



ʔeghulhts'en gweʒlin (Spring) 2023

# TNG NEWSLETTER

TŚILHQOT'IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT  
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



## Tsilhqot'in Chiefs speak at United Nations

A Tsilhqot'in delegation attended the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues from April 17-22 in New York. The theme this year was "Indigenous Peoples, human health, planetary and territorial health and climate change: a rights-based approach." Attending the forum was an opportunity for the us to tell our story on a global stage, surrounded by other Indigenous groups from other countries and country officials. Using the theme as direction, Nits'il?in Joe Alphonse delivered a

speech that outlined the importance of Indigenous knowledge during the climate crisis – specifically during wildfires and other emergencies. Nits'il?in Joe provided examples of how Tl'etinqox was told to evacuate under the assumption that the people did not have a plan. This was a false assumption. While in New York, the delegation also met with high level officials from Canada and the USA. They were also able to view Tsilhqot'in baskets at the Brooklyn Museum and discuss repatriation of these artifacts from 1905.

More on page 39









## The Tsilhqot'in Nation strengthens relationship with the St'át'imc Nation

On May 9th representatives from the Tsilhqot'in Nation attended the St'át'imc Gathering held on Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nation territory at the Marble Canyon Arbour.

Chief Lennon Solomon, Elders Orrie Hance, Ray Hance, and TNG technical staff were warmly welcomed by the St'át'imc Nation and had the honour of hearing the history and stories from Graveyard Valley. Chief Justin Kane of Ts'kw'aylaxw Nation gifted Chief Lennon and Elders Orrie and Ray Hance blankets along with the documentary film that was done in 2007 where our two nations came together to commemorate our fallen warriors and erected a memorial in Graveyard Valley.



Chief Lennon Solomon spoke to the St'át'imc members, thanking them for inviting us to their territory and inviting them to the Tsilhqot'in Nation Gathering and in return gifted Chief Justin Kane, Ida Mary Peter, and Art Adolph with our Tsilhqot'in Voices Photo Book.

Both of our nations are working together to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the burying the hatchet ceremony that occurred in Graveyard Valley in July of 2003. Part of this planning will involve restoring the plaque that is currently in Graveyard Valley.



## The T̓silhqot̓in Nits'il?in-Qi meet with BC Premier



The T̓silhqot̓in Chiefs have been in Victoria for the last 2 days to hold a Leadership Table with Premier David Eby and a team of BC Ministers. There were positive discussions and commitments around T̓silhqot̓in Emergency Management, the T̓silhqot̓in Ranger program, Child and Family

Jurisdiction, Mental Health and Healing, Community Safety and many other areas where we are working to deliver transformative change for the T̓silhqot̓in Nation under our Gwets'en Nilt'i (Towards it, We are Striving) Pathway Agreement.







## Full House at Williams Lake, TNG Information Session

The T̓silhqot̓in Deni Information Session held April 12, 2023, at the Gibraltar Room was a fun-filled evening.

Nits̓il̓in Joe Alphonse and Nits̓il̓in Otis Guichon were in attendance and spoke to members on Health, Wellness, and Land Management for the Nation.

T̓silhqot̓in members and TNG staff engaged on the work being done by TNG departments and was a great opportunity for newer TNG staff to introduce themselves to the members who attended the event.

TNG is working to host these information sessions in Williams Lake at least three times



per year to give T̓silhqot̓in members a chance to speak with staff and listen to what is happening. These sessions also happen in T̓silhqot̓in communities.

Congratulations to the winners of the large door prizes, Susan Kelly won the Family Package to the Indoor Rodeo (which was donated to Rebecca Mack and Jenai Nolin), Cynthia Dick won the On the Land Package, and Kylie Lulua won the Gathering Package





# TNG Information Session held in Vancouver

The TNG Nits'il?in-Qi held an information session in Vancouver on March 9th to share a meal with T̓silhqot̓'in members and discuss the ongoing projects happening at the Nation. Topics covered included children and families

jurisdiction, justice, nen planning, and overall what the declaration of T̓silhqot̓'in title means to the T̓silhqot̓'in Nation. A similar engagement will happen in Kamloops on May 26th. Please check our website for more details.







## Tsilhqot'in Rangers speak at Guardian Gathering in Ottawa

The 2023 Guardians Gathering was attended by four Tsilhqot'in Rangers and Supervisors in Ottawa at the beginning of May. With more than 250 Guardians attending from communities across Canada, allowing a chance to connect, learn and help shape the future of the National Guardians Network. Tsilhqot'in Rangers, Bruce Lulua, and Jimmy Harry Jr, were invited to talk about being a Ranger through education or enforcing community laws and regulations while on patrol. They also spoke about the training required to be on the land and water and work with Government Agencies.



The network represents a fundamental shift in how Indigenous Nations and Canada work together. Rather than having the Crown government design and deliver a program to Indigenous Peoples, this network is Indigenous-led and encourages Indigenous and Crown representatives to collaborate as partners.





## T̓sidel Head Start moves to new location

A new location aims to make T̓sidel Head Start- Language nest more accessible for children and families in T̓sidel. T̓sidel Head Start is moving locations, from the T̓sidel health Centre and to the old health building across from the community centre.

Aboriginal Head Start On reserve is a program that supports activities focused on early childhood learning and development for First Nations children from birth to age six and their families. The goal of the program is to support activities that are designed and delivered by First Nations communities to meet their unique needs and priorities.

T̓sidel Head Start, Early Childhood educator Crystal Stump is hopeful and excited for the new location and the opportunities it will bring.



It will put them in a place to provide more activities to the children and families. The new location will have more space to host family events, cultural activities and implementation of language nest program. As they are moving and settling in their new space TNG hopes to see families and children at our next visit.



# Engagement Events

(March 2023 – July 2023)

						
<b>Nation Nen Planning Event</b>	<b>Nen Sanagwelax A Day of Land Management</b>	<b>Tintuwh Dadaben Xanelhhyax A Day of Forests and Plants</b>	<b>Nulh Dezilhti A Day of Fish and Wildlife</b>	<b>Tu Diztiy A Day of Water</b>	<b>Nagwadint'i Ts'edilhts'iny A Day of Infrastructure</b>	<b>Nation Nen Planning Event</b>
<b>MARCH 15</b>	<b>MARCH 16</b>	<b>MAY 24</b>	<b>JUNE 6</b>	<b>JUNE 19</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>JULY 5 - 6</b>
5:30 – 9:30 pm Cariboo Memorial Complex Gibraltar Room	10am – 3pm Yunešit'in 7Esgul Gym	10am – 3pm Tšiyi (Bull Canyon)	10am – 3pm Traditional Village	10am – 3pm Tšideldeł Cultural Centre	Tl'esqox	10am – 3pm Bendziny Wellness Resort

## Nen Planning underway

The Tšilhqot'in Nation and Tšilhqot'in Communities are working together to collaboratively create a Tšilhqot'in Nation Nen Plan that sets out a shared vision and connection to the Tšilhqot'in territory, this work is community led process and coordinated as a Nation. Currently the Nation Nen Plan process is now in Phase 2 Honouring our Past, Present, and Future. The Community Nen Planning Coordinators and Tšilhqot'in Nen Planning Coordinator are hosting a series of Nation Nen Planning Events in the six communities that are focused on Strategic topics.



See the engagement events Timeline above for details. We welcome all Tšilhqot'in members to come and participate in these events. Please contact Jenny Allen at [jallen@tsilhqotin.ca](mailto:jallen@tsilhqotin.ca) for more information. Sechanalyagh.







## Carpentry Training

TNG has partnered with Camosun College to facilitate the first 9-week Level 1 Carpentry Apprenticeship program at Toosey Old School. In the past we have run a 7 month Foundations program which is geared towards students who are new to the industry. This 9-week program is extremely fast paced and geared towards students who have a year or more Carpentry experience. We welcomed four apprentices to embark on their carpentry careers

on May 1st, 2023 with Chief Francis Lacey and Jenny Philbrick in attendance to say a few words of encouragement and set the program off on a good note. Good luck to all the students!







## Nen and Stewardship collaborate on Cumulative Effects

TNGs Nen and Stewardship Departments have secured funding from the Indigenous Centre for Cumulative Effects (ICCE) to collaborate on Cumulative Effects. The Nen-Stewardship team will be drawing on T̓silhqot̓in knowledge holders, external experts and seeking guidance from the Nation to bring together Indigenous knowledge and scientific knowledge to advance the T̓silhqot̓in Nation's understanding of CE. CE are the changes to environmental, social, cultural, spiritual, health, and economic values caused by the accumulation and interaction of impacts from past, present, and potential future human activities and natural processes.

With support from the University of British Columbia's Centre for Environmental Assessment Research and Simon Fraser University's Faculty of Health Sciences, TNG's team will be working to develop a tool to guide and improve decision-making with respect to assessing, monitoring and managing activities in T̓silhqot̓in Territory. The tool will be used to help honour the Nation's responsibilities to care for the nenqay (the land and resources) and ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy the rich resources and cultural practices that the Nation enjoys today. Stay tuned for upcoming events associated with this project!





## Partnership with Sister City New Westminster

On May 1st, Nits'il?in Lennon Solomon, Nits'il?in Francis Laceese, and Executive Director Jenny Philbrick met with visitors Former Senator Larry Campbell and New Westminster Former Council member Chuck Puchmayr. After sharing a meal, Former Senator Campbell showed us a presentation on the "Honour House, British Columbia". The Honour House is located in New Westminster, and is an independent society that relies on fundraising efforts of their Board members, and provides a temporary home for serving and retired Military personnel, police officers, fire fighters, paramedics and other law enforcement agencies and their immediate family members while they are receiving medical treatment, in the Metro Vancouver area.

Our Nits'il?in updated them on our current happenings within their communities. We also updated them on our upcoming events which includes our Chief ?Ahan Memorial July 18, 2023 in New Westminster. They were gifted with a cedar feather that is handmade by one of our T?silhqot'in members Dean Gilpin and the T?silhqot'in War buttons, design by our T?silhqot'in member Kayla Phillips. We look forward to positive continued work with our Sister City of New Westminster.



## TNG Economic Development Department Growth & Work

Dzinas guʔen guzun, TNG's Economic Development team is happy to announce the hiring of our new Economic Development Officer, Wylie Bystedt who is local to the region and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience working in economic development. We are excited to have her on the team to help build capacity. Other exciting updates include TNG joining the WL Chamber of Commerce to give TNG the opportunity to collaborate and give space to advocate for the Nation's values and priorities with Williams Lake business and events. Moving forward we are looking to update our Economic Development Strategy making 2023 an exciting year. As always our team is happy to help and support where we can.

Congratulations to ʔEsqax Gat'in Judeti (All Children Count) Nation Ride spearheaded and hosted by Sammy Stump on securing funding from the Community Futures Development Corp of Central Interior First Nations. These funds will ensure the ride is a success. A special thanks to the Ec Dev team who provided the contact and Tiana Johnny of the TNG Grant Writing team, who drafted the proposal. Great work everyone.





## Children & Family Jurisdiction

Throughout the month of April, the T̓silhqot'in Nidlin team hosted and attended 12 engagements! Nidlin interviews with incentives have reached a total of 114 interviews within the last month. To learn more about interviews contact Ethan Hunlin or Loni Solomon. Our team will continue to go to community as often as possible. Look out for Nidlin envisioning events in your community!

The Nidlin staff has a new addition to the team but not new to TNG! Keanna Saunders who was previously the TNG health receptionist is now the administrative assistant for T̓silhqot'in Nidlin.



## How you can get involved!

We want to hear from you!  
To inquire about doing an interview with the Nidlin team please contact our engagement coordinators.

**Loni Solomon**  
T̓silhqot'in Nidlin  
Engagement Coordinator  
loni@tsilhqotin.ca  
250-305-1809



**Ethan Hunlin**  
T̓silhqot'in Nidlin  
Youth Engagement Coordinator  
ethanhunlin@tsilhqotin.ca  
250-305-1818





# Tsilhqot'in Nidlin has a Webpage!

[WWW.TSILHQOTIN.CA/FAMILYWELLNESS](http://WWW.TSILHQOTIN.CA/FAMILYWELLNESS)



Visit the new page to see our events list and find out more about the Tsilhqot'in Nidlin initiative



# TS'IQI DECHEN JEDILHTAN



## Statement from T̓silhqot̓'in Ts'iqi Dechen Jedilhtan (Women's Council) on the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Today we come together in solidarity with all Indigenous people across Turtle Island and beyond to raise awareness of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and two spirit plus. Our entire communities, including men and boys, are impacted by this systemic issue.

Our communities face heavy amounts of grief caused by tragedy and death among our people. This has been ensured by our people since the time of the Chilcotin War of 1864 to present day. Indigenous women and girls are extremely vulnerable every day as we go about our daily lives and routines regardless of where we live or our circumstances.

There is a feeling that you or your family could be next. Our people have endured tragedy after tragedy, yet we continue to remain resilient. Living like this is unacceptable.

This is also true for those in state care. The most recent report from BC's Representative for Children and Youth titled "Missing" on April 27, 2023 states that 65% of the young people reported as lost or missing within BC's child welfare system were indigenous. Indigenous females accounted for 40% of those missing. We support the House of Commons backing a motion for an emergency alert system for MMIW. It is about time.

We are wearing red today to remember and honour all Indigenous people that have been victims of violence. Miguel Mack and Schooner Jr. are both Indigenous men from this region that remain missing. The 231 Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls must continue to be followed through and implemented in order to bring transformational legal and social change to this epidemic. This is a long-standing chapter of Indigenous memory and history that needs to end. It is genocide.

We hold our hands up to all families struggling with the loss of their loved ones.



# RED DRESS DAY





# TNG STAFF REPORTS

## 2023 Diabetes Roadshow

*Written by Lorna Elkins*

Every year we partner up with Carrier Sekani Mobile Diabetes nurses out of Prince George and they travel with us to all our six Tsilhqot'in communities. Before we go to communities, we have planning meetings with all community Health staff and ask them what they would like to see, for example: workshops, presentation from community members telling their story about living with diabetes, etc.

We also hire foot care, massage and physio contractors that come to communities with us.

The first three Tsilhqot'in communities we went to were Yunešit'in, Tšideldel and ʔEsdilagh, then the following month we went to Tl'esqox, Xeni Gwet'in and finished our roadshow in Tl'etingox. Carrier Sekani diabetes nurses would spend time with the client by checking their blood pressure, A1C, eye check and going over their medication.



# TNG STAFF REPORTS

## 2023 Diabetes Roadshow...continued

*Written by Lorna Elkins*

Here is a table showing how many people were seen by Carrier Sekani diabetes nurses and by the contractors:

Full Screening (diabetic)	Screening (non-diabetic)	Massage	Foot Care
55	124	86	66

It was a good two weeks out in community and we had a steady flow of community members coming into the health clinics for their appointments.

Good job to health staff for all their help.





# TNG STAFF REPORTS

## Housing and Infrastructure

*Written by Sherry Wiebe*

### **Tl'etinqox First Ready To Move (RTM) House Delivered**

Although Mother Nature put a few challenges in front of TNG's construction crew with early cold temperatures & snow, they rose to the challenge and didn't waver to complete the foundation for the delivery deadline of the Ready To Move house. The house arrived safely, however, the crew unloading it had to work in the dark as it arrived at 3 am. A few days later Tl'etinqox member, Martha Elkins watched as her new home was lifted onto its basement foundation. Work continues now on cladding the exterior of the foundation as well as finishing the basement.



### **Tsideldel First Ready To Move (RTM) House**

The TNG Construction crew also had to deal with adverse weather at Tsideldel while forming and pouring the foundation for the RTM at Michel Gardens. Due to unforeseen circumstances the RTM home is scheduled to arrive in June 2023.



### **Tl'etinqox Lot 17, Fire Rebuild**

This major renovation is wrapping up with the siding now completed.

It is so exciting that we have Tsilhqot'in members comprising our construction crew. Several completed their Carpentry Foundation course at Toosey Old School (TOS) in 2021 or 2022 and four community members have now completed their Level 2 Apprenticeship training at TOS. Some crew members are currently taking their Level 1 Apprenticeship training at TOS. These apprentices are working on renovations and new homes for their communities, under the mentorship of the Red Seal journeymen carpenters that we have on staff.



# TNG STAFF REPORTS

## Stewardship

*Written by Luke Doxtator*

Ahhhhh, the nice weather is finally upon us. Warmer weather goes hand in hand with being outside more. I love the spring time early fly fishing season, it's one of the best time of year for this with minimal mosquitos.

Here is a snapshot from the Stewardship department for this Spring.

Gene Cooper and Ruthie Jackson are busy busting out responses for referrals that come into the portal. Field visits are scheduled and they can't wait to get out on the nen.

Trina Setah has been super busy with the mining file, please see her report after this one. She has such a keen eye for detail and ensuring that I am up to date on all the activities happening. She is working with the communities that have activities such as exploration or mining.

Mitch Warne and his team are in the field doing some linear feature work. We have been fortunate to have Kaitlyn Green join us for the season. Gracie Frost is back from school so they are out there doing some great work as Mitch is coordinating with the communities on the projects that he has planned.



Scum Lake



# TNG STAFF REPORTS

## Stewardship...Continued

*Written by Luke Doxtator*

Jeremy Boyd has been busy with all forestry activities and initiatives. The Tsilhqot'in forestry working group is still meeting regularly on all the changes within government such as Old Growth Management, Forest Landscape Planning, and any other policy change that may be happening.

Sarah Gash and the GIS team are super busy with all the tasks they have on hand. We are in discussions now of hiring another GIS technician to help offset all the work they are doing. Along with the GIS work, the portal admin side of things are also keeping Sarah busy since we are looking at introducing portal 3.0, more to come on that later this year.

Paul Grinder and the team have some exciting news, a couple of the rangers traveled to Ottawa and were panelists for the First Nations Guardians Gathering. Bruce Lulua and Jeremiah Harry Jr. did a great job on representing the nation. Well done boys, well done.

Randy Billyboy and the fisheries team continue to amaze me with the amount of work they are doing to get the temporary hatchery setup. This has been a lot of work, and we all look forward to taking a site visit to see it in action. Well, until next time, enjoy this weather, keep an eye out for ticks and happy spring everyone.



Rangers training in Bella  
Coola

# TNG STAFF REPORTS

## Mining, Oil, & Gas

*Written by Trina Setah*

Hello family and friends, attached is a summary of the projects assigned to me since I started. My focus will be the bigger projects rather than the smaller scale ones. Before I start, I am happy to say that I am in this role and just recently recovered from double pneumonia. I will be taking my personal health a bit more serious moving forward and keeping active to ensure that my lungs are strong for next winter. I truly enjoy what I do for work and my objective is to be strategic with ensuring that as a team member at TNG, that as much mitigative efforts are provided to protect the landscape with respect to all of the incoming proposed work. I am sharing some files with high level overview, and please understand that some files were coordinated prior to my arrival and that it was dealt with care in terms of protecting T̓silhqot̓in rights and title before any permits were approved.

### **Exploration Project Summary:**

**Amarc Resources Limited** has recently (2022) been approved for a 5-year permit for drilling, and has recently submitted a referral for Induced Polarization (IP) Survey for a 5-year permit. For the seasonal work of 2022, it is claimed that the company drilled six drill sites (waiting for confirmed numbers from proponent). The company had applied for access to 100 drill hole sites, no road access and have coordinated for 20 helicopter pads; and using water from nearby creeks. There is no physical camp on site to host the crew, they will be using local accommodations. Recommendations provided to them, were to avoid any interaction with bears and the local wildlife; to avoid and provide 100-meter buffer.

There was a special note on the permit application, that the company had removed over 650 pounds of refuse and 40 empty fuel drums that were abandoned by previous operators by helicopter. The permit is approved for an area that is around Taylor Windfall area by Taseko Lake.

Community and Leadership engagement is very much needed with the proponent on this project; in the works.



# TNG STAFF REPORTS

## Mining, Oil, & Gas...Continued

*Written by Trina Setah*

**Carlyle Commodities Corporation** has recently (2022) been approved for a 5-year permit for drilling. The permit was approved for 100 drill sites, along with a list of mitigative measures for environmental protection measures, wildlife mitigation measures and a monitoring plan. For the seasonal work of 2022, the company has drilled one site since its approval and had agreed to 'stop work in January 2023' until community engagement has occurred along with leadership discussion. The company has met with Yunesit'in Government, Xeni Gwet'in First Nation Government leadership along with TNG Negotiations and Lawyer at the end of March 2023; with the recommendation for community engagement.

Two dates have been set for the proponent to meet with community on Tuesday May 23, 2023 in Xeni Gwet'in First Nation, and Thursday May 25, 2023 for a site visit to Scum Lake – Newton Mountain with an invitation to both Yunesit'in and Xeni members / leadership to attend for a conversation with the proponent. The proponent has offered to provide results of previous drilling for transparency, on the job training opportunities while hiring locally from the communities, provide funding for education / training for T̓silhqot'in youth; they have offered to negotiate an exploration agreement that could include financial benefits, employment opportunities, cultural awareness training, some form of equity ownership in the company and further incentives for mutual success.

**Kingfisher Resources Limited** has recently (2023) applied for a renewal of permit for drilling and Induced Polarization (IP) Survey for a 5-year permit. The company had applied for 246 drill sites, with 75 km's of Induced Polarization (IP) Survey along with 50 m<sup>3</sup> of timber removal within a Free Use Permit. The company had completed majority of their exploration activities authorized for the Goldrange project which was issued in April 2021.

# TNG STAFF REPORTS

## Mining, Oil, & Gas...Continued

*Written by Trina Setah*

The company proposes in their year 1 (2023) exploration activities to start by May 1, 2023 and with an expectation for completion by October 31, 2023; primarily focused on the Cloud Drifter target area with additional work to be completed at Langara, Lost Fiddle, Day Trip and Lotus Targets. Their proposal is to conduct 38 drill pads, in addition a proposal to do IP surveys for Lost Fiddle and Lotus targets; with an approximation of 21 – line km – not cutting down any live trees. The proponent has offered to record wildlife sightings (shared with First Nations), hiring First Nation Environmental Monitors for the drill -program, has completed a high-resolution LiDAR mapping program (2020) to be shared upon request with First Nation stakeholders which provides a baseline for the current state of the ground. Additionally, they have completed drone mapping to record site disturbances which can also be shared and have historically in their 2021 program; hired 50 % of the local First Nations as their employees.

Upon recommendation within the referral process, and utilizing other project data such as the collared grizzly bear project managed by TNG Biologist; to avoid a corridor used within the permitted area by a collared grizzly during Spring and Fall and can be used during a small timeframe of August – September. The grizzly heads to the mouth of Chilko Lake to feed on the spawning sockeye. This is still under review by the Provincial Decision Maker on this permit; and a response is being coordinated which will be shared in a future newsletter.



# TNG STAFF REPORTS

## Mining, Oil, & Gas...Continued

*Written by Trina Setah*

Additionally, the archaeology report from the previous permit recommends that an Archaeology Impact Assessment (AIA) to be conducted under the authority of the Heritage Inspection Permit (to be completed prior to mining activities); and was a recommendation elevated within the TNG referral response process. BC Provincial Decision maker on this permit has offered to make this recommendation within the permit.

Collectively as a team, another highlight that is worthy of mention is the 'no staking area' for online mineral exploration which now is recognized by the Province is a buffer to protect the T̓silhqot̓in watershed as a result of the teamwork of the Stewardship Fisheries department, TNG Biologist and the Province through COSEWIC – Candidate for Canadian Wildlife Species at Risk; protection measures to protect the ecosystem for steelhead. It was shared with me that last year's count for steelhead was only five. I had to make mention of it, as I ensure to utilize this data as an area for protection while responding to any proposed exploration activities. Let me know if you had any questions, I can be reached via email [trina@tsilhqotin.ca](mailto:trina@tsilhqotin.ca) or by phone (250) 302 – 3967; or in person at our new office location at 925 2nd Avenue, Williams Lake.



Mouth of Taseko Lake from Battlement Creek

# TNG STAFF REPORTS

## Mining, Oil, & Gas...Continued

*Written by Trina Setah*

### **Briefing Note – Gibraltar Mines Limited**

History on this Process for ʔEsdilagh First Nation and the T̂silhqot̂in National Government:

In 2019, the Province of BC approved a permit amendment that allows Gibraltar Mines Ltd. to increase effluent discharge from their tailing pond by 50% into the Fraser River for three years. Effluent is discharged into the Fraser river only 4km from the community of ʔEsdilagh and does not meet BC Water Quality Guidelines at the point where it enters the Fraser River. This area is known for its importance as a fishing and gathering area to the ʔEsdilagh First Nation and as a nursery for endangered white sturgeon. To date, the discharge is not subject to a sophisticated water treatment process prior to entering the Fraser River. Gibraltar Mines relies on the effluent being diluted in the Fraser River as a treatment process. The T̂silhqot̂in National Government and ʔEsdilagh First Nation assert that the effluent must be of better water quality standards than the Fraser River upon entry to the Fraser River. As stewards of the waters that flow through their caretake area, the ʔEsdilagh First Nation and T̂silhqot̂in National Government enacted the “Sturgeon River Law” (ʔElhdaqox Dechen Ts’edilhtan) in May of 2020 which brings into modern form the ancient T̂silhqot̂in laws and teachings about water and the Fraser River. This T̂silhqot̂in Law stipulates that water users and industry must ensure the Fraser River stays clean and healthy for future generations.

### **WHY THE T̂SILHQOT̂IN OPPOSE THE INCREASE IN DISCHARGE**

The T̂silhqot̂in oppose the increase in discharge due to the fact that the discharge has levels of contaminants above BC Water Quality Guidelines and the Fraser River is used to “dilute” the discharge. This is in violation of the ʔElhdaqox Dechen Ts’edilhtan, may have unknown effects on the river and the fish and other species that rely on the Fraser River. ʔEsdilagh is also very concerned about salmon species and their severe decline in recent years because the community strongly relies on salmon from the Fraser River for sustenance. The T̂silhqot̂in Nation and people of ʔEsdilagh support reducing water build-up at the Gibraltar Mine, but believe there should be an investment in water treatment so that any discharge is of better quality than the Fraser River or other receiving environment. This mine has generated billions of dollars for its shareholders and the provincial government, with minimal benefit to ʔEsdilagh First Nation and the T̂silhqot̂in Nation. Now is the time to give back and to invest in water treatment so that we protect our waterways and the life they support.



# TNG STAFF REPORTS

## Mining, Oil, & Gas...Continued

*Written by Trina Setah*

Since that recommendation has been put forward, the Province has coordinated a Technical Advisory Committee with representation from experts to support ʔEsdilagh First Nation, T̓silhqot̓in National Government and the Province. The team coordinates recommendations collaboratively to be utilized by the Province to cross examine while developing their permits for these incoming applications for renewals by GML.

### **January 2023 Referral details:**

#### **Gibraltar Active Water Treatment Plant Permit Amendments:**

Gibraltar Mines Ltd. (GML) had proposed to implement a water treatment plant at the Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) to facilitate the reduction of nitrate and nitrite concentrations with respect to what is discharged into the Fraser River. This study into the feasibility of in-situ water treatment came as the result of discussions with the Technical Advisory Committee and has the distinct advantage of not producing a brine. Extensive work has been completed to develop a low-risk execution and monitoring plan to ensure success. Gibraltar plans to implement the plan post freshet 2023 and it is critical to the successful execution of the plan that both ENV and EMLI provide confirmation Gibraltar may proceed by March 31, 2023 to ensure timely procurement of materials prior to TSF turnover and mixing.

Project Summary description shares that the In-Situ treatment of tailings storage facility (TSF), is aimed at reducing nitrate + nitrite concentration level to facilitate discharge. Treatment would provide food source to facilitate and promote microorganisms to break down of nitrate and nitrite. Proposed implementation for this to occur, was Fall 2022.

This referral was received by TNG February 13, 2023, and a response within the system was coordinated by the Technical Advisory Committee by March 7, 2023. The recommendations were then provided to the Province to cross-examine for the purpose of developing their permitting process to GML.

# TNG STAFF REPORTS

## Mining, Oil, & Gas...Continued

*Written by Trina Setah*

### **Taseko Gibraltar Water Treatment Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) Trial:**

The application is required for Gibraltar Mines Ltd. (Gibraltar) to permit and authorize use of an active water treatment plant (AWTP) to support water management and removal of surplus water from the Gibraltar Mine site.

Currently Gibraltar is authorized to discharge water to the Fraser River from April 10th through November 10th each year. In recent years discharge has been challenged by sulphate and nitrate + nitrite concentrations.

Due to that challenge, GML has been unable to discharge for quite some time due to the sulphate levels of nitrate + nitrite levels not meeting the permit requirements.

The treatment plant will support site water management by ensuring water quality is appropriate for discharge off site. In 2018, BQE Water (BQE) performed a preliminary assessment of active water treatment options for Gibraltar and identified a membrane-based treatment approach combined with gypsum desaturation of the membrane retentate stream as both the technically most suitable and cost-effective method of treatment. Subsequently, the technical feasibility of the proposed treatment process was successfully demonstrated in the pilot campaign carried out using TSF supernatant water directly at the mine site.

In September 2021, Gibraltar submitted to the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation a detailed design for the proposed active water treatment plant. Gibraltar plans to advance with infrastructure procurement and construction upon permit approval.

This referral was received by TNG March 2, 2023, and a response within the system was coordinated by the Technical Advisory Committee by March 19, 2023. The recommendations were then provided to the Province to cross-examine for the purpose of developing their permitting process to GML.



# TNG STAFF REPORTS

## Mining, Oil, & Gas...Continued

*Written by Trina Setah*

### **Current Referral -- Gibraltar Mine (M-40) Permit Amendment for South Saddle Dam:**

Gibraltar Mines Ltd. (GML) operates an open pit copper mine (Gibraltar Mine) located near McLeese Lake in the southern interior of British Columbia, about 38 miles north of Williams Lake. The Gibraltar Mines Tailings Storage Facility is about two miles north of the mine plant site. The TSF is bounded by a valley and by the Main Dam on the west and the East Saddle Dam (ESD) on the east; the Main Dam consists of the Cyclone Sand Dam (CSD), North Earthfill Dam (NED), and Step-Back Embankment (SBE). The SBE and ESD are flood control structures for the TSF.

GML proposes to construct the South Saddle Dam (SSD) as a water-retaining structure at the southeast corner of the facility. The purpose of the SSD will be to retain the free water pond between the reclaim barge and the Diversion Dam, allowing for future flexibility in the configuration of the TSF and to maintain access to the ESD. Based on current water balance information (KCB 2022a), KCB recommends the SSD to be constructed to a crest elevation of 3,630.0 ft in 2023.

This referral was received by TNG April 21, 2023, and a response within the system is to be coordinated by the Technical Advisory Committee by May 19, 2023. The recommendations are then provided to the Province to cross-examine for the purpose of developing their permitting process to GML.

# TNG STAFF REPORTS

## Fisheries

TNG Fisheries Team:

Randy Billyboy, Fisheries Manager  
Michelle Tung, Fisheries Strategy Lead  
Pete Nicklin, Fisheries Biologist  
Leonard English, Fisheries Field Coordinator  
Winston Bambrick, Fisheries Technician  
Gerald William, Fisheries Technician

.....

As we continue to celebrate a successful fishing season in 2022, the TNG Fisheries Department's work to prepare for the 2023 season is well underway.

2023 is the first year of returning Ts'eman (sockeye) since the Big Bar Landslide (the babies of the first Ts'eman to migrate through Big Bar in 2019). This is also a year in which had a low parent escapement for Jaâ (Chinook). However, because this is an "odd" year, Fraser pink salmon will also be returning to the Territory.

### **SALMON PRE-SEASON PLANNING (2023):**

Early predictions for salmon returns are like early weather forecasts and can be thought of as "informed guessing" – highly uncertain, but helpful to support fisheries planning. For the 2023 season, here are pre-season "guestimates" for Jaâ (Chinook) and Ts'eman (sockeye) returns.



# TNG STAFF REPORTS

## Fisheries

### **Ta̓s (Chinook):**

·The outlook suggests Ja̓s (Chinook) populations that return to the T̓silhqot'in Territory will remain a conservation concern in 2023. Environmental conditions may affect passage and migration timing for T̓silhqox (Chilko) Ja̓s, and we will be monitoring river temperatures and discharge levels at key migration points such as Hell's Gate, Big Bar, and within T̓silhqot'in Territory through our network of water monitoring stations.

·TNG Fisheries will analyze Ja̓s information from the Lower Fraser test fishery (Albion) and other sources of data throughout April, May, and June. An updated estimate for Ja̓s returning to the Upper Fraser (including T̓silhqot'in Territory) will be available in mid-June.

### **T̓silhqox Ts'eman (Chilko sockeye):**

·The pre-season forecast range for T̓silhqox Ts'eman is 343,000 to 1.013 million, with a mid-forecast estimate of 591,000. This pre-season forecast information is highly uncertain, partly due to increased variables associated with Big Bar Landslide effects on the parents of these salmon. Compared to the cautious optimism of 2022, we are going into this season preparing for the 'unexpected' and will be analyzing ocean return data beginning in July.

·Ts'eman (sockeye) in-season information is available starting in late July. TNG Fisheries analyzes information in near-real-time and provides regular updates to Leadership to inform fisheries technical planning and recommendations. We also provide weekly updates to Leadership and community members during the fishing season in our Fisheries Bulletin, which is available on the TNG website.

# TNG STAFF REPORTS

## Fisheries

### FIELD PROJECTS – SPRING HIGHLIGHTS

April marked the beginning of a busy fieldwork season for the fisheries crew, and we're working on numerous projects and programs to support the recovery and rebuilding of all salmon species in T̓silhqot̓in Territory.

#### Stock Assessment:

Our experienced crew has begun working on our annual stock assessment programs, which run from April to November. We're collecting critical information about the health of all T̓silhqot̓in stocks on the ground, by boat, and in the air, which informs fisheries priority-setting and planning, and directly supports T̓silhqot̓in Leadership decision-making on fisheries.

#### Spring stock assessment work includes:

T̓silhqox Ja̓s (Chilko Chinook) Coded Wire Tag (CWT) Program: Over 140,000 tagged smolts were successfully released on April 19, 2023 at Henry's Crossing. This project allows us 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.



On April 19, TNG Fisheries crew and DFO staff released over 140,000 tagged T̓silhqox Ja̓s (Chilko Chinook) at Henry's Crossing – part of the Coded Wire Tag (CWT) program for Ja̓s stock assessment.



# TNG STAFF REPORTS

## Fisheries

**T̓silhqox Ts'eman (Chilko sockeye) smolt (juvenile) outmigration:** This project is a collaboration between TNG Fisheries and DFO to assess juvenile Ts'eman (sockeye) as they begin their migration to the ocean. The smolt fence was installed in the first week of April along with the upward-facing SONAR system to count smolts and collect critical early life stage information about T̓silhqox Ts'eman that will return to T̓silhqot'in territory in 2025. Data collected and analyzed, show that over 52 million smolts as of May 17th have passed the fence. The project is scheduled to wrap up by May 26. This year was one of the latest spring thaws seen by our experienced field crew, followed by an early heat wave.



TNG Fisheries Technicians Winston Bambrick and Gerald William working at the Chilko smolt fence in April to assess juvenile T̓silhqox Ts'eman (Chilko sockeye) as they begin their migration to the ocean

## Strategic Projects:

Since the introduction of the TNG Fisheries Strategic Framework and Fisheries Action Plan in 2019, we've expanded the TNG Fisheries program to include new strategic initiatives. Spring work highlights include:

# TNG STAFF REPORTS

## Fisheries

**Water Quality and Quantity Monitoring Program:** Since establishing the program in 2021, we have installed 13 monitoring stations focusing on the 3 critical salmon nursery areas – Che̱qox (Chilcotin), Ṯilhqox (Chilko), and Dasiqox (Taseko). In February 2023, Leonard English and Winston Bambrick of TNG Fisheries did data entry/management training with Rebecca Broadbent and Ashley Raphael, lead technicians from UFFCA’s water monitoring program in the Nechako. In May, Leonard will be deploying dissolved oxygen, conductivity, and temperature loggers in monitored streams to collect spring-timed measurements. The team will be in the field again in early June to collect water quality and quantity measurements and download data as a critical component of our data analysis. Thank you to the TNG Rangers for their ongoing invaluable contributions to this program.

**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 Ṯilhqot’in stocks since 2020. On May 10, over 12,000 Gwedes Che̱qox Ja̱s (Upper Chilcotin Chinook) fry were released by helicopter. Over 40,000 Dasiqox Ts’eman (Taseko sockeye) fry are scheduled to be released on May 24.



Left: Leonard English and Pete Nicklin of TNG Fisheries up in the helicopter to release Gwedes Che̱qox Ja̱s (Upper Chilcotin Chinook) fry.

Right: Gwedes Che̱qox Ja̱s (Upper Chilcotin Chinook) fry ready to be released back into the river.





# TNG STAFF REPORTS

## Fisheries

**Conservation Hatchery Program:** After several years of technical feasibility work, engineering design, site preparation, and hatchery construction, we completed installation of the interim TNG conservation hatchery at the Hanceville site in February 2023! This is a key milestone in TNG's staged approach to developing long-term conservation hatchery capacity in T̓silhqot'in Territory, a Nation-wide priority identified by Leadership in 2018 for rebuilding declining T̓silhqot'in salmon populations. We are conducting systems testing and staff training throughout the spring and summer, and aim for full operation for egg incubation and rearing by September 2023. We are pleased to welcome new TNG hatchery manager Wayne Levesque to the team!



Above left: The TNG interim conservation hatchery fully installed at the Hanceville site. The final stages of installation were completed in February 2023.

Middle and right: TNG fisheries technician Winston Bambrick and new hatchery manager Wayne Levesque training at Snootli hatchery in Bella Coola in April.

# TNG STAFF REPORTS

## Fisheries

### SPRING AND SUMMER COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT:

TNG Fisheries provides information on salmon populations and returns, fishing opportunities, and TNG Fisheries Department activities through various channels throughout the year. We also engage regularly throughout the year with T̓silhqot̓in Leadership to inform fisheries planning, priorities, and decision making.

### WEEKLY IN-SEASON FISHERIES COMMUNICATIONS

Mid-July to September 2023

During the fishing season, TNG Fisheries hosts weekly update Zoom calls for T̓silhqot̓in Leadership and staff. We also provide weekly Fisheries Bulletins, which are publicly available on the TNG website. Both the weekly calls and bulletins provide information on salmon populations and returns, fishing opportunities, and TNG Fisheries Department activities.

Fisheries Bulletins, fisheries opening and closure notices, and more information about TNG Fisheries and our programs are available on the Fisheries Department page on the T̓silhqot̓in Nation website here: [www.tsilhqotin.ca/fisheries](http://www.tsilhqotin.ca/fisheries)

.....

For questions, please contact TNG Fisheries  
Manager Randy Billyboy at  
[rbillyboy@tsilhqotin.ca](mailto:rbillyboy@tsilhqotin.ca) or 250-392-3918. For  
more information, please visit  
[www.tsilhqotin.ca/fisheries](http://www.tsilhqotin.ca/fisheries)

Sechanalyagh!  
The TNG Fisheries Team



# UNITED NATIONS

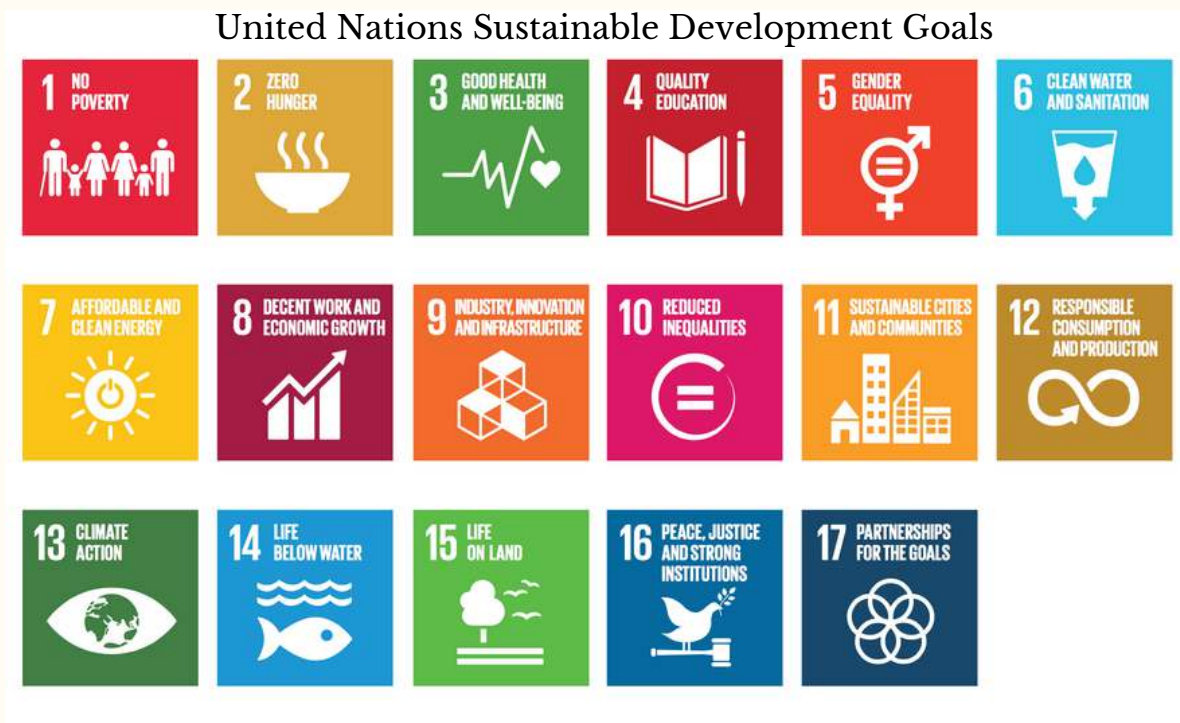
## United Nations - FAQ

### What is the United Nation?

The United Nations, referred to informally as the UN, is an intergovernmental organization whose stated purposes are to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly relations among nations, achieve international cooperation, and serve as a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations. It is the world's largest international organization. The UN is headquartered on international territory in New York City.

### What does the UN do?

A primary purpose of the UN is to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural and humanitarian character. In 2000, they agreed to achieve eight Millennium Development Goals by 2015. The Sustainable Development Goals were launched in 2015 to succeed the Millennium Development Goals.





# UNITED NATIONS

## United Nations - FAQ

### Why did the T̓silhqot̓'in go to the UN?

Many Indigenous nations around the world go to the UN to advocate for change and have their voices and concerns heard. The T̓silhqot̓'in Nation is in a very unique position as the only Nation in Canada with recognized Aboriginal Title. The T̓silhqot̓'in Decision is known all over the world. Organizations are looking to the T̓silhqot̓'in to learn from them and hear what we are doing to progress Indigenous rights and title. When the T̓silhqot̓'in are on a global stage like this, it applies pressure to Canada to implement UNDRIP and recognize the jurisdiction of Indigenous people in Canada.

The Chiefs were able to meet with many high-ranking government officials from the USA and beyond. They were also able to meet with other Indigenous organizations and groups to see how we can collaborate. This type of meeting creates unity and strength among Indigenous peoples.

The T̓silhqot̓'in voice is important – it must be heard at the level of the United Nations.



2023 T̓silhqot̓'in Delegation to the United Nations