

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 23, 2018

DASIQOX TRIBAL PARK COMMUNITY VISION DOCUMENT RELEASED
Yunešit'in and Xeni Gwet'in inviting public comments until July 31

Williams Lake, B.C. – The [Yunešit'in Government](#) and [Xeni Gwet'in First Nations Government](#) released the Dasiqox Tribal Park Community Vision & Management Goals summary document for public review and comment today.

The document reflects the Xeni Gwet'in and Yunešit'in's community vision and priority goals for each of three aspects of the Tribal Park: ecological stewardship, sustainable economic development and cultural revitalization. Many Tšilhqot'in community members have contributed to these plans to date, and now the document is being shared with the broader community and general public for feedback.

In October 2014, the [Xeni Gwet'in First Nations Government](#) and [Yunešit'in Government](#), supported by the [Tšilhqot'in National Government](#), announced their intention to establish a new tribal park – called Dasiqox, or Nexwagwez?an (“there for us”) – in the traditional Tšilhqot'in territory about 125 kilometres southwest of Williams Lake, B.C. The area includes about 300,000 hectares of wilderness and wildlife habitat, and borders a number of existing parks and protected areas.

The community vision release comes the same day that Taseko Mines Ltd. and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) are in BC Supreme Court arguing whether the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* prohibits Taseko from carrying out its massive planned drilling program in the area.

In July 2017 – on the last day of office for the former BC Liberal government and while wildfires tore through the Tšilhqot'in region – the BC Ministry of Energy & Mines approved a permit for Taseko to carry out a massive drilling program at Težtan Biny (Fish Lake) and Nabas, located within the proposed Dasiqox Tribal Park area. The stated purpose of the permit is to advance the New Prosperity Mine, despite the fact this project was rejected twice by the Government of Canada in 2010 and 2014, and cannot be built as matters stand. The CEAA responded with the legal action proceeding today. If CEAA is successful, federal law will bar Taseko from carrying out the drilling program. However, if Taseko succeeds, the company says it plans to proceed with its drilling program at Težtan Biny and Nabas — once again posing potential impacts to this area of such profound cultural and spiritual importance to the Tšilhqot'in people.

The [Community Vision & Management Goals summary document](#) is available on initiative's website at [dasiqox.org](#). Comments, questions and feedback will be accepted on the community vision document until July 31, 2018. The feedback received will be incorporated into a management and implementation plan for the Dasiqox Tribal Park.

Public questions and comments about the community vision can be sent to info@dasiqox.org. For more information, or to sign up to the email list to stay informed on plans and next steps, visit [dasiqox.org](#).

QUOTES

Chief of Yunešit'in Government, Russell Myers Ross:

"The Vision document is an expression of our communities' aspirations for the Dasiqox Tribal Park. The Dasiqox Tribal Park is meant to be guided by Indigenous values, laws and leadership. Showcasing this vision as an alternative to the current regime remains our intent. Enduring through conflicts, such as the ongoing struggle to protect Teztan Biny, demonstrates the need to have conversations around land use. As a basis, our Nation has lived in this region for generations and it is our responsibility to give shape to the way our lands will be managed, take control of the economic livelihoods and continue to heal collectively as a people through cultural revitalization."

Chief of Xeni Gwet'in First Nations Government, Jimmy Lulua

"The Dasiqox Tribal Park is a tangible expression of reconciliation that provides the Tšilhqot'in with a historic opportunity to redefine our relationship with our non-Tšilhqot'in neighbours in the region. This document helps to more clearly define, both for the Tšilhqot'in and the broader community, what our proposed community vision for the area will be."

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