



Xi (Winter) 2023

TNG NEWSLETTER

T̂SILHQOT'IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Photo: Chris Schmid

BC Orders No New Staking of Mineral Claims along T̂silhqot'in River Watersheds

As the “River People”, we have fought hard to protect the waters of our territory. As one important step in that direction, we have successfully established a “River Buffer” where no new mineral claims can be staked. This River Buffer covers the T̂silhqot'in River and its major tributaries, as shown on the map on the next page. This means no new mineral claims can be staked in these areas and no drilling or exploration activities can take place. This area adds up to 5252.78 square km's (525,278ha) of T̂silhqot'in lands that are now off limits to new mineral staking.





TNG recently received the order from BC that removes this River Buffer from the government online mineral staking system. So long as this order is in place, it means that companies cannot seek mineral claims in this area.

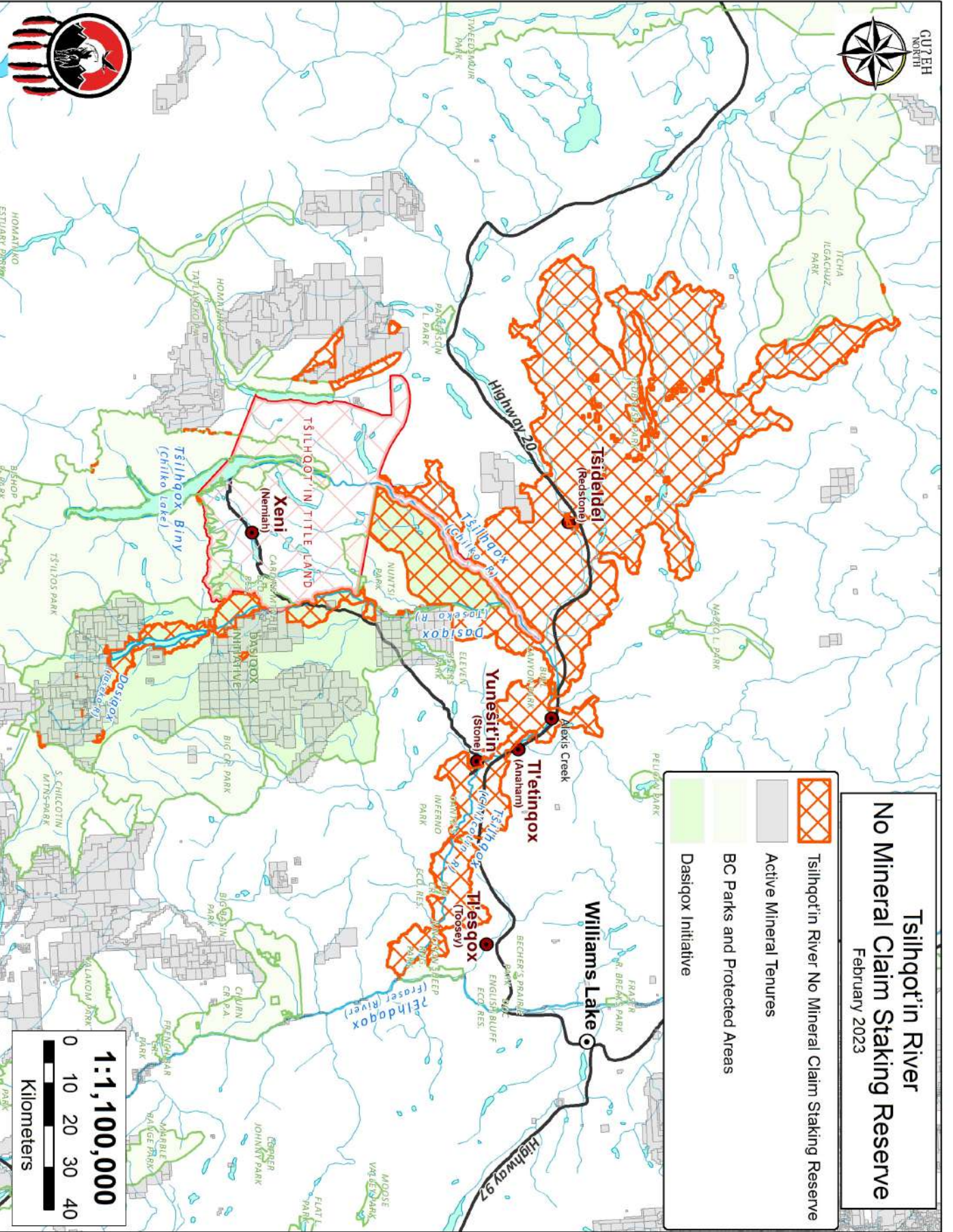
There is much more work to be done. The River Buffer doesn't roll back mineral claims that are already staked, or stop mining companies from trying to develop those claims made before 2023. We consider it a huge success for the T̂silhqot'in people that we have protected our watersheds from any new mineral claims or mining activity.



Tsilhqot'in River No Mineral Claim Staking Reserve

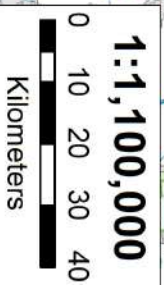
February 2023

-  Tsilhqot'in River No Mineral Claim Staking Reserve
-  Active Mineral Tenures
-  BC Parks and Protected Areas
-  Dasiqox Initiative



Path: R:\GIS\WORKING\Mining_Policy\Mining_Policy\Winning_Policy_Shaix11_ Approved.mxd

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 BC Environment Albers





Annual General Assembly Held in Williams Lake

TNG hosted its Annual General Assembly on December 14th at the Gibraltar Room. The AGA happens every year and is a time for T̓silhqot̓in Citizens to hear from the Nits̓il̓q̓in-Qi and listen to financial aspects of the previous “fiscal” year. At this AGA, attendees heard messages from the Nits̓il̓q̓in-Qi, highlighting the past year and future plans for the Nation.

Ts̓iqi Dechen Jedilhtan (Women’s Council) members Doreen William-Grinder and Shirley Diablo spoke on the past year’s projects and accomplishments achieved in 2022.

After the AGA report was presented and questions were answered everyone was treated to a delicious holiday meal with the Cariboo Chilcotin Youth Fiddle Society playing. If you would like a copy of the TNG AGA Report, you may pick one up at our Williams Lake Offices.







Urban Information Session well Attended

On January 18th TNG hosted an evening urban engagement in Williams Lake at the Longhouse. We had a majority of departments in attendance with updates on their projects and answering questions. We had around 50 people attend, not including the children that were also there. The kids were able to get their faces painted with the T̓silhqot̓in Nidlin team which was great to see.



Because of the interest in these open house style engagements, TNG will be hosting them every 4 months so urban members can get information and have a chance to get to know our staff.

Our next event will be April 12th at the Williams Lake Curling Arena (meeting section).



New Homes Coming

T̓sideldel has a Ready To Move home being delivered to their community late this Spring. The crawl space floor along with the connection to underground services will happen when the weather warms up.

Tl'etinqox will be getting a Ready To Move home craned onto a foundation at the end of February with interior basement finishing happening after that.

Yunešit'in will be getting two homes the year and ʔEsdilagh will be getting a home after the location is chosen. These projects are being done through the TNG Housing & Infrastructure Department.



Left: Construction Crew in Tl'etinqox at the recently finished renovation



Nits'il?in Joe Alphonse Recieves Honorary Doctor of Laws

On November 10, 2022, Nits'il?in Joe Alphonse received his honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Victoria (UVic). This degree recognizes the effort made by Nits'il?in Joe and the T̓silhqot'in Nation to gain respect for Indigenous laws, right and title in Canada and globally. Before being awarded the Honorary Degree, TNG Cultural Ambassador, Peyal Laceese, sang the *Yandax Chel'iq Shen* (Coyote) Song. He was joined by Nuxalk member Brent Edgar. The speech was delivered to future and current scholars, spreading the T̓silhqot'in story throughout the province and beyond.





Levelling the ground at the Hanceville site, with the TNG interim hatchery-in-a-box (2 seacans) in the background (February 2023).

TNG Conservation Hatchery – now installed

TNG Fisheries is excited to announce the TNG Interim Conservation Salmon Hatchery has been installed! We recently completed site preparation, and we're now connecting the hatchery to water and power to begin systems testing and training. We plan to be fully operational for Ja̓s (Chinook) egg incubation and rearing by August 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.



Water hook-up for the TNG interim hatchery, connected on February 15, 2023.

The Fisheries Team recently toured DFO's Spius Creek hatchery to learn more about hatchery operations, where we saw recently hatched baby Chilko Ja̓s (Chinook) from brood stock collected by our crew in 2022. These babies will be released back to the Chilko system on April 19th at Henry's Crossing.

Special thanks to TNG's Shawn and Sherry Wiebe from TNG's Housing and Infrastructure Department for their critical expertise, and to the TNG Rangers for their invaluable ongoing support!

Nexwenen ts'egulhtsanx gwech'a ?elhelh nagughetaghat'alh

“Together we will put in place whatever we decide so our land will not get ruined”

WILLIAM MYERS XINLI, YUNĒSIT'IN ELDER AND
T̄SILHQOT'IN CULTURAL EXPERT, JULY 8, 2021

T̄silhqot'in Impact Assessment Framework

The T̄silhqot'in National Government has been working to develop an approach to assessing the impacts of resource development and infrastructure projects that is reflective of T̄silhqot'in values and advances the Nation's visions and priorities for stewarding T̄silhqot'in *nen* and caring for the T̄silhqot'in. The T̄silhqot'in Impact Assessment Framework, *Nexwenen ts'egulhtsanx gwech'a ?elhelh nagughetaghat'alh*, outlines the Nation's values, decision-making criteria and the process for assessing the impacts of projects. The objective of the Framework is to support the Nation in exercising jurisdiction over the territory and aligning decision-making with the Nation's priorities.



Over the past two years, TNG's Nen team has been collaborating with University of British Columbia's Centre for Environmental Assessment Research (UBC CEAR) reviewing literature on environmental assessment (EA), impact assessment (IA) and cumulative effects (CE), and developing reports on cumulative social effects and case studies of Indigenous-led impact assessments (ILIA).

More on page 19



Wildfire Bootcamp Training at Puntzi taking Participants



First Nations Firefighter Boot Camp



The Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG), in partnership with the Cariboo Fire Centre and inclusive of Xat'sull, T'exelc, Stswecem'c Xgat'tem, Esk'etemc and Ulkatcho will deliver a First Nations Wildland Firefighter Bootcamp May 2023!

What to know before you apply?

- Be a Tsilhqot'in Nation, Xat'sull, T'exelc, Stswecem'c Xgat'tem, Esk'etemc or Ulkatcho member
- Must be between the ages of 19-29
- Prefer a Class 5 or 7 drivers License
- Proof of COVID vaccine
- Provide minimum first aid requirement of OFA Level 1 with Transportation Endorsement before bootcamp

For more information contact:

Kara Ware

TNG Emergency Services Coordinator

karaware@tsilhqotin.ca

250-302-3984



Sacred Fire held during Release of St. Joseph's Mission's Findings

On January 25th, the T̓silhqot̓in Ts'iqi Dechen Jedilhtan held a sacred fire at the Lakeside office to gather strength and remember the lives lost at the mission and residential schools across B.C. This was also a day for survivors to be honoured.

Many T̓silhqot̓in members endured going to the mission and witnessed/experienced the abuse that happened there. Bringing these memories up again is triggering for many. Mental health supports were made available on this day in many of the communities as they too watched the press conference.





Housing & Infrastructure Training

TNG Housing & Infrastructure team wrapped up a successful Level 2 Carpentry training program in December 2022. One of the projects was to make a miniature sized door. In the pictures you can see Trevor Quilt reading the blueprint for the project and Duane Hink with the finished miniature door.

Chief Francis, Peyal and the TNG construction crew attended the Christmas lunch and student gift exchange to close out the program. Check out the awesome photo of the group above.

All the students graduated with high marks and we hold our hands up to them for the effort and commitment they have made to their Carpentry careers.

We are currently working with NVIT and Toosey Old School to hold a Level 1 Carpentry course this spring for those who have begun working in Carpentry without taking the Carpentry Foundation Program training. If you are interested in a Level 1 Carpentry course and have not already discussed this with Mercedes, then please reach out at 250-267-8164.



WHAT'S NEW WITH THE T̂SILHQOT'IN NIDLIN



WEBPAGE

Visit our webpage to learn more about the T̂silhqot'in Nidlin, upcoming community engagement events and how you can get in contact with us. We want to hear from you!

We want to learn from you!



WOW!!!
Our very first Tiktok ended up with over **9000** views! Stay tuned. More to come!

Videos



#T̂silhqot'inNationalGovernment

Our First T̂silhqot'in Nidlin Children's Magazine!



Meet Datsan Chugh (Raven) a curious, sweet natured, T̂silhqot'in girl who is inviting you to join her as she learns more about her culture, traditions and what it means to be T̂silhqot'in.

Datsan Chugh loves her family - even her little brothers who are extremely busy! She also enjoys being in nature, making crafts and all kinds of animals, especially horses.

Learn all about Datsan Chugh and her adventures along with T̂silhqot'in language, puzzles, stories and more in our very first T̂silhqot'in Nidlin Children's Magazine.

Our first print edition is projected to be available March 6, 2023.

WWW.TSILHQOTIN.CA/FAMILYWELLNESS



Tsilhqot'in Nidlin Engagement

Past events:

We've been busy and loving it!

Youth Envisioning Strategy Lakeside – December 5, 2022

Nidlin/Denisiqi Longhouse Engagement – January 17, 2023

TNG World Café Longhouse Engagement – January 18, 2023

Nidlin V-day Engagement Lakeside February 7, 2023

Tsideldel Winter Carnival – February 11, 2023

Coming up:


Youth Movie & Beading night

Pin Beading, Card Making, & Dinner @ Yunešitin

Traditional Values Gathering

Candle Making nights with Loni



 Community Engagement Coordinator: loni@tsilhqotin.ca

 Youth Engagement Coordinator: ethanhunlin@tsilhqotin.ca



WWW.TSILHQOTIN.CA/FAMILYWELLNESS



TNG STAFF REPORTS

Emergency Services

Written by Bev Atkins

The Nation Emergency Services Team welcomes three new staff to fill the vacant Emergency Service Coordinator positions. Please welcome:

Chantelle Paul

Chantelle is one of the new Emergency Service Coordinators recently hired for Emergency Services Program. Chantelle is from the Tl'etinqox community and was born and raised in Williams Lake. Chantelle's previous work experience includes working as a Medic with Unlimited Medical Services in Williams Lake. Chantelle worked as an Early Childhood Education for Little Moccasins daycare. Chantelle likes helping others, learning about her culture, language and helping the community, this is why she decided to join the TNG team.

When Chantelle is outside work you can find her spending time with family and friends walking, traveling, fishing, going to community events such as gatherings, skidoo races. She is very excited to be here at TNG and supporting our surrounding community's



TNG STAFF REPORTS

Emergency Services

Written by Bev Atkins

Kara Ware

Kara is one of the new members of the TNG Emergency Services Team, originating from Merritt, BC where she was born and raised. Her background in the emergency sector comes from the BC Wildfire Service where she was a member of the Vesta Unit Crew in Williams Lake. Prior to her start with the wildfire service, Kara earned a Bachelors of Human Kinetics from UBCO. Her education and training compliment the Emergency Services team as she is passionate about supporting community health from medical emergencies to natural disasters.

Apart from Kara's professional life, she can be found mountain biking on Fox mountain, hiking the local trails, exercising at the local gym and snowboarding at Troll mountain during the winter, or exploring the world of pottery at the local Arts studio.

She is excited to begin her career with the TNG and looks forward to supporting and engaging with communities in the future.



TNG STAFF REPORTS

Emergency Services

Written by Bev Atkins

Quinton Boyce

Bonjour!

Let's welcome, Quinton Boyce from Montréal, Québec. He has come all this way to Williams Lake to join our Emergency Services Team. After graduating high school Quinton joined the US Army where he was a Combat Medic Specialist. After serving a tour in the Middle East, Quinton found himself continuing his education, where he obtained a degree in Fire Science. Quinton then became a career Firefighter-Medic with the Rocky Mountain Region in the United States. Afterwards, Quinton pursued a career in emergency management and joined the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Outside of the office, Quinton can be found off-roading and making jokes to anyone who will listen. Quinton is excited to further progress the continued growth in the T̓silhqot̓in National Government Emergency Services as well as the growth in the T̓silhqot̓in Communities.



TNG STAFF REPORTS

Emergency Services - Nation Emergency Services Working Group

Written by Bev Atkins

The objective of this team is to work collaboratively to develop a nation level emergency program. This is the first meeting where the entire team met in person. The group spent two days at Echo Valley Ranch & Spa located one hour from Clinton, BC. A remote location and beautiful facilities provided for an excellent atmosphere for the team to immerse themselves in emergency management discussions.

The meeting objectives included finalizing the Terms of Reference and identifying how communities will work collaboratively to respond to emergency events in our nation. The meeting topics with an overview of the Wildfires Awakens Us Report, community updates, developing action plans and identifying the top three priorities for the upcoming year. A nation level Emergency Plan will be finalized by July 2023. This plan will include all six communities and the nation emergency team. This plan will identify community facilities, critical infrastructure and the contact information for emergency team members from each community. As the plan is being developed there will be information meetings in each community.



Craig Smith, Tony Trotman, Kara Ware, Crystal Verhaeghe (meeting facilitator); Rachel Brigham & Dwayne Emerson, Bev Atkins, Robert Cosma, Nicole Setah, Samantha Green, Quinton Boyce, Ashton Cooper, Chantelle Paul,

TNG STAFF REPORTS

T̓silhqot'in Impact Assessment Continued

Written by Cynthia Fell

The team has developed a number of information documents which have been shared with the Nation's leaders, and communities. The team has hosted a number of workshops and meetings, and conducted numerous interviews with the Nation's knowledge holders and staff. The team has sought advice from an External Advisory Committee of experienced EA/IA experts.

At the end of January 2023, the team facilitated 2 days of Workshops to bring together a number of Nation and community representatives involved in land management and social initiatives, including the Nidlin team and representatives from Denisiqi. Day 1 of the Workshop focused on reviewing the T̓silhqot'in IA Framework and Day 2 focused on Cumulative Effects and *Nenqay Detel?as̓* (how our *nen* changes and affects our cultural security).

Stay tuned for upcoming announcements on community and Nation engagement events.

For more information on this project check out TNGs webpage: <https://www.tsilhqotin.ca/impactassessment/>.



T̓silhqot'in Story Telling

Where: Denisiqi Services society

240B MacKenzie Ave N
Williams Lake BC

When: February 27th 2023

Time: 5:00pm - 8:00pm
(Snacks will be provided)



Hosted by:

T̓silhqot'in Ts'iqi Dechen Jedilhtan
Tsilhqot'in Women Council

If you want any questions please contact,
Doreen William - Grinder at 250 - 267 - 8283

COVID protocols in place, please stay home
if you are not feeling well





Urban T̓silhqot'in Deni

Information Session

VANCOUVER

1180 W Hastings St.

In the B Room of
the Coast Coal Harbour Hotel


Thursday, March 2 2023

6pm - 8pm

JOIN US FOR DINNER

And presentations from T̓silhqot'in
Leaders and staff about Nation initiatives

To RSVP or for a Zoom link, Please email Phillip Haller,
Philliphaller@T̓silhqotin.ca
or 778-799-2145 Ext 512



T̓silhqot'in
National
Government





T̂siyi Archaeology Presentation

Ridgeline Archaeology will be presenting on their archaeological findings to-date at T̂siyi (Bull Canyon).

By: Ridgeline Archaeology

Location: TNG South Lakeside Gym

Date: March 8th 2023

Time: 12-3 pm

Lunch: 12 - 12:30pm

12:30 - 1:30pm presentation

1:30 - 3pm Questions/Discussions/Showing of artifacts

