



## *Nenqay Deni Accord*

# LETTER OF COMMITMENT

On February 11, 2016, the Tsilhqot'in Nation and British Columbia signed the historic *Nenqay Deni* (the People's) Accord.

The Tsilhqot'in view the ʔEsggidam (ancestors) as an embodiment of strength, health and a good mind. The Tsilhqot'in vision is to ensure that the future children are fully supported through the generations to reflect their ancestral teachings and examples of a good life—the Accord is one step on that path. For both parties, the Accord is an effort to move beyond a long history of conflict, and to chart a new and better future with the Tsilhqot'in as true partners in the social, political and economic life of British Columbia, for the benefit of all.

Today, we renew our commitment to the *Nenqay Deni* Accord and our shared goal of achieving true and lasting reconciliation for the Tsilhqot'in Nation and British Columbia.

Our work has only begun. In recent months, the Government of British Columbia has committed to implement

- ◆ the *Tsilhqot'in Nation* decision of the Supreme Court of Canada,
- ◆ the United Nations *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, and
- ◆ the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

These commitments breathe new urgency and purpose into the *Nenqay Deni* Accord. Going forward, our shared goal is to turn these commitments into *action*—at each of the five Accord Sub-Tables and for each of the eight “Pillars of Reconciliation” that support the *Nenqay Deni* Accord.

Working together, we will make sustained, substantive progress towards:

- ◆ a true government-to-government relationship, based on the shared goal to reconcile our respective jurisdictions, governance, laws, values and responsibilities;
- ◆ healthy and strong Tsilhqot'in children, families and communities, grounded within culturally appropriate support systems, programs and governance;
- ◆ Tsilhqot'in language fluency across generations, as a prime indicator of a healthy and flourishing Tsilhqot'in culture;
- ◆ reduced conflict over lands and resources by co-developing structures and processes that support consensus outcomes reflecting the principle of free, prior informed consent under the U.N. *Declaration*;
- ◆ support for Xeni Gwet'in and the Tsilhqot'in Nation with the practical challenges of transitioning the management, benefit and control of the Declared Title Area to the Tsilhqot'in Nation; and
- ◆ eliminating the socio-economic gap faced by the Tsilhqot'in communities and securing a central role for the Tsilhqot'in and other nations as partners in the regional economy.

We recognize that Canada has a critical role in reconciliation and we will work together as appropriate to engage Canada in this important work. We recognize, as well, that the rights and interests of other First Nations under section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982 must be acknowledged and respected at every stage. Nothing in this letter, or the Accord itself, detracts from the duties of the Crown or the Tsilhqot'in in this respect, which we hold in the highest regard.

It is time to turn commitments to action.

We direct the Accord Working Group to renew its efforts in support of the Leadership Table, empowered by this letter of commitment, working expeditiously to renew work and budget plans, and to secure the stable and predictable funding committed to in the Accord. To support continued progress the Province agrees to identify a representative from the Premier's Office to work with the Working Group as needed to ensure Accord work reflects and feeds into Provincial level commitments.

The Leadership Table will regularly monitor progress and drive the fundamental change mandated by the *Nenqay Deni* Accord and this letter of commitment.

Undoubtedly, this is challenging work, but there is a tremendous opportunity here for healing, and to build a better, stronger, more inclusive British Columbia, if we can truly come together as partners and break new ground for the benefit of the generations to come. Let's get to work.

ON BEHALF OF THE TSILHQOT'IN NATION:

ON BEHALF OF THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA:

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NITS'IL?IN (CHIEF) JOE ALPHONSE  
Tribal Chairman – Tsilhqot'in National Government  
Tl'etincox Government Office

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HONOURABLE JOHN HORGAN  
Premier of British Columbia