



## ***PRESS RELEASE***

### **Introducing the Nexwagwez?an: Dasiqox Tribal Park Position Paper**

**Tsilhqot'in Territory, BC** (June 30, 2016): The Dasiqox Tribal Park released a position paper to the public today as a catalyst for discussion and consultation.

The Dasiqox Tribal Park or Nexwagwez?an, meaning 'there for us' in the Tsilhqot'in language, is an expression of governance initiated by the communities of Xeni Gwet'in and Yunesit'in and supported by the Tsilhqot'in Nation. The project was announced on October 4, 2014 and since then planning has been underway.

The intent of Dasiqox Tribal Park, outlined in today's release, is to establish a management plan and activities based on Tsilhqot'in laws and values that address three key priority areas: i) ecosystem stewardship, ii) sustainable economic livelihoods, and iii) cultural revitalization. The geographical area is one of great importance for habitat protection as it serves as a wildlife corridor between established protected areas including Tsil?os Provincial Park and Big Creek Park.

#### **Quotes:**

#### **Roger William, Vice-Chair of the Tsilhqot'in Government and Chief of Xeni Gwet'in:**

"Nexwagwez?an is a place that we value as Tsilhqot'in people. The Xeni Gwet'in and Yunesit'in Governments present this Position Paper to begin discussion. We present it as a path towards reconciliation. In many of our internal discussions we are trying to understand what reconciliation means and how we will live on our territory with the Crown. This is our attempt to acknowledge the history of dispossession, exclusion, displacement on reserves, and the removal of children to residential schools and ultimately set forth a new course. This new reality is meant to create a vision post-Title, post-Prosperity. It is our responsibility to respectfully create a new path forward."

**Chief Russell Myers Ross, Yunesit'in Government:**

“The purpose of this Position Paper is to highlight the first step of our process to gain feedback from our Tsilhqot'in communities and the public. It provides rationale and reiterates the main themes of our collective approach. Simply put, the underlying message is that we will participate on our land-base and we are taking steps to address how we will do that, which is fundamentally from our laws and values. In the coming months we will continue to make efforts to seek dialogue and update people throughout the process.”

**Additional Resources:**

Dasiqox Tribal Park: <http://www.dasiqox.org/>

**Media Contacts:**

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