



BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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NEWS RELEASE

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BCAFN CONGRATULATES THE TSILHQOT'IN NATION AS THEY FORGE A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH CANADA

(Lheidli T'enneh Territory, Prince George, BC – Nov. 2, 2018) – The British Columbia Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) would like to congratulate the people of the T̓silhqot'in Nation as they honour the truth to forge a new relationship with Canada. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau joins the T̓silhqot'in people in a healing event held today recognizing six T̓silhqot'in War Chiefs as heroes. The ceremony will acknowledge the wrongful hanging of the six T̓silhqot'in war chiefs in 1864 and 1865. Five chiefs were imprisoned, tried and executed in October 1864 after accepting an invitation to discuss terms of peace to end the Chilcotin War. A sixth chief was hanged the following year.

Through mutual agreement, the T̓silhqot'in, the province of BC, and Canada have come together to address the significant rift between them and begin the work that must occur around a troublesome history of injustice, misrepresentation and lack of recognition of First Nations people within the T̓silhqot'in territory and the nation.

The BCAFN fully support the T̓silhqot'in in their fight for justice for their ancestors and leaders. In order for justice to occur today, we must acknowledge the past where no justice was afforded to the six chiefs who were wrongfully murdered for simply protecting their people and territory. Canada must reconcile it's horrible past and the injustices towards indigenous peoples of Canada. In order for true reconciliation to occur Canada must rectify past wrongs.

"We honour the six Chiefs who lost their lives for protecting their people, we hold our hands up to the T̓silhqot'in Chiefs today for continuing to fight for justice for their Chiefs," states Regional Chief Terry Teegee.

This is the first time in history a Canadian Prime Minister has visited the T̓silhqot'in Territory and he will be there to address the T̓silhqot'in people as he clears War Chiefs of any crimes. Earlier this year in March Trudeau stood in up in Parliament and apologized to the T̓silhqot'in Nation and exonerated the Chiefs.

For further information, contact:

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