



T̂SILHQOT'IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

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Cariboo Regional District

File No. 400-20

JUN 03 2019

Referred To CAO / Chair

June 3, 2019

Carla Jack, Provincial Toponymist
BC Geographical Names Office | Heritage Branch
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development
PO Box 9819, STN Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9W3

Dear Carla Jack:

Subject: Cariboo Regional District May 27, 2019 response

We are pleased to hear that the Cariboo Regional District (CRD) Board expresses their support of updating the BC Gazetteer to include T̂silhqot'in toponyms and we would like to reassure them by addressing each of their three concerns.

1. Signage:

The T̂silhqot'in National Government (TNG) is currently working with the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure to update public road signage for T̂silhqot'in toponyms where they have been officially adopted by BC. We advocate for dual-name signage as a meaningful step towards reconciliation with both T̂silhqot'in and colonial names displayed. For T̂silhqot'in names without a colonial counterpart these would naturally be displayed only in T̂silhqot'in; however, very few of these features come in direct contact with public roads and do not require signage anyway. The brown, dual-named distance/directional signs erected in 2015 along various public roadways are a primary indication of TNG's support for public signage that reflects the multi-lingual realities of the Cariboo-Chilcotin region. For these reasons, the CRD's proposed 'transition period' appears irrelevant.

2. Businesses:

Based on the above note on signage, businesses across the region will recognize that the inclusion of T̂silhqot'in toponyms in the BC Gazetteer will not contribute to navigational confusion and therefore not affect businesses adversely. On the contrary, it will support existing businesses and promote new business opportunities. In the case of the 2015 distance/directional signs the updating of signage has already shown to support businesses

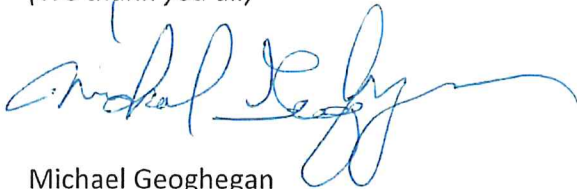
by notifying motorists of the location and distance to major communities and therefore services (notably fuel) that were previously excluded from public signs. Dual-name signs will also bolster tourism and tourism-related businesses in the region by accurately displaying the richness of both Indigenous and settler cultures throughout the Cariboo-Chilcotin. As for the adoption of T̓silhqot̓'in toponyms into BC's Gazetteer that do *not* require public road signage and are therefore irrelevant to navigation, TNG cannot foresee relevance to businesses. If other business-related concerns do arise TNG will be happy to work with the CRD and/or businesses directly to address them.

3. First Nation Overlap Areas:

TNG believes that Provincial and Federal recognition of Indigenous Place Names is an important step towards lasting reconciliation. For historical and geopolitical reasons it is inevitable and expected that many features within First Nation overlap areas will have names in more than one Indigenous language as well as the colonial and colloquial. We see this phenomenon across the globe and it is a well understood topic for the Toponymist. At the sovereign discretion of each Nation it is possible and perhaps desirable that all Indigenous names be recorded by GeoBC as a good-faith step towards reconciliation.

It is important to the T̓silhqot̓'in that the reflection of the lands and waters of the region on maps and on signs is conveyed through the stories, historical figures and, descriptive elements that make up the vibrant T̓silhqot̓'in toponymy. Once again, we are pleased that the CRD agrees with British Columbia's decision to formally acknowledge these names on their path to reconciliation and our joint efforts towards a cooperative future.

Nexwechanalhyagh,
(We thank you all)



Michael Geoghegan
Executive Director

File: 400-20

May 27, 2019

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource
Operations and Rural Development
PO Box 9818, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9W3

Attn: Carla Jack

Dear Ms. Jack:

Re: Geographic Name Change Proposal by the Tsilhqot'in National Government

Thank you for your letter of April 18, 2019 and the opportunity to comment on the proposed name changes. The Cariboo Regional District Board received and considered your letter at its meeting held May 24, 2019.

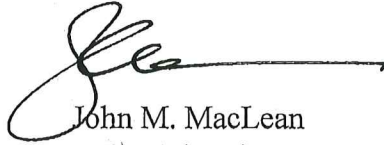
The Board of Directors is generally supportive of this endeavour but wishes to raise the following concerns and considerations:

1. The Board would like to see a transition period where signage will include the current name as well as the Tsilhqot'in name. This will allow for a period of transition and will help mitigate any confusion.
2. The Board is concerned about the impacts on existing businesses where name changes are proposed. There will be a considerable impact on their business, and marketing thereof. Will there be supports for these businesses?
3. The Board recently had a presentation from the Northern Shuswap Tribal Council (Northern Secwepemc te Qelmucw) on their efforts to negotiate a treaty. On the mapping provided it appeared that the traditional territory being discussed may include some of the geographic locations being discussed in the Treaty Negotiations. Is there a process to ensure there is no conflict amongst overlapping traditional territories?

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Thank you once again for the opportunity to comment.

Yours truly,



John M. MacLean
Chief Administrative Officer

JM/jc

c: Tsilhqot'in National Government
Northern Secwepemc te Qelmucw
Indigenous Tourism Board
Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Tourism Association