



## Tsilhqot'in NATIONAL GOVERNMENT REFLECTS ON TRUDEAU'S LEADERSHIP

The Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG) is honoured to have had the opportunity to work with Prime Minister Trudeau on improving Indigenous relations in Canada and making tangible progress in enhancing the lives of the Tsilhqot'in people through the tripartite Gwets'en Nilt'i Pathway Agreement.

Prime Minister Trudeau delivered the exoneration of the Tsilhqot'in War Chiefs in Parliament in March 2018 and then visited Tsilhqot'in Title Lands to deliver this message directly to the Tsilhqot'in people. More recently, in June of last year, the Prime Minister returned to Tsilhqot'in title lands to visit with the Elders that testified in the historic *Tsilhqot'in Decision* as well as to renew the Gwets'en Nilt'i Pathway Agreement with the Tsilhqot'in Nation and British Columbia.

Indigenous issues must remain at the forefront of national attention. TNG will engage with the future Prime Minister of Canada, and all political parties and leaders, to advance the urgently needed work of reconciliation, to implement the United Nation Declaration on the Right of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) and improve the lives of Indigenous communities across the country.

The Tsilhqot'in National Government is the governing body for the Tsilhqot'in people. The Tsilhqot'in Nation is comprised of six communities located throughout the Tsilhqot'in (Chilcotin) territory and is the only Nation in Canada with a court declaration of Aboriginal title (*Tsilhqot'in Nation v. British Columbia*).

"Trudeau has done more for reconciliation in Canada than all former Prime Ministers combined. From the day he took office, Trudeau made Indigenous issues a national priority, and, for that, he will always be honoured. We want to make sure that what Trudeau started with the Tsilhqot'in will always be a part of how Canada does business. He was the first Canadian Prime Minister to visit Tsilhqot'in Title Lands and showed up when it mattered. His love for his country was apparent and he made huge sacrifices. Politics today is a ruthless place to be. We are honoured for the work we have done with the Trudeau government, and we will push to have that work continued. To Trudeau – we wish you well."

—Nits'il?in (Chief) Joe Alphonse, O.B.C, LL.D. (hon.). Tribal Chair, Tsilhqot'in National Government

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