



TŜILHQOT'IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

Tsilhqot'in Nation meets with United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights

Nation excited to take efforts to international level

Williams Lake, BC: June 6, 2017: Last week, the Tsilhqot'in Nation met with representatives of the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights as part of a meeting hosted by Thompson Rivers University and Amnesty International in Williams Lake, B.C. The Tsilhqot'in presented to the Working Group on a number of issues, including government responses to the landmark *Tsilhqot'in Nation v. B.C.* Supreme Court decision in 2014, as well as specific issues related to the effects of business on the human rights of the Tsilhqot'in.

Pressing issues presented by the Tsilhqot'in included:

- lack of a participation agreement or consent of a Tsilhqot'in community for a major operating mine;
- ongoing struggle to protect Tsilhqot'in sacred sites such as Teztan Biny (Fish Lake) from major development proposals; and,
- impacts that the Mount Polley disaster had on Tsilhqot'in fishing rights and economy.

Quotes:

Chief Roger William, Xeni Gwet'in and TNG Vice-Tribal Chair:

"We have struggled to get our lands, waters, and rights respected by Canada and the courts. While we've seen advances in our lifetime, most recently the recognition of our land title, it is slow progress to change the attitudes of government and business. At this time the Province continues to disregard the fundamental human right of Indigenous peoples to free, prior and informed consent for development, and instead continues to push forward with projects that threaten the cultural survival of First Nations, such as the New Prosperity Mine proposal."

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