

Tahltan Central Government Shines on the World Stage

DEASE LAKE, BRITISH COLUMBIA, JUNE 17, 2022 – The Tahltan Central Government (TCG) was involved in marking another key moment on its journey advocating for Tahltan jurisdiction, title, rights, and sovereignty on the world stage. President Chad Norman Day attended this year's Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) Conference in Toronto, Ontario. Celebrating its 90th year in 2022, PDAC is regarded as one of the world's premier mineral exploration and mining conventions.

President Day was accompanied by a Tahltan delegation of representatives from the TCG's staff, the Tahltan Nation Development Corporation (TNDC) and, for the first time ever, a cohort of sixteen Tahltan youth. This was an opportunity for Tahltan Youth to experience and learn first-hand about some of the opportunities available to them in Tahltan Territory, and to witness the TCG and TNDC discussing Tahltan best practices, successes, challenges, and the beginning of a new era of legally recognized consent-based decision-making in Tahltan Territory. The historic consent-based decision-making agreement signed between the Tahltan Nation and the Province of British Columbia earlier this month marks the first application of Section 7 of B.C.'s Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.

President Day led two keynote addresses during the conference. The first was speaking on "Free, Prior and Informed Consent: Navigating the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples." The second panel, joined alongside TNDC CEO, Paul Gruner, discussed "Empowering Indigenous Entrepreneurs: Increasing Industry Participation Through Procurement, Employee Training and Retention." President Day met with all of the major mining companies in Tahltan Territory and emphasized the need to work together to hold the Province accountable for investing more of the resources generated in Tahltan Territory into northern priorities like wildlife and fisheries management, health and safety issues, infrastructure, and better roads and highways. The Tahltan Youth, stemming from five different provinces and territories, were also welcomed into meetings and other events with several Tahltan Nation partnerships.

TCG's Lands Director, Nalaine Morin, has also been highlighted in this year's online PDAC conference, which will be held from June 28th to 29th, 2022. She will be discussing Indigenous cultural awareness and how traditional values, teachings, and knowledge have influenced the mineral industry, and contributed to the successes of the Tahltan Nation.

"The Tahltan Nation is leading the way forward on the journey of reconciliation and recognition of Indigenous title and rights, not just in British Columbia but on the world stage at PDAC," said President Chad Norman Day. "I was honoured and proud to bring along so many outstanding and passionate youth with us this year. TCG and TNDC worked together to empower and include our young people, and I thank them for representing our Nation in a good way. I am so happy to have spoken and shared our story and future priorities with leaders in the mining industry, government, and other Indigenous groups from around the world. Mēduh to all those who made this possible and to all of the Tahltan delegates who joined us on this memorable experience."

ABOUT THE TAHLTAN NATION

The Tahltan Central Government (TCG) is the administrative governing body of the Tahltan Nation. The Iskut Band and the Tahltan Band govern Tahltan interests with respect to the Indian Act in the communities of Iskut, Dease Lake and Telegraph Creek. The TCG is the representative government of the Tahltan Nation with respect to the inherent and collective Aboriginal title and rights shared by all Tahltan people.

The Tahltan Nation's Territory spans 95,933 square km of Northwest British Columbia or the equivalent of 11 per cent of the province. Tahltan Territory includes 70 per cent of BC's Golden Triangle – a world-class mining jurisdiction with a thriving mineral exploration sector. For more information, visit: www.tahltan.org.

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