



T^{SH}ILHQOT'IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

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Media Release
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Tsilhqot'in Nation Celebrate Grand Opening of its Solar Farm

Williams Lake, BC: The Tsilhqot'in Nation celebrated the Grand Opening of its Solar Farm last Friday, October 18, 2019. The Tsilhqot'in Solar Farm is located 80 km west of Williams Lake on what is known as the Riverwest Sawmill. The 1.25-MW solar farm is the largest of its kind in British Columbia and is a hundred percent developed, built, owned and operated by the Tsilhqot'in Nation.

Five years ago, the opportunity to initiate the Tsilhqot'in Solar Farm presented itself. There were many challenges along the Tsilhqot'in Solar Farm project's lifecycle including financing, authorization, training and harsh weather conditions. However, despite all the challenges, the Nation has been dedicated to the project and the result is that this opportunity has now become a reality. The Tsilhqot'in Solar Farm consists of 3,456 solar modules that will convert the sun's rays into electricity which will then be sent into the BC Hydro grid and generate economic profit for the Nation. The Tsilhqot'in Solar Farm stands on 2 hectares of the Riverwest Sawmill brownfield awaiting the final connection to the power line that runs along Highway 20. Full operation will begin shortly with the solar farm generating about 1,500 megawatt hours of electricity per year during its 25-year expected lifetime.

Quotes:

Nits'il?in (Chief) Joe Alphonse, Tribal Chair, Tsilhqot'in National Government:

"The Tsilhqot'in Nation continues to break new ground with our Solar Farm, which is the largest in British Columbia. This is an important accomplishment for the Nation and I'm proud that our people have been involved in all aspects of the project from the planning and development to the, now operation of the Solar Farm. Energy and electricity has been lacking out in the territory for a long time, despite one of the longest stretches of hydro in Canada, so we welcome the opportunity for business and to improve the well-being of our people. The Solar Farm is a huge economic win for our Nation and I believe our Nation is continuing to lead the way for indigenous people throughout Canada and around the world. I especially thank Chief Russ for providing leadership on the project and his commitment to see it through."

Nits'il?in (Chief) Russell Myers Ross, Vice-Chair, Tsilhqot'in National Government:

"It was a pleasure meeting Michel de Spot of EcoSmart 5 years ago to kick start the project by scoping out what the possibilities were in the Tsilhqot'in. At the time, it seemed like an opportunity and I was happy to explore the potential of solar energy. There were challenging hurdles to get this project to the point of completion, but I am happy to see that the Solar Farm is ready to offer electricity to the region and provide revenue for the Tsilhqot'in Nation. This project is significant for our Nation because it involved all six Tsilhqot'in communities in some way and is the first project to generate our own source of revenue for our Tsilhqot'in organization and the community,

which is significant for our overall goal of self-sufficiency. Lastly, we are honoured to be recognized by Clean Energy BC and to receive the Community of the Year Award. ”

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