



## T̓SILHQOT̓'IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

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Media Release  
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### **T̓silhqot̓'in Delegation Attending the United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights in Geneva**

**Geneva, Switzerland:** Leaders and Representatives from the T̓silhqot̓'in Nation are attending the 8<sup>th</sup> United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland from November 25 -27, 2019 to share the T̓silhqot̓'in journey and advocate on behalf of all the T̓silhqot̓'in people and for the human rights of Indigenous peoples around the globe.

The T̓silhqot̓'in journey began back in 1864/1865 when six T̓silhqot̓'in War Chiefs met for peace talks, under a flag of truce and were deceived, wrongfully arrested and hanged. The execution of these six T̓silhqot̓'in War Chiefs motivated the T̓silhqot̓'in to seek justice for our people, and after 25 years in the Canadian court system, the T̓silhqot̓'in Nation established Aboriginal title, for the first time in Canadian history, to a portion of the T̓silhqot̓'in homeland. This decision is known as the "T̓silhqot̓'in Decision".

Despite this landmark victory, the T̓silhqot̓'in are still compelled to fight every day to protect their way of life and their human rights as Indigenous peoples, including over a decade of court battles, regulatory hearings and peaceful actions to protect the sacred lands and waters at Teẓtan Biny from proposed mining activities.

The T̓silhqot̓'in Nation chose to travel to Geneva to attend the Forum on Business and Human Rights to highlight the need for free, prior informed consent as a fundamental condition of business and to join Indigenous peoples around the world in calling for the implementation of the UN *Declaration on Indigenous Peoples*.

#### **Quotes:**

#### **Nits'in?in (Chief) Otis Guichon, T̓sideldel First Nation**

"The 8<sup>th</sup> Forum on Business and Human Rights is an opportunity for us to take our story and advocate on behalf of our people at the international level. The T̓silhqot̓'in understand first-hand the challenges for Indigenous communities around the world and the fight that exists to have our rights recognized and respected. The T̓silhqot̓'in have won rights and title in Canadian courts, and now we are working every day for the safety, the way of life, and the human rights of our families and communities. We are headed to Geneva to share our experience, learn from others, and to hold business and governments accountable for respecting our human rights as Indigenous peoples."

**Nits'in?in (Chief) Francis Laceese, Tl'esqox First Nation**

“Our story is a global story. Our struggle is shared by Indigenous peoples across Canada and around the world. As Indigenous peoples, we all hold the freedom, the jurisdiction and the rights to care for our lands and waters and benefit from our homelands in the ways of our ancestors. It is important that the truth of Indigenous peoples around the world is heard. That is why we are attending the Forum on Business and Human Rights, because governments and business need to start recognizing our jurisdiction and our rights to free, prior informed consent or the conflicts with Indigenous peoples will continue.”

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Please be aware that the delegation will have a window of time to take media calls while in Geneva due to the Central European Time (CET) zone.