



MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 10, 2022

**Tsilhqot'in National Government Congratulates
Chief Joe Alphonse on Honorary Doctor of Laws**

Williams Lake, B.C.: The Tsilhqot'in National Government congratulates Nits'il?in (Chief) Joe Alphonse on receiving his Honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD) from the University of Victoria today. This Honorary Doctor of Laws degree recognizes the tireless fight by Nits'il?in Joe Alphonse and the Tsilhqot'in Nation to compel respect for Indigenous law, title and jurisdiction in Canada.

Nits'il?in Alphonse has been at the forefront of several historic moments for the Tsilhqot'in Nation. These milestones include the protection of sacred lands and waters at Težtan Biny from large scale mining interests, the recognition of Aboriginal title by the Supreme Court of Canada in 2014 for the first time in Canadian history, and advocating for Indigenous jurisdiction in emergency and land management.

History is not made in isolation. Nits'il?in Alphonse accepts this honorary degree as a collective recognition of the entire Tsilhqot'in Nation, and in particular the Elders, former leaders, members, and communities that have sacrificed and persevered through much adversity to protect Tsilhqot'in law, territory and way of life.

Quote:

Nits'il?in Otis Guichon, Vice-Chair, Tsilhqot'in National Government

"Nits'il?in Joe Alphonse has dedicated his life to fighting against the status quo. His knowledge of the Nation, the Tsilhqot'in language, and the people is something to be celebrated. Nits'il?in Alphonse has not only a wealth of traditional knowledge of our Indigenous laws, but also an inspiring way of applying these laws to the world today. We commend Nits'il?in Alphonse for the work he has done with the Nation and congratulate him on receiving this honorary Doctor of Laws today."

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Media Contact:

Myanna Desaulniers
Tsilhqot'in National Government
(250) 305-7885 or myanna@tsilhqotin.ca

D O W N T O W N O F F I C E

L A K E S I D E O F F I C E

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

1729 South Lakeside Drive
Williams Lake, BC V2G 3A9
Ph: (778)-799- 2145
Fax: (778)-799-2142