



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 24, 2022

Lieutenant Governor makes official visit to Tsilhqot'in Lands

Williams Lake, B.C.: The Honourable Janet Austin, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, made an official visit to Tsilhqot'in Lands on August 17th, to meet with Tsilhqot'in Chiefs and community members.

The Lieutenant Governor visited the 30th annual Tl'etinqox Culture Camp, hosted by the Tsilhqot'in community of Tl'etinqox. The Lieutenant Governor participated in discussions with leaders and staff, met with youth, and participated in camp activities reflecting the enduring cultural practices of the Tsilhqot'in people.

In 2019, the Lieutenant Governor received an invitation to visit from Chief Joe Alphonse, O.B.C, the Tribal Chair of the Tsilhqot'in National Government. While travel was delayed due to the pandemic, the Lieutenant Governor's trip to Tsilhqot'in marks the first time a representative of the Crown in British Columbia has made an official visit to Tsilhqot'in lands since the declaration of Aboriginal title. Having established Aboriginal title for the first time in Canadian history, in a historic Supreme Court of Canada judgment in 2014, the Tsilhqot'in Nation is recognized for its leadership in advancing Indigenous rights around the world.

Quotes:

Lieutenant Governor of BC, Janet Austin

"Reconciliation is an important theme as part of my mandate as Lieutenant Governor, and thus I was deeply honoured to receive an invitation to visit Tsilhqot'in Lands. I was greatly inspired by the thoughtful and informative conversations had with Tsilhqot'in Chiefs and councilors. It is with humble gratitude that I was able to spend time with the remarkable elders, youth and leaders of this community."

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

"The story of the Tsilhqot'in – our history and who we are today – is one to be shared throughout B.C., Canada, and the world. Having the Honourable Janet Austin, representative of the Queen, visit and meet our people was something we have wanted to do for a while. This visit represents a positive shift from a history where it was denied that Aboriginal rights existed.

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Change is happening. We hope for more visits like this in the future as our stories and past become increasingly recognized by the world.”

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Link to photos:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/ixaqp24jtesypq37a35de/h?dl=0&rlkey=e9in9pyyip9kbbf139zofnmpv>

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