



TŚILHQOT'IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

Tsilhqot'in Nation Endorses Miles Richardson for AFN National Chief

Williams Lake, BC: July 24, 2018: The Tsilhqot'in Nation is endorsing Haida Citizen Miles Richardson as National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN). The AFN election will take place in Vancouver on July 25.

The Tsilhqot'in Nation's decades of commitment and perseverance to advance its Aboriginal title and rights claim through Canada's legal system, culminating in the 2014 Supreme Court of Canada "*Tsilhqot'in Decision*", has resulted in changing the playing field for all First Nations in Canada.

The current NDP Provincial Government has prominently included the *Tsilhqot'in Case* in the mandate letters to Cabinet Ministers as well as included it in their 2017 *Confidence and Supply Agreement* with the BC Green Party. The current Liberal Federal Government has recognized the *Tsilhqot'in Case* and has made significant legislative changes such as the creation of *Recognition and Implementation of Rights Framework* in February 2018 and the Exoneration of the Tsilhqot'in Chiefs in the House of Commons in March 2018.

However, it seems the Assembly of First Nations has largely remained silent on the *Tsilhqot'in Case* when they can utilize and create a strong partnership with the Tsilhqot'in to advocate for the full recognition of Aboriginal Rights and Title for all First Nations in Canada. Change is needed at the AFN and the Tsilhqot'in Nation believes Miles is the right fit for the job.

Quotes:

Nits'il?in (Chief) Joe Alphonse, Tribal Chairman of the Tsilhqot'in National:

"Miles has a lot of experience working for his Nation to win their own landmark legal challenge before the Supreme Court of Canada. Miles has a proven track record of advancing Indigenous rights, he knows what it means to shake things up and be a strong leader. Today, you need this experience to move things forward on the national scale. AFN has not been strong on that front. People come in with a lot of promise until they are elected in and the issues that they have campaigned on become stale as they are distracted and buried in bureaucracy. We support Miles on his bid to be the next National Chief."

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