



MEDIA RELEASE

TŚILHQOT'IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

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CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 18, 2022

Tsilhqot'in and City of New Westminster Commemorate War Hero

New Westminster, B.C.: The Tsilhqot'in National Government, in partnership with the City of New Westminster, is commemorating the wrongful hanging of War Chief ?Ahan from the Chilcotin War of 1864/65. Today marks 157 years to the day since Nits'il?in ?Ahan was wrongfully arrested under a flag of truce and hanged in New Westminster.

Tsilhqot'in leaders have gathered in New Westminster along with members of the New Westminster City Council and other City officials to commemorate this day. In 2018, the City identified the need to assist the Tsilhqot'in Nation in memorializing Chief ?Ahan's execution. This annual event has provided an opportunity to recognize the injustice that took place and pay respect to the deep history of the Tsilhqot'in Nation.

On October 15, 2020, the Sister Community Memorandum of Agreement was signed between the Tsilhqot'in National Government and the City of New Westminster. The agreement recognizes and signifies the commitment between both parties to support one another.

Quotes:

Nits'il?in (Chief) Joe Alphonse, O.B.C, Tsilhqot'in National Government

"War Nits'il?in ?Ahan was the sixth Nits'il?in to be hanged by the colonial government at the time. 157 years wasn't that long ago. Our collective memory of the Chilcotin War has a very strong place in who we are as a people and our responsibility to further our rights and title. Nits'il?in ?Ahan was a hero working to protect his people from the wrongful taking of our lands and the threat of smallpox. We were here today to remember those sacrifices."

Mayor Jonathan Coté, City of New Westminster

"As the City of New Westminster continues to come to terms with our history, we are committed to meaningful reconciliation with local First Nations and the urban Indigenous community, as well as with Indigenous peoples affected by our colonial past. We're grateful to

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the Tsilhqot'in Nation for joining us on our path toward reconciliation. New Westminister is honoured to continue building our friendship with Tsilhqot'in Nation, which was previously formalized by the Sister Community agreement.”

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