



## TŜILHQOT'IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

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### ***PRESS RELEASE***

#### **Tsilhqot'in Nation Commends Law Society of B.C. for Removing Begbie Statue**

**Williams Lake, BC** (June 3, 2016): The Tsilhqot'in National Government commends the Law Society of British Columbia for removing the statue of Judge Begbie from its lobby. The provincial government should do likewise and remove Begbie's name from all public places.

In 1864 Begbie wrongfully convicted six Tsilhqot'in War Chiefs of murder and sentenced them to death by hanging. In 2014 the B.C. Premier stood in the Legislative Assembly, with unanimous support from all political parties, to apologize for the wrongful arrest, trial and hanging of the six Chiefs and to fully exonerate them of any crime or wrongdoing, to the extent of the province's power.

#### **Chief Joe Alphonse, Tl'etinqox Government and Chair of Tsilhqot'in National Government:**

"The Law Society is right to admit to past mistakes and get rid of this monument to injustice and symbol of B.C.'s colonial past. The Tsilhqot'in Nation honours our War Chiefs Lhats'as'in, Biyil, Tilaghd, Taged, Chayes and Ahan for their courage and sacrifice. They were heroes who defended their territory and traditional way of life against a foreign aggressor. In this time of truth and reconciliation, Indigenous history and experiences can no longer be ignored."

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