

## Tsilhqot'in Ruling

- On June 26, 2014, the Supreme Court of Canada awarded Aboriginal title to the Tsilhqot'in Nation to 1,700 km<sup>2</sup>, in the Nemiah Valley west of Williams Lake. **Privately owned lands and lands submerged by water were not included in the declaration.**
- In the legal case, Roger William, Chief of the Xeni Gwet'in Band, claimed Aboriginal title (on behalf of the Tsilhqot'in Nation) to approximately 438,000 hectares west of Williams Lake, as defined by the band's registered trap line and an area described as the Brittany Triangle, bounded by the Chilko and Taseko Rivers and Nemiah Valley.
- The ruling is the first declaration of Aboriginal title in Canada. The B.C. government has been working with the Tsilhqot'in to effectively transition the title lands to Tsilhqot'in management, benefit and control, while engaging with other stakeholders on their interests in the title area.
- The declaration raised new and complex questions about the Crown's relationship with First Nations. Since the decision, the B.C. government has been working with the Tsilhqot'in towards greater reconciliation.

## OTHER COURT DECISIONS THAT HAVE ADDED TO OUR UNDERSTANDING OF ABORIGINAL TITLE

