

TNG Newsletter

Danch'iz 2025

Fall 2025



Tsilhqot'in
NATIONAL GOVERNMENT



Lhat̓'a̓?in Memorial

On October 26th, The Tsilhqot'in T̓'i'iqi Dechen Jedilhtan (Women's Council) were honoured to represent as Tsilhqot'in Matriarchs and stand with fellow Nation members and Leadership to strengthen connections, share stories, songs and honour our fallen Tsilhqot'in Warriors with our allies. The event was hosted in St'át'imc Territory in the community of Tsal'alh (Seton Lake) at the Sk'il' Mountain Community School, which is an hour past Lillooet, in a beautiful valley

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surrounded by mountains where stories and histories were shared and honoured. It was a powerful and enlightening memorial. Sechanalyagh to our kind hosts and to the TNG team for gathering us all in a good way to honour our ?Esggidam in a meaningful way.



T̓silhqot'in Leadership Advocacy in Ottawa

Tribal Chief Otis Guichon Sr., Vice-Chief Francis Laceese, Chief Roger William, Chief Dale Hance, and Executive Director Jenny Philbrick were in Ottawa the last week of November for a series of meetings with Federal Ministers and Indigenous leaders.

The Chiefs reunited with Minister Mandy Gull-Masty (Indigenous Services Canada), former Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees, to advance a range of issues to improve community safety and wellness, including Tribal Police, housing needs (both on-reserve and in urban areas), emergency management and creating educational opportunities for T̓silhqot'in closer to home, in our language, surrounded by culture.



Chiefs at the parliament buildings in Ottawa - Nov 24, 2025

The Chiefs met with Minister Rebecca Alty (Crown-Indigenous Relations) for the first time and discussed the leadership of the T̓silhqot'in Nation in fighting for Indigenous rights and title, and the path to reconciliation and recognition set out in the Gwets'en Nilt'i Pathway Agreement with Canada and British Columbia.

It was a powerful reunion with Minister Gary Anandasangaree (Public Safety), formerly the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations. The Chiefs and Minister discussed options to expedite a T̓silhqot'in Tribal Police program and caught up on the successes of the T̓silhqot'in Youth Ambassador Program, which Minister Anandasangaree has personally supported and mentored over the years.

In a meeting with Minister Joanne Thompson (Fisheries and Oceans), the Chiefs called for urgent action to address the ongoing risk to critical salmon stocks from further rockslides on the T̓silhqox (Chilcotin River), in the aftermath of the T̓silhqox Landslide in 2024.

The Chiefs explained the international significance of the T̓silhqox and Dasiqox watersheds as a “salmon stronghold” and one of the strongest ts'eman (sockeye salmon) runs remaining in North America.



Chiefs met with Minister Rebecca Alty - Nov 24, 2025



Chiefs met with Minister Gary Anandasangaree - Nov 24, 2025



Chiefs met with Minister Joanne Thompson - Nov 24, 2025

The Chiefs also met with National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak (Assembly of First Nations) to discuss issues facing Indigenous peoples across Canada, including the importance of free, prior informed consent as Canada and provinces push to expedite major projects on Indigenous lands. Finally, Matthew Coon Come (former AFN National Chief, former Grand Chief of the Grand Council of Chiefs) shared a meal and good conversation with the Chiefs, drawing on decades of experience with Indigenous-led economic development.

The Chiefs have now returned from Ottawa. Chief Roger managed to fit in one last event in Ottawa, attending a G7 reception as a guest of Minister Anandasangaree before heading home. A delegation of Chiefs returned to Ottawa in early December for the Assembly of First Nations Special Assembly.

Nexwechanalhyagh Chiefs, we thank you, for the good work representing the people and making sure our voices are heard in Ottawa.



*Chiefs with National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak
- Nov 24, 2025*



Chiefs with Matthew Coon Come - Nov 24, 2025



*Chiefs with Minister of Indigenous Services Mandy
Gull-Masty - Nov 24, 2025*



Community Session in Vancouver- November 6, 2025

Vancouver Community Update

On November 6th, the Tsilhqot'in Chiefs met with those Tsilhqot'in living in the Vancouver area. They shared information about the main projects that the Nation is working on while also sharing a meal.

The Nidlin (Children and Families) team also presented their work at the meeting. This was an amazing time for Chiefs to sit down and hear from the people and meet some new faces.

If you want to be notified about these meetings in the future, please email communications@tsilhqotin.ca



Community Session in Vancouver- Nov 6, 2025



Xeni Lulua, Joely Paul, Kaylee Jansen, and Chantu William, at the UN forum - November 26, 2025

T̓silhqot'in Youth Ambassadors at the United Nations

During the last week of November, a delegation of T̓silhqot'in Youth Ambassadors travelled to Geneva, Switzerland to participate in the United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights.

Chantu William, Xenia Lulua, Kaylee Jansen, and Joely Paul graduated from the TNG Youth Ambassador pilot program in 2024 and strongly represented TNG at the world's largest annual gathering on business and human rights. A supportive funding network has assisted and inspired T̓silhqot'in youth by

- Providing career and educational opportunities and hands-on training
- Participating effectively in human rights advocacy at the United Nations
- Developing tools to understand and address key challenges facing their own communities.

- Learning about international diplomacy
- Mentoring



Training and orientation session - Nov 24, 2025

Prior to the Forum, the team participated in a training session and an orientation to Geneva and the UN systems.

Kaylee Jansen prepared a short statement to deliver to the side event focused on Indigenous Women Human Rights Defenders. As part of her statement, Kaylee invited Indigenous matriarchs to participate in her TNG Matriarch Podcast.

Chantu William prepared a statement regarding the historic agreement to resolve the long-standing conflict at Te̓t̓an Biny by requiring the consent of the T̓silhqot̓in Nation for any mining activity in the area. She presented to both the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as well as to the Working Group on Business and Human Rights.

Youth met other leaders such as Ambassador Peter MacDougall and his team from the Canadian Mission to the UN in Geneva, the Chair of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, and leads for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

To close the entire UN Forum, Joely provided the final statement on behalf of the world's Indigenous Peoples Caucus. A proud moment representing the voice of T̓silhqot̓in youth, the Nation, and the human rights of Indigenous people globally.



T̓silhqot̓in Youth Ambassadors - Nov 26, 2025



Joely Paul speech at the UN Forum - Nov 26, 2025

“Despite claims by states and corporations of progress and of delivering on UNDRIP commitments, Indigenous Peoples continue to suffer widespread and systematic violations of our individual and collective rights...”

Joely Paul, UN (Nov. 2025)

Nexwechanalhyagh to our international guide Lea Mackenzie and to the funders who continue to support this impactful program. Your contributions ensure that Tâsilhqot'in voices are heard on the world stage.

A heartfelt thank you to our Youth Ambassadors. We are proud of your leadership, your courage, and the incredible work you are doing on behalf of the Tâsilhqot'in people.

Stay tuned for the next TNG Youth Ambassador Training and Intake in 2026!



Scan to watch Joely Paul's
speech at the UN Forum.

AUGUST 21, 2025

Tsilhqot'in Nation Education Strategy

Implementation Plan Budget



Mentorship for Grade 12 Capstone Projects

Tsilhqot'in Nation Government education team has partnered with Lake City Secondary to help the Nation's grade 12 succeed with their capstone project. We are all kinship, means we have the responsibility to make sure all Nation members have all the resources they need to succeed and it starts with creating a mentorship support system for our grade 12 students. We want to make sure Tsilhqot'in members, and all parents are fully informed about the capstone project to ensure our students have all the support they need.

The Capstone project is an opportunity for students to explore their hobbies or passions and take initiative to guide their own project topic.

We have mentors in the fields of:

- Communication
- Social media management
- Event planning
- Radio broadcasting
- Podcast recording
- Digitizing stories and language
- Language resource development
- Business management
- Entrepreneurial skills
- Event planning
- Project management
- ... and many more.

This project offers students a lot of freedom to learn about any topic and is meant to push them to expand their circle of support by requiring they work at least 10 hours with a mentor.

The project requires mentors to have knowledge of the topic chosen by the student and to be outside the student's circle of friends and family.

Guidelines for 2024–2025

All grade 12 students must complete a Capstone project to finish their careers education course and graduate high school. This year they made changes to the guidelines that restricts the maximum percentages students can get on their final projects based on how far students step out of their comfort zones and their choice in mentors. If their mentors are within their close circle of friends and family and the project was not fully led by the student they will be limited to a maximum of 70%, as you can see below in the school provided rubric.

Level 1: Developing	Level 2: Proficient	Level 3: Extending
Can earn up to 70%	Can earn up to 85%	Can earn up to 100%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Simple project *Often done in a short time frame (may not be 40 hours) *Multiple students might use the same mentor, or mentor may be a family member *Challenge level is low <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Learn to Drive *Do a project alongside a group of people *Do something at your job *Do something that is part of a class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Progress may be hard to measure *Is a project that has been done often or is done by multiple people in a year *Parts of project might be used for something else (ex. 4-H) *Challenge level is medium-low <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Coach a team (alongside an adult) *Fitness Plan/Gym gains *Cookbook *Research project *Career Capstone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Project has an observable impact *Mentor may not be known to student *Requires sustained work, 40+ hours *Project is somewhat original *Challenge level is medium-high <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Organize a community or school event or fundraiser *Do a <u>major</u> fix or facelift on a vehicle/recreational vehicle *Write a book/script/play/song *Learn to play an instrument *Create something new (crochet/knit/sew/woodwork/metalwork/leatherwork/visual art/graphic art) *Gardening *Renovation *Learn or do something new that is cultural

In partnership with Lake City Secondary School, we are working to help students with finding a mentor and ensuring no student is restricted to only receiving 70% on their project. We know many students want to learn about a variety of professions and passions but may not know anyone that can mentor them in that field. We created a list of TNG staff that have volunteered to mentor students within their areas of expertise.

Here are some examples from past students capstone projects presentation from the school website for better understanding of what is expected.

Lastly, a student chose to organize a fun run to support the BC Children's Hospital as his capstone.

If you have a grade 12 student interesting in our support to find a mentor for their capstone project, please contact Alexis Bornyk, Curriculum development Coordinator, at abornyk@tsilhqotin.ca. Our education team can help support the Nation's grade 12 student to enjoy their independent capstone projects.



Student completing a beautiful drum for his capstone.



Another student completes her regalia for her capstone.



A student chose to organize a fun run to support the BC Children's Hospital as his capstone.

TNG STAFF REPORT

HUMAN RESOURCES



Human Resources, Health & Safety, and Training Update Training

We are excited to share that Maddie and Kaylee successfully completed Indian Registry Administrator (IRA) training. This means that TNG will continue to be able to offer IRA services for all of our communities.

?Esdilagh HR Development

Our HR team has also been working closely with ?Esdilagh to support their Human Resources needs.

Level 3 Carpentry Apprenticeship Program

We have also begun planning a Level 3 Carpentry Apprenticeship Program, with the goal of launching in February 2026. This program will further support training and employment opportunities for apprentices across the Nation.

It has been a privilege to work together as they continue to build their internal HR processes.

Health & Safety Collaboration

Another highlight this season is the ongoing work between our Health and Safety team and Peninsula. Their expertise has been an invaluable resource, helping guide us through safety requirements, workplace inquiries, and policy improvements. We look forward to continuing this strong working relationship.



TNG STAFF REPORT

FLEET & FACILITIES



Team Highlights

Congratulations to Terris Billyboy, who has successfully earned her Red Seal Millwright certification! This is a significant achievement, and we are proud to celebrate this milestone with her.

Training & Capacity Building

The Fleet & Facilities team has been undergoing training to operate our new snowplow and skid steer, increasing our capacity to respond effectively to winter conditions.

We are already seeing positive results: after the first few snowfalls, all parking lots and sidewalks were cleared, salted, and sanded efficiently and on time.

This new capability supports cost savings, quicker response times, and greater flexibility for TNG operations.

New Equipment

With the addition of the new skid steer and its attachments, our team can now complete many tasks in-house that previously required hiring contractors. These tasks include:

- Snow Plowing
- Snow Removal and off-site Hauling
- Sweeping
- Loading and Unloading Trucks and Materials

If you believe this equipment could assist with other work around TNG or within the Nation, please contact Brett at 250-305-1808 for more information.

TNG STAFF REPORT HEALTH



Tsilhqot'in Nation Mental Health Crisis Team

The Crisis response team has just completed its second week of training. Currently the team consists of 7 members representing 4 of our Tsilhqot'in communities. Many of them already receive the phone call when a tragic event happens in their community, they have seen and felt the strain, they have been one of the front-line workers for those in need of help and support when a crisis arises.

The two weeks of training have enhanced their ability to address the unique challenges posed by traumatic events.

The participants have learned valuable insights into:

- Critical incident management
- Team connectedness and coordinated response
- Defusing and debriefing techniques
- Suicide intervention (ASIST) and SafeTALK
- Non-violent communication
- Trauma-informed response

Also, it is important that they understand just how important confidentiality and team member competencies come into play, recognizing burn out and selfcare.

Those that have worked so hard to see this project through to this point are excited about its potential, the vision of having a team that is rooted in our T̓silhqot'in communities and empowering community members to take an active role in crisis preparedness and response has now begun and will continue to propel forward in the new year. Appropriately the team will be called “We stand together” translated into T̓silhqot'in.



TNG STAFF REPORT T̂SILHQOT'IN T̂S'IQI DECHEN JEDILHTAN (WOMEN'S COUNCIL)



T̂silhqot'in T̂s'iqi Dechen Jedilhtan (Women's Council) at the Sk'il' Mountain Community School - Oct 26, 2025

Seasonal Highlights & Community Engagement

Danch'iz (fall) has come and gone. As Mother Earth prepares to lay down her white blanket to rest, we want to share some of the work the T̂silhqot'in T̂s'iqi Dechen Jedilhtan (TTDJ) has taken part in this season. This fall has been a time of gathering, strengthening connections, and carrying forward the important work of our Nation.

Throughout Danch'iz, the TTDJ dedicated time to strengthening relationships and representing women's voices across the T̂silhqot'in Nation.

Standing Together

We were honoured to participate in many significant events and initiatives, including:

- Orange Shirt Day (Sept 26)
- Nidlin Celebration (Sept 27)
- Deer Creek Soft Launch (Sept 29–Oct 1)
- TTDJ Monthly Meetings
- Salmon Ceremony in Nagwentled with the Governance Committee
- Leadership Forum
- Lhat̂'â?in Memorial (Oct 26)

Each gathering brought our people together, reminded us of our shared responsibilities, and uplifted the connections that guide our work as a Nation.

September Highlights

In September, the TTDJ continued to ensure women's perspectives were represented in key governance and cultural spaces. Our participation included:

- Band Administrators Meeting – maintaining strong communication and collaborative governance.
- Nidlin Celebration – honouring a significant milestone in the Nation's assertion of Children and Families Jurisdiction on September 30th.
- October provided opportunities for leadership, reflection, and remembrance:
- All Leadership Meeting – offering thoughtful input and perspectives to support decision-making for our Nation's future.



T̓ilhqot'in Ts'iqi Dechen Jedilhtan (T̓ilhqot'in Women's Council) deeply acknowledges the strength of those who have come forward to share their truths and experiences of sexual abuse and trauma. We stand in compassion and solidarity with all who have been impacted, including those carrying their pain in silence, and those who are not ready to speak or share.

As T̓ilhqot'in, we are guided by the teachings passed down through generations. We honour the **ʔalhʔats'edih** (*honesty*) that brings truth into the light; and **Ts'idanes Jid ʔelhelh deni ts'ilin** (*we walk united together*), **ʔelhelh ʔats'et'in** (*helping each other*), knowing that healing happens within interconnection and in the sharing of stories, burdens, and hope.

To the survivors from our communities: we see you, we hear you, your courage in speaking your truth reflects the strength of our ancestors and the spirit of our people. As we take these steps, we hold onto **xedaghezintan** (*the awareness of self and spirit*), that grounds us in who we are and where we come from. They are the roots and values that keep us connected to our ancestors and each other.

We honour both traditional and contemporary pathways to healing. We encourage a brush-down with sage, sweetgrass, or juniper, to smudge for healing. Return to the traditional **Nen** (*Land*), **Tu** (*Water*), **Qwen** (*Fire*), or the **Lady Rock** as this is ceremony to send prayers to the **ʔEggidam** (*Ancestors*). Please feel free to be guided by someone you trust and respect such as an Elder, Deyen or Knowledge Keeper.

With the support of the T̓ilhqot'in Nits'ilin Qì, we are committed to creating safer spaces for **all our people**.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

As a Nation, we encourage all those affected to seek support and healing.
ʔElhelh ʔatin ʔeguh nadet'i (*When we work together, we are stronger.*)

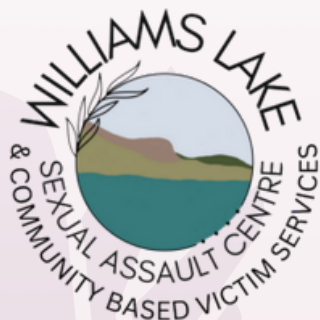
SUPPORT & CRISIS RESOURCES

Local & Provincial Services Available

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Here are local and Indigenous-led resources for support, healing, and justice.

Local Resources



CMHA Sexual Assault Center

(Williams Lake)
Tel. 250-398-8220
cariboo.cmha.bc.ca



Victim Services
(Williams Lake RCMP)
Tel. 250-392-8709
williamslake.ca/victim-services



Tl'etinqox Government Office
Community Justice & Victim
Support Coordinator
Tel. 778-267-3337
holly.tomczynski@tletincox.ca



All Nations Healing House
Tel. 778-417-0405
allnationshealingwl.ca



Williams Lake Indigenous Justice Center
Tel. 250-305-1880
bcfnjc.com/williams-lake



Yeqox Nilin Justice Society
Tel. 778-412-9536
yeqoxnilinjusticesociety.com

Provincial Resources



KUU-US Crisis Line Society
(For Indigenous people across BC)
Adults & Elders: 250-723-4050
Youth: 250-723-2040
Toll-free: 1-800-588-8717
kuu-uscrisisline.com

TNG STAFF REPORT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Entrepreneurship Summit in Vancouver - October 25, 2025

Expanded Support and Training Opportunities

Over the past quarter, the Entrepreneur Development team has made significant progress in expanding support, visibility, and training opportunities for current and aspiring T̓silhqot'in entrepreneurs. In collaboration with the Communications team, we promoted a series of successful workshops—including sessions on CRA, business funding, and grant opportunities—while preparing for major upcoming programs such as Aboriginal BEST beginning in January.

Community Outreach and Visibility

Our radio outreach continues to grow, with upcoming interviews that will highlight local entrepreneurs, training opportunities, and the services our department proudly provides. The business directory is also strengthening as we continue to add new artisans and businesses from across the Nation.

Youth Engagement and Skill Building

Youth engagement was a major highlight this quarter. Ten young members from multiple communities participated in the AFOA Youth Entrepreneur Summit, gaining valuable knowledge in leadership, branding, business planning, and financial literacy.

Internal Improvements and Mentorship

Internally, we strengthened our department's foundation by developing detailed tracking systems for participants, financial planning, and directory updates—tools that enhance coordination, transparency, and long-term planning. One-on-one mentoring sessions remained steady and meaningful, supporting entrepreneurs as they advance along their business journeys.

Looking Ahead

With new workshops scheduled, Bears' Lair confirmed for February 20–23, 2026, and growing interest in our programs, our department is building strong momentum. Overall, it has been a highly productive and inspiring quarter, and we remain committed to empowering and uplifting entrepreneurs across the Nation as we continue to grow.

Showcasing Indigenous Entrepreneurs

We are excited to feature Indigenous entrepreneurs on our radio podcast and social media. These stories will highlight their journeys and build awareness for their businesses within the wider community.



Business Funding & Financial Workshop - Sept 25, 2025

TNG STAFF REPORT

NIDLIN



Celebrating Our Jurisdiction and Our Law

The sound of bouncy castles and children playing, the smell of popcorn in the air, and powerful speeches delivered as rain fell like tears of joy, all while holding ice cream in hand. Those were the feelings and emotions that filled the day on September 27th, as we gathered as a Nation to celebrate T̓silhqot'in family jurisdiction and T̓silhqot'in law.

The event highlighted the power, autonomy, and resilience of the T̓silhqot'in people, while honouring the ongoing work to reclaim jurisdiction over our children and families.

What's Next? Implementing Our Jurisdiction

The T̓silhqot'in Nation is taking a careful and community-focused approach as we begin putting our law into action. This work includes:

- Forming an Implementation Committee of frontline workers and administrators to guide how our law is enacted.
- Establishing T̓silhqot'in Nidlin, a central organization designed to support communities.

- Collaborating with Denisiqi Services Society to coordinate services and strengthen partnerships.
- Developing training and guiding documents to assist communities with their prevention programs.

The strength of our people and the unity of our Nation will continue to guide us forward.

Introducing Our New Nidlin Nexwech'ed Yetiz?In (Executive Director)

My name is Chylane Diablo, and I am honoured to join T̓silhqot'in Nidlin as the Nexwech'ed Yetiz?In. I am T̓silhqot'in from Tl'esqox and Secwépemc from Xatsúll First Nation, and I am grateful to carry both Nations with me in the work I do.

My career has focused on Finance Management, Human Resources, and Nation Administration. Most recently, I served as the Chief Administrative Officer for Xatsúll First Nation, where I supported major governance initiatives and played a key role in overseeing prevention services and advancing the community's pursuit of jurisdiction.

Before that, I spent many years with the Secwépemc Child and Family Services Agency, where I gained a strong foundation in child and family support work.

These experiences shaped my passion for this field and strengthened my commitment to community-led, culturally grounded services.

I am deeply grateful and excited to be part of this journey for the T̓silhqot'in Nation.



TNG STAFF REPORT **STEWARDSHIP**



The Crisp Fall Days are Here...

and snow has begun to blanket the ground. With the change in seasons comes a shift in priorities. Field visits have wrapped up until spring, and our focus now turns to completing reports and preparing new funding proposals.

Busy Summer

It had been a very busy summer, and we are looking forward to visiting the communities now and joining in on all the activities that are taking place. It was so great to see the number of animals that had been taken for the winter supply on social media sites. Congrats to all that were successful in harvesting your deer and moose. Speaking of moose, I sure hope that we get a lot of snow and cold weather this winter so the Stratified Random Block Surveys (SRB's) can get completed this year so BC can provide the population estimates to us for review. As always, we will have either staff or community members join on those flights.

Ongoing Projects

There are several ongoing projects that the staff are working on, which you can read in more detail in their submissions. I will say that I am very proud of all the hard work that each and everyone within the Stewardship department is doing.

Staying Prepared for Winter

I'm going to keep this short and I hope everyone is stocked up on firewood and winter meat for this upcoming winter. Stay warm, drive accordingly and stop by for a coffee any time if you want to hear more on what's going on within the Stewardship department.

Until next time,

Luke Doxtator
Director of Stewardship

Written by Randy Billyboy

TNG STAFF REPORT FISHERIES



TNG Fisheries Team

Since our last newsletter update in September 2025

The TNG Fisheries Department has been busy throughout the fall, including the wrap-up of fall field work and the ongoing TNG-led response to the T̓silhqox Landslide. Here is an overview of our key areas of focus from late September to early December 2025.

SCENES FROM THE FIELD - Stock Assessment, Monitoring, and Research:

We successfully wrapped up our last annual stock assessment programs of the season in November, and our very busy 2025 field season is now complete. The highly skilled TNG Fisheries crew successfully carried out all annual stock assessment and monitoring programs to support the protection and recovery of all T̓silhqot'in salmon populations.

Uninstalling the Chilko SONAR:



Winston Bambrick (TNG Fisheries) with DFO technicians Shannon O'Brian and Nick Lopez uninstalling the Chilko SONAR in Oct 2025, marking the end of SONAR assessment for Chilko salmon populations for the 2025 season.

Uninstalling the Chilko SONAR:



Winston Bambrick, Hayden Grinder, and Terry Isnardy (TNG Fisheries) with DFO technician Mitch Thompson at Tsunnia Falls conducting the Chilko Ts'eman dead pitch program, which allows us to assess the sex ratio and spawning success of Chilko Ts'eman.



Winston and Hayden returning from a dead pitch survey on Chilko Lake.

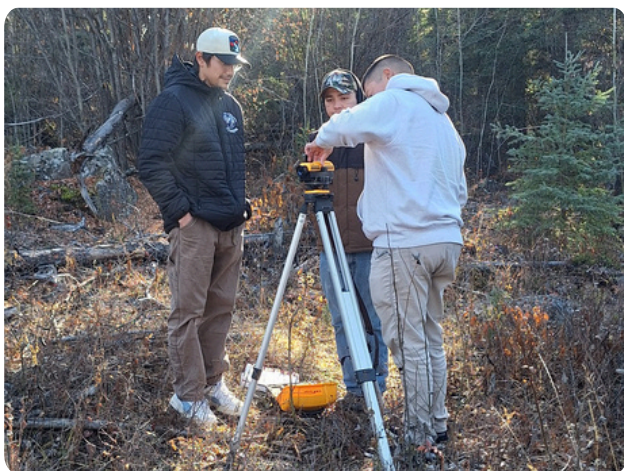


Terry training with Shay Mark (DFO) on how to take length measurements and scale/otolith samples from Chilko Ts'eman.



Winston, Hayden, Terry, and Damon Isnardy (TNG Fisheries) with DFO technicians at Canoe Crossing (Chilko River), wrapping up a day of sampling Chilko Ts'eman.

Territory-wide Aquatic Habitat Monitoring Program (Oct 20-23, 2025):



Winston training Terry and Damon on how to set up survey equipment in the Lower Chilcotin as part of the Aquatic Habitat Monitoring program. Terry and Damon were trained on various aspects of the program at key monitoring sites including the Upper Chilcotin, Lower Chilcotin, Chilcotin Lake, and Chilanko.



Winston and Terry taking a survey at Chilcotin Lake to take baseline measurements of water level, physical characteristics of the land and shoreline, etc.



Terry holding the survey rod to measure the water level in Chilcotin Lake.

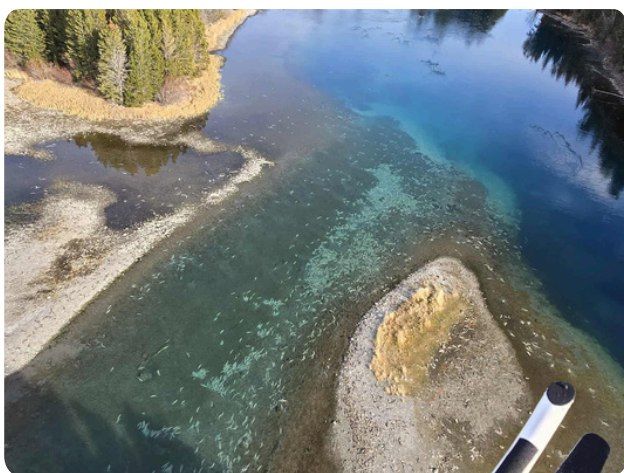


TNG Fisheries Coordinator Leonard English with Damon and Terry conducting a routine health inspection on the Lower Chilcotin water monitoring station to ensure it is functioning properly.

Coho Aerial Assessment (2 helicopter flights on Nov 6 and Nov 12, 2025):



Gerald William of TNG Fisheries in the helicopter getting ready to take off for the first coho aerial assessment flight on Nov 6.



Spawning coho salmon visible in the Chilko River during the second coho assessment flight on Nov 12 (900 seen during the first flight; 1300 seen during the second flight)

Pathway to a Permanent TNG Salmon Conservation Hatchery:

Developing hatchery capacity in T̓silhqot'in Territory is a long-standing Nation-wide priority. TNG began full operation of our smaller scale interim hatchery in 2023, and completed 2 highly successful years raising Chilko Ja̓.

TNG has been working with DFO over the last several years to develop a larger scale permanent salmon conservation hatchery in T̓silhqot'in territory (at Hanceville), which will be managed and operated by TNG. Establishing this permanent hatchery is a key milestone in advance our salmon rebuilding goals. Our interim hatchery has been decommissioned this fall to clear the area for the anticipated construction of the permanent hatchery, which may be ready in time for the fall 2026 season, or the following year.

In the meantime, Winston Bambrick (TNG's Junior Hatchery manager) and members of our team are conducting a range of training to prepare for future operations of the permanent hatchery.



The decommissioned hatchery site at Hanceville in Dec 2025 – ready for the permanent hatchery build!

T̓silhqox Landslide and the TNG-led emergency salmon task force update:

TNG and the tri-partite Emergency Salmon Task Force has continued to actively advance priority work on landslide response. The majority of critical field monitoring wrapped up in late September. Since the end of the salmon migration period, the Task Force has been focused on advancing proactive mitigation of rockfall risk at Farwell Canyon, that poses a threat to salmon passage, as well as salmon passage.

A series of analyses have found that:

- The risk of rockfall at Farwell Canyon is very high (“imminent”).
- This imminent rockfall will change the hydraulics of the system and pose challenges to salmon migration that are similar to the 2019 Big Bar landslide (a hydraulic drop that makes it difficult for salmon to pass at various flow levels).
- Environmental and biological conditions will impact how severely specific stocks will be affected.

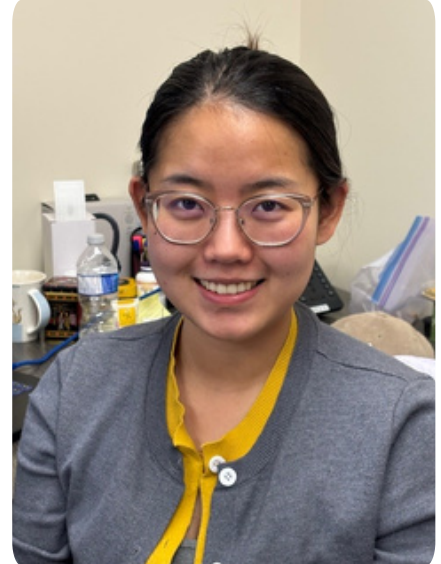
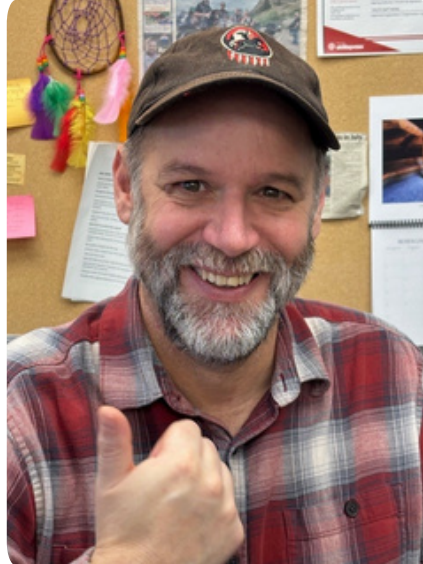
TNG and the Task Force have identified a feasible, affordable and effective proactive solution to the Farwell Canyon rockfall risk – BGC Engineering (an international consulting firm specializing in applied earth sciences, focusing on geotechnical and geoscience challenges for infrastructure) has provided a recommended option of manual scaling and trim blasting to remove the risk of rockfall in that area and thereby remove the risk to salmon populations and public safety (conducted during winter months when salmon are not in the system and the river bed is accessible).



Tension cracks at Farwell Canyon on Sept 13, 2025. A BGC Engineering report identified a high risk of hillslope failure and rockfall in the short-term due to erosion at Farwell Canyon. This is already a challenging area for salmon to pass, and a central fishing site for the T̓silhqot'in Nation. Rockfall poses a high risk of impediments to salmon passage past Farwell. (Photo courtesy of BGC Engineering)

TNG STAFF REPORT

GIS TEAM



Winter is in the air

Snow is falling, days are shorter, and for the GIS team, this is a welcome time to tidy up, catch up, and prepare for a new year of exciting projects. After a busy summer and fall, we're looking ahead with optimism and momentum.

Nexwenen Project Completion

Work to develop a Nexwenen submission has concluded just in time for Xuan to head off to visit family in advance of the Christmas break. She has put in a lot of extra time and effort to see this work to completion... for now. Congratulations on this difficult and focused work, Xuan. Maps and statistics have been delivered to the Nexwenen/Nen team for eventual submission in the new year. Well done team!

Housing and Wildlife Projects

Brent has been focussed mostly on Housing and Wildlife projects. In particular, he is seeing the compilation of house location and address data to completion in several of the communities. He has created a data layer in ArcGIS Online that can be shared with communities, consultants and internally for review. He has also forwarded address and house location data for several communities to Cariboo Regional District/NG911. What an accomplishment!

Wildlife work includes complex survey design for field data capture during collar retrievals (mortality investigations) and collar deployment (capture investigations). It is exciting (but challenging) work to be involved in advanced wildlife research.

Remembering Our Colleague, Mark Schnider

In November we had to say goodbye to our good friend and colleague, Mark Schnider. Mark was part of the GIS team for 4 years, and had been on leave for health reasons this past year. We will remember Mark as a champion of the fires, a green thumb in the office garden, a lover of gnomes, a patient, and a generous spirit.

TNG Portal (Version 3 Development)

Sarah continues to squeeze in testing and development of training materials for the new TNG Portal – Version 3. She has been meeting regularly with our developer to discuss fixes, and results of testing. Scheduling of training sessions has begun, and a strategy for migration is in development. We hope to be switched from V2 to V3 by end of February.



As of Oct 31st The count of submissions received by the TNG Stewardship Planning Portal is approaching Submission ID 30,000 (Oct 31 we hit 27063). This is a milestone worth remarking on. Amazing! The Portal has been an integral part of our referral process since 2007, and we are integrating it as a Nen Planning tool as well.



Tsilhqot'in
NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

Stewardship Portal

A few of the upcoming improvements include:

- A more map centric focus - Portal Version 3 opens on the mapview
- Being able to switch back and forth from form to map and vice versa
- Projects can be saved and shared - Groups of layers can be saved with custom styles (symbolology/queries), and extents for future map review without loading individual layers
- Searching by Area (loaded spatial areas), and map extent - Understanding what submissions you have permission to view in a certain spatial area
- Matching schema for uploading spatial data from multiple formats
- Drawing and editing spatial data for loading or analysis.
- Custom styles for layers
- General GIS analysis capability such as drawing, buffers, clip, intersections etc.
- New administrative tools for managing variables, content, holidays, and spatial layers (WMS)
- New task manager for managing work on submissions and assignments.

And so much more.

The Portal will continue to be the following for the Nation and communities:

- Have all the same custom designed forms and schemas that you are used to
- Documents Download for task specific help and training materials
- Easy to advanced search capabilities
- Intuitive, and step by step form filling format
- Open source technology and data sovereignty compatible - data lives on TNG servers not in the cloud, exercising jurisdiction for T̓silhqot'in information.
- Robust search, permissions and data structure model for strong security
- Proponent is responsible for data entry of land use referrals - removes administrative burden from TNG staff

Administration and use of the current Portal has taken dedication, commitment, as well as support of TNG management. Appreciation to Luke Doxtator for always championing and promoting its use, and Jessica Blaine for her constant and keen interest in improving use and learning. Thank you to our Developer, Scott Emmons, for designing and maintaining the Portal. Scott is the “Original”. Thanks also to Scott’s team of coders and administrators (Austin, Volker, and Aita) for many years of involvement. And finally thank you to all those that have contributed to its continued success by using it! Be proud! this is your system and will continue to serve the purposes of data management for T̂silhqot’in National Government Stewardship and Nen with and for T̂silhqot’in Communities.

Sechanalyagh,

Sarah, Brent, and Xuan.

TNG STAFF REPORT GOVERNANCE



Warm Holiday Greetings from the Governance Team

Dear T̓silhqot'in Deni

As the year draws to a close, the Governance Team sends our warmest, most heartfelt wishes for a joyful, memory-filled holiday season surrounded by loved ones. It has been an honour and privilege to work with you on our Dechen Ts'edilhtan (Constitution) throughout 2025. We are grateful for your trust in our team and excited for the meaningful Constitution work that lies ahead in 2026.

Looking Ahead

2026 will be a milestone year — the Nation's review of the very first draft of our written Constitution! We can't wait to share it with you and hear your thoughts. This is going to be an inspiring and exciting journey together.



Elders Meeting at Yunešit'in - Oct 30, 2025

2025: A Year of Guidance and Collaboration

This past year was truly outstanding. We are so thankful for the powerful direction you shared as we began drafting the Tâilhqot'in Nation's Written Constitution. From community engagements, urban sessions, the Unity Gathering, Elder meeting, and family meetings — every voice enriched this process. We were especially moved by the attendance and direction that you shared with us at the Unity Gathering (take a peek at the beautiful graphic art created by your wordsbelow!).



One of the most important and sensitive questions we've been exploring together is: Who is a "T̂silhqot'in Deni" in today's world? This conversation carries the weight of painful histories around "status" and "membership," yet there is strong, heartfelt consensus across the Nation that being T̂silhqot'in Deni has nothing to do with Indian status, band membership, or blood quantum.

From Your Voices, We Heard Clearly:

- T̂silhqot̂'in Deni are those with T̂silhqot̂'in ancestry.
- The list of who is T̂silhqot̂'in Deni must follow clear, fair, and transparent rules.
- Families and communities should always remain free to welcome and adopt whomever they choose — whether nenqayni or not — into their hearts and homes. However, that alone does not make someone T̂silhqot̂'in Deni. (We know this point deserves more caring conversation together.)

You also shared strong guidance about leadership and decision-making:

- Nits'il?in (Chiefs) must be T̓silhqot'in Deni — they carry responsibility for the land and the Nation, and they must truly know and be known by our people.
- Major Nation-level decisions belong to the T̓silhqot'in Deni, with Matriarchs, Elders, and youth playing essential roles at the table.
- There is clear consensus that the Nation neither opposes nor demands a single “Unity Chief.”

You told us the Constitution must be written first and foremost in the T̓silhqot'in language — and that it must be simple, clear, and accessible to everyone.

Looking forward

In 2026, we look forward to sitting with you and talking deeply about:

1. Dual citizenship: Can a T̓silhqot'in Deni also be registered with another Indigenous nation?
2. What should we name our written Constitution? Do any of these feel right?
 - Dechen Ts'edilhtan
 - T̓silhqot'in Elhelh Najidilhyah: The T̓silhqot'in Are Standing Together
 - T̓silhqot'in Cheh Nagwexiten
 - ?Esggidam Gubejeni Tegwedaghit'talh: We Hold Up/Carry the Words of Our Ancestors
3. What should the process be for changing the Constitution in the future?

Again, a huge Nexwechanalyagh to every person who shared direction, wisdom, stories, and laughter with us this year. You are the heartbeat of this work.

Wishing you a peaceful, warm, and love-filled holiday season and the happiest of New Years! We can't wait to see you in 2026.

With gratitude and respect,

The Governance Team.

