



Tahltan Central Government and School District 87 Collaborate to Offer Annual International Trip for Dease Lake Graduates

DEASE LAKE, BRITISH COLUMBIA, 24 November 2022 - President Chad Norman Day of the Tahltan Central Government (TCG) and multiple TCG Departments will be working closely with School District 87 (SD87) to bring this year's graduating class on an international trip to Peru. The opportunity will be offered to students in the summer of 2023 for those who have successfully graduated. Dease Lake School is the only high school in Tahltan Territory, bringing together future graduates from the communities of Telegraph Creek, Dease Lake and Iskut. The TCG will utilize the Dease Lake Community Funds set aside from industry-related Impact Benefit Agreements, along with additional fundraising efforts and sponsorships from Industry, to cover the costs for the trip.

Peru was selected for its rich Indigenous culture and heritage, as well as its mining economy which draws unique parallels to Tahltan Territory. Events planned for the trip will include touring Machu Picchu and the unique history of the Inca Civilization in the Peruvian Andes which was once the capital of the Inca Empire. Mining companies who conduct business in both Tahltan Territory and Peru will also be visited in Lima, and the students will help craft additional adventures on their trip. Chaperones accompanying the graduates will include representatives from the TCG and SD87. TCG intends to offer and help plan additional international trips to Dease Lake graduates, with plans to explore other destinations across the globe.

"Our Youth are the future stewards of our Tahltan lands and people, and the TCG has been steadily creating additional initiatives to expose them to new opportunities within British Columbia, Canada, and now internationally," said Chad Norman Day, Tahltan Central Government President. "The students in Tahltan Territory and their families play an important role in maintaining our title and rights through their ongoing occupation of our homeland. The TCG and I made a commitment to establish annual trips for our local graduates which will broaden their horizons and open their minds to different possibilities. Our TCG Team is excited to collaborate with School District 87 to provide our graduates with an opportunity to visit a beautiful country rich in natural resources and Indigenous cultural heritage, much like our own."

Tracey MacMillan, Superintendent, SD87, stated that "this collaboration with the TCG will serve as a further lever to remove barriers to education. The graduates will benefit greatly from this experience. It will expose them to other opportunities and views that they can bring back to their communities. It will enable growth and capacity building. Consequently, we are appreciative of the efforts of the TCG."

ABOUT THE TAHLTAN NATION

The Tahltan Central Government is the administrative governing body 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. For more information, visit: www.tahltan.org.

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