



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 25, 2022

T̂silhqot'in Nation asking Hunters to forgo LEH

Williams Lake, B.C.: The T̂silhqot'in Nation is asking that those with Limited Entry Hunt (LEH) moose authorizations stay home and forgo their moose hunt in the Tsilhqot'in (Chilcotin) Territory. Hunters that have been issued LEH authorizations from the province of B.C. should consider the impacts of their hunt on the local Indigenous population.

Over the strong objections of the T̂silhqot'in Nation, the Province has doubled, from 2021, the number of moose LEH authorizations issued in the Chilcotin region. This was done despite the Province's data showing the lowest levels of moose on the historical record. This data is based off stratified random block surveys that occur ever year to estimate population levels.

Moose feed our families and sustain our culture. In our lifetimes, moose populations have plummeted in the Chilcotin. Moose were once abundant, but in recent years T̂silhqot'in hunters are reporting too few moose on the territory to feed their families and communities. Many have chosen not to hunt moose out of deep concern for future generations.

B.C.'s decision to increase the LEH in T̂silhqot'in territory means that there will be less moose for T̂silhqot'in people to exercise their Aboriginal rights to hunt.

Quote:

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

"We have to take every action possible to keep our moose population from declining even further. LEH hunters need to stay home. They will not be welcomed in our territory. We haven't been properly consulted by the Province over these issues. A lot of our moose habitat has not recovered from the 2017 wildfires. Upwards of 80% of some of these areas have burnt and the large scale impacts of wildfire has not been resolved. Moose do not have the protection like they did before wildfire and extensive logging. Our people rely on moose meat to feed their families. Our households are predominantly low income, meaning a nearby food source is not only a constitutionally-protected Aboriginal right, but also an absolute necessity for healthy living. Now is not the time for LEH hunters to come here. We need to protect our food sources to protect our families and communities."

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