



Tsilhqot'in Nation Opens *Nexwenen Nataghel'ilh* Museum Exhibition in Vancouver

The Tsilhqot'in National Government announces the opening of *Nexwenen Nataghel'ilh*—a collaborative exhibition that opened on June 20, 2025 at the Museum of Vancouver (MOV)—that celebrates the Tsilhqot'in Nation's first major museum repatriation.

Developed in close collaboration with MOV as part of a broader exhibition, *The Work of Repair: Redress and Repatriation at the Museum of Vancouver, Nexwenen Nataghel'ilh* invites visitors to witness museum repatriation in action, following the return of over sixty Tsilhqot'in ancestral belongings from MOV in February 2024. This collection included many of the ancestors' *qats'ay* (coiled spruce root baskets), *tši-bis* (obsidian) stone tools, and a variety of other cultural objects which were held in museums or private collections for over a century, largely out of public view.

The exhibition features a looping documentary film about the repatriation, historical and contemporary photographs, a display of other objects actively in the repatriation process, and a collection of several contemporary forms of Tsilhqot'in artistry and craftsmanship. The title, *Nexwenen Nataghel'ilh*, translates from Tsilhqot'in to English as, 'we bring them (our ancestors) home to our land.'—reflecting on the understanding that these are not artifacts but living embodiments of the ancestors themselves.

The Tsilhqot'in National Government is grateful for the Museum of Vancouver—and especially Dr. Sharon Fortney, Senior Curator of Indigenous Collections—for their leadership and respectful, proactive approach to this important work. The exhibition will remain on display for approximately one year before traveling to other locations across British Columbia and beyond.

“Repatriation is more than bringing our belongings home—it's connecting to our ancestors, lands, and culture. Our youth see their ancestors' belongings and see the strength of our past, as well as our future. This exhibition represents the change needed

in museums around the world—working in relationships of respect, sharing the workload, and telling stories together. We are hopeful that this relationship sets an example for other museums around the world.”

—Nits’il?in (Chief) Otis Guichon, Tribal Chief, T̓silhqot’in National Government

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