



MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 2, 2023

Tsilhqot'in National Government Releases Mining Policy

Williams Lake, B.C.: Today, the Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG) has released a mining policy that affirms its jurisdiction over mineral resources in its Territory, its responsibilities to protect Tsilhqot'in *nen* (lands and resources) for future generations, and outlines how responsible mining may occur in the Tsilhqot'in territory. The draft policy underwent public engagement in 2014 and has been in practice since that time.

The Tsilhqot'in Nation has created the mining policy to communicate and protect Tsilhqot'in values about *nen*, exercise and assert its Title and Rights to all its resources, provide greater certainty for mining and exploration companies, and ensure the meaningful participation of Tsilhqot'in in exploration. The first objective of the mining policy is to reduce negative impacts to Tsilhqot'in communities and the *nen*.

The Tsilhqot'in National Government is the governing body for the Tsilhqot'in people. The Tsilhqot'in Nation is comprised of six communities located throughout the Tsilhqot'in (Chilcotin) territory and is the only Nation in Canada with a court declaration of Aboriginal title (*Tsilhqot'in Nation v. British Columbia*). Since 2014, the signing of the [Nengay Deni Accord](#) and the [Gwets'en Nilt'i Pathway Agreement](#) have supported Tsilhqot'in efforts to secure recognition of its jurisdiction to *nen* and have enabled a growing capacity to steward and manage Tsilhqot'in Territory.

Quote:

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

"The Tsilhqot'in Nation has a long history of mining that goes back to the lucrative trading of obsidian rock from Anaheim Peak. The Tsilhqot'in mining policy outlines what must happen for mining and exploration to be considered by the Nation. Our work over recent years to develop a policy is reinforced by the recent victory by Gitxaana Nation and Ehattesaht First Nation to overturn B.C.'s mineral staking system that was based on a complete denial of Indigenous rights B.C."

"We know the importance of minerals to the global economy but nothing is more important to life and the environment that sustains it. The pandemic has shown us that we can adapt quickly with the right leadership. As we adapt to reduce the impacts of the climate crisis there *will* be increased pressure to access minerals. But let it be clear, exploration and extraction in our territory will not happen without our participation and agreement."

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TŚILHQOT'IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

More Information:

- TNG Mining Policy: <https://www.tsilhqotin.ca/mining-oil-gas/>

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