



# T̂SILHQOT'IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

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Media Release – August 9, 2018

## **T̂silhqot'in Nation Enhances Compliance and Education in Territory**

**Williams Lake, BC:** The T̂silhqot'in National Government is enhancing stewardship of the T̂silhqot'in Territory through the development of the T̂silhqot'in Ranger program, along with establishing T̂silhqot'in Natural Resource Officers. These positions will be taking on the role of monitoring, compliance and education on the land.

The T̂silhqot'in Ranger program began in 2015 within the Declared Aboriginal title lands. Seeing a need for enhanced monitoring within the entire nation, this program has been expanded to include two Rangers for the areas outside the title lands.

As the territory begins to recover from the immediate and known effects of the 2017 wildfires, the T̂silhqot'in Rangers play a vital role in compliance surrounding hunting and, most recently, mushroom harvesting.

The T̂silhqot'in Natural Resource Officers monitor the rivers and waterways to ensure the protection of critical fish habitat and safety of all fishing sites. The two T̂silhqot'in Natural Resource Officers will be visible in uniform and with the TNG logos on the rear, along with side, of the vehicles.

### **Quotes:**

#### **Nits'il?in (Chief) Joe Alphonse, Tribal Chairman, T̂silhqot'in National Government:**

“For far too long our area has been like the Wild West with very little by way of protection of our land, waterways, wildlife, and cultural sites. Having T̂silhqot'in Rangers and Natural Resource Officers on the land to monitor and ensure the rules and regulations of the land are followed is essential to the territory. Anyone who thinks they can come into the territory without the appropriate permit or license should think twice about coming this way. We welcome those that want to explore and experience our territory in a respectful way that is in line with our stewardship values.”

#### **Nits'il?in (Chief) Russell Myers Ross, Vice-Chair, T̂silhqot'in National Government:**

“The Rangers from 2017 played a significant role during the wildfires and helped monitor and educate those involved in the mushroom harvest. Our moose and steelhead populations are currently in a dire situation with extremely low numbers. As a Nation, we want to help in educating people on the importance of key species and significance of specific areas in the territory. The Ranger program, along with the T̂silhqot'in Natural Resource Officers, provides a great opportunity for the area to benefit from the information provided and an increased level of monitoring. This is the direction the T̂silhqot'in Nation is moving toward and may be a feature of the Dasiqox Tribal Park in the design of the Management Plan.”

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