



TŜILHQOT'IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

253 – 4th Avenue North • Williams Lake, BC V2G 4T4 • Phone (250) 392-3918 • Fax (250) 398-5798

PRESS RELEASE

Announcement of Dasiqox (Taseko) Tribal Park: Nexwagwez?an - 'there for us'

Tsilhqot'in Territory, BC (October 3, 2014): On October 4th, the Xeni Gwet'in and Yunesit'in Government, with the support of the Tsilhqot'in National Government, will announce the creation of the Dasiqox Tribal Park. The announcement coincides with a totem pole raising ceremony. Tim Paul, Nuuchahnulth world-renowned master carver, will be gifting the totem to the Tsilhqot'in Nation in honour of protecting the spiritual site of Teztan Biny (Fish Lake).

The Dasiqox Tribal Park is as an area that will be designed to address outstanding issues concerning land use management, open to feedback by the public, governments and industry until March 31, 2015. An influential inventory report of wildlife, ecological, and cultural/heritage values in the Dasiqox watershed written by renowned Wildlife Biologist, Wayne McCrory, identifies key species, such as moose, salmon, grey wolf, wolverine and the grizzly bear that utilize the Dasiqox (Taseko) corridor. The Dasiqox Tribal Park boundary connects the broader landscape to link surrounding protected areas including: Ts'il?os, Nunsti, Big Creek, Eleven Sisters and the South Chilcotin Mountains Provincial Parks. While an ecosystem based approach is indicative of the preliminary design, the Dasiqox Tribal Park is meant to be comprehensive, and therefore address cultural revitalization and economically sustainable livelihoods.

Quotes:

Chief Joe Alphonse, Tribal Chairman of the Tsilhqot'in National Government and Chief of Tl'etinqox:

"We are honoured to have Tim Paul present such a significant gift to our Nation. In the spirit of reciprocity, we value building the alliance with the Nuuchahnulth. Having this ceremony at Teztan Biny symbolizes our Nation's resilience, but also, we will be on hand to announce the Dasiqox Tribal Park, an area where we plan to design a management plan consistent with Tsilhqot'in values. It should be clear that this will be a process that we intend to undergo with local residents, business interests, and will flow simultaneously with our negotiations with the Province. It is an initiative that invites all parties to look at ways of working together creatively, but being mindful that Tsilhqot'in values ought to be respected first and foremost."

Chief Roger William, Chief of Xeni Gwet'in First Nations Government:

"As a Nation, we are entering into a new era where Tsilhqot'in Title exists and where new relationships can be fostered through consent. The William case that I have been a part of for 25 years was a response against industrial logging, proving that the values, laws, and history of our people are equally important and that the land must be managed in accordance to our perspective. The Tsilhqot'in decision, along with the resounding rejection of Taseko Mines Limited's "New Prosperity Project", demonstrates that our land ought to be protected, managed and used in a way that reflects our people's values and where we benefit – and Dasiqox Tribal Park is intended to address this."

Chief Russell Myers Ross, Chief of Yunesit'in Government:

“The announcement of the Dasiqox Tribal Park is a positive expression of governance in an area that remains highly important to the Tsilhqot'in people. As a means of building a future for the communities and Nation, our intention is to be visionary and bring forward solutions that are consistent to our people's value system and consistent with our law, coupled with Canadian and International law. There is an imminent path of conflict ahead if we do not chart an alternative vision. The gift from the Nuu-chah-nulth exemplifies 'creation' and it is our intention to share the experience and announcement of the Dasiqox Tribal Park and post-title reality as a new beginning.”

Media Contact:

Myanna Desaulniers
Communication Coordinator
Tsilhqot'in National Government
778-836-0122

Backgrounder:

McCrorry Report: <https://ssl.vsip.ca/~fonvca/media/pdfs/lowresDasiqox-2014FinalRevised-MPv7-Aug5.pdf>

For more information on the Dasiqox Tribal Park visit: www.dasiqox.org (launching October 4, 2014)