapidly formed a tripartite technical TNG-led **Emergency Salmon Task Force** starting August 6, 2024 to assess and work to address risks and impacts from the landslide on salmon.

TNG, with the TNG-led Task Force, continues to work intensively to:

- Assess the ongoing potential risks to all salmon species with a full life cycle lens;
- Identify feasible mitigation and management options – for the full life cycle, in preparation for the 2025 fisheries season; and
- Continue, adapt and expand existing monitoring programs. These include:
 - Turbidity monitoring (cloudiness from particles in the water)
 - Turbidity monitoring sensors were installed at key locations from above the slide to the downstream Fraser River at Big Bar to monitor turbidity levels and assess turbidity impacts on salmon passing through the slide impacted area. Turbidity monitoring began on Aug 14, 2024.
 - The TNG fisheries crew has taken over the operations of the turbidity monitoring program this year and initiated that program on May 2.
 - Hanceville SONAR program
 - In 2024 TNG Fisheries, with technical partner EcoFish, installed a SONAR system just above the slide site at Hanceville on August 8, 2024, and monitored fish passage through the slide area in real time through the salmon season. This program will run again this year, with installation scheduled for June 23.

Situation reports will be provided starting this June and can be found on the TNG website at www.tsilhqotin.ca/our-territory/fisheries/communications.



TNG Salmon Conservation Hatchery

The TNG Fisheries team is now well into our second year of full operations at the TNG Salmon Conservation Hatchery, under the leadership of Jr. Hatchery Manager Winston Bambrick.

The baby Chilko Jaâ (Chinook) now growing in the hatchery reached the fry stage in early April. This is the stage in which Jaâ in the wild would emerge from the gravel and begin to search for food. The team transferred the fry from their incubation trays into rearing tanks and are now maintaining a regular feeding schedule while closely monitoring the health and weight of the fry to ensure they develop at a rate similar to fry in the wild. The team (with support from TNG Rangers) also closely monitor hatchery water quality to ensure optimal fish health, and conduct regular systems checks and maintenance to ensure the hatchery and equipment are operating smoothly.

On May 27, the team tagged the hatchery fry with coded wire tags unique to the TNG hatchery, which will allow us to track how many hatchery fish return as adults. The release of hatchery fry is scheduled for June 5.

Looking Forward – A permanent TNG Salmon Conservation Hatchery:

TNG reached a significant milestone for the hatchery program in 2024 – a historic partnership with DFO to develop a **permanent salmon conservation hatchery** in T̓silhqot'in territory, to be managed and operated by TNG. This investment in a permanent larger hatchery will be an important tool in advancing the Nation-wide priority of recovering T̓silhqot'in wild stocks and supporting a thriving traditional fishery. The team is currently in the engineering design phase for the permanent hatchery, which is 60% complete.



Pre-season Planning for the 2025 Fishery

Based on the 2025 preliminary fisheries forecast, we are anticipating a Chilko Ts'eman return that will support a traditional T̓silhqot'in fishery. We expect Ts'eman and Ja̓ opportunities in the Chilcotin and on the Fraser River mainstem. This is also a Dandzex (pink salmon) year, which we expect will provide opportunities in the Chilcotin and on the Fraser River mainstem.

WEEKLY IN-SEASON FISHERIES COMMUNICATIONS

Mid-July to September 2025:

During the salmon season (mid July to mid September), TNG Fisheries hosts **weekly update Zoom calls** for T̓silhqot'in Leadership and staff. We also provide **weekly Fisheries Bulletins**, which are publicly available on the TNG website and Facebook page. Both the weekly calls and bulletins provide information on salmon populations and returns, fishing opportunities, and TNG Fisheries Department activities.

Sechanalyagh!
The TNG Fisheries Team.



TNG STAFF REPORT

GIS TEAM



BCIT (BC Institute of Technology) Practicum:

Most every year the Stewardship Department hosts a BCIT Practicum Student. The student is enrolled in the GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Advanced Diploma program, and must complete this final course to graduate. It is a great opportunity for the student to get in-office and real world GIS experience for their resume, tackling actual data, and challenges that are not planned. This year, Devin Ringland has joined us in office. Devin has been engrossed in reviewing our roads data sources including the new, more accurate Cariboo Natural Resource Region consolidated road dataset. The consolidated roads underwent high resolution and current ortho-imagery correction resulting in a more accurate representation of the network of roads in the Region:

14,544 km of roads added (roads that weren't in the data but are evident in the imagery).

18,306 km of road flagged as not existing (roads that were in the data but not in the imagery).

374 km roads flagged for ground truthing.

This information will provide updated road locations and labelling for our beautiful maps.

Wildfire Season

Last year we briefed and received permission from the Chiefs to share maps with areas marked as ‘Sensitive’ with BC Wildfire Service to aid in planning for wildfire suppression efforts when a wildfire occurs in T̓silhqot’in territory. Thankfully the fire season was quiet, so we did not need to share, however we are prepping to implement an automated process for sharing these maps, if need be, with BCWS for the coming fire season. These maps are prepared by filtering, randomizing, and autonomizing and amalgamating sites found in the TUS. The resulting “Areas of Cultural Value” are clipped to an area within a certain distance from active wildfires. In this way we are prepared to do what we can to help protect potentially sensitive sites.

Community Visits

TNG GIS visited most communities over the last couple of months to participate in a number of engagement initiatives including Wildlife workshops for Moose, Bighorn Sheep, Fishers, Horses and other species. GIS also participated in Urban Engagements for Nen and Nexwenen in Kelowna, Kamloops and Vancouver. The team also travelled to Xeni in May to take in the Xeni Gwet’in Culture Week. We spent our time there making dream catchers, taking a medicinal plant walk, and learning how to make Bannock! Yummy.

Sechanalyagh,
Sarah, Mark and Brent



TNG STAFF REPORT

WILDLIFE



Tsilhqot'in
NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

Tsilhqot'in-led Moose Management Planning Workshop



A WORKSHOP FOCUSED
ON DEVELOPING A
MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR MOOSE IN THE
CHILCOTIN

The Stewardship team continued to lead wildlife management planning workshops in communities with seven workshops completed so far (the most recent workshops held this spring were on moose and elk).

The moose workshop had the most people attending during a single day with 28 participants. Currently, we are working on formalizing partnerships on some of the species management plans. Additionally, wildlife workshop questionnaires will be added onto the TNG website in a survey format in July to give those members the ability to provide feedback who weren't able to attend the workshops in person.

Our next workshop is focused on deer (all species) on June 25 and 26. Please see the associated poster for details. The deer workshop will be followed by a mountain goat workshop in July. After the mountain goat workshop there will be a break to allow for feedback and for time for TNG to draft each management plan.

TNG STAFF REPORT GOVERNANCE



The TNG Governance Team (Shawnee Palmantier, Renee Racette, Dominique Nouvet) did a round of engagement with T̓silhqot'in deni in March and April 2025, on the following dates (Spring 2025 Engagement):

- **Yunešit'in:** March 10
- **T̓sideldel:** March 11
- **Tl'esqox:** March 14
- **Williams Lake (Youth):** March 25
- **Quesnel/?Esdilagh:** March 26
- **Williams Lake:** March 27
- T̓silhqot'in deni (virtual): March 29
- **Tl'etingox:** April 3
- **All Leadership Forum:** April 9
- **Vancouver:** April 14
- **Kelowna:** April 15
- **Kamloops:** April 16
- **Xeni Gwet'in:** April 30

We explained why the Nation is developing a written “constitution” and gave an overview of the tasks and timeline involved. We also reviewed some of the core feedback that T̓silhqot'in deni have provided so far about what the constitution should say.

Deni were asked to continue sharing their thoughts about what makes someone a T̓silhqot'in citizen, or, to use a term that many have said they prefer, T̓silhqot'in deni. We also asked deni about adoption and if in some case adopted individuals could become a T̓silhqot'in deni and thereby come to hold the inherent Aboriginal title and rights and responsibilities that come with being T̓silhqot'in.

They were also asked whether Tâsilhqot'in Chiefs should always be Tâsilhqot'in *deni*. Participants shared views on these topics as well as on other matters. Attendance at most meetings was low, though the All Leadership Forum was well attended. Some meetings were fairly quiet, while in others, *deni* shared extensively.

Sechanalyagh to all Communities and Tâsilhqot'in *deni* for welcoming the Governance Team and sharing with us. We ask for your ongoing support and input as we continue this work.

What we Heard

"We need the constitution to make sure we make decisions collectively... This constitution work is part of healing ourselves, reconnecting with who we are... Our constitution has to be values-based."

– Blaine Grinder

"For our constitution to stand for future generations, our children need to understand what it is."

– Marilyn Charleyboy

All Nation Leadership Gathering, April 9, 2025

There is consensus that the constitution must be simple and clear enough to be accessible to people. It needs to be powerful, not technical. The constitution must be developed in Tâsilhqot'in, not just translated after the fact.

Next Steps

The Governance Team is preparing a set of discussion questions for the Unity Gathering, informed by the feedback we have received so far and aimed at building consensus on key issues. We will be sharing these questions in advance to give everyone time to think about them.

The Unity Gathering is happening on July 30-31, 2025 at Bendziny Resort. Meals will be provided. Please contact TNG events team for more information by events@tsilhqotin.ca.

The Governance Team would love to meet with families before and after the Unity Gathering for more in depth conversations. Please contact Shawnee Palmantier if you would like to schedule a family meeting: spalmantier@tsilhqotin.ca.