



NORTHERN SHUSWAP TRIBAL COUNCIL

17-South First Avenue
Williams Lake, BC • V2G 1H4

P: 250 392 7361
TF: 1-888-392-7361
Fax: 250 392 6158

MEDIA RELEASE

Northern Secwepemc te Qelmuw (NStQ) leadership reacts to British Columbia election results and formation of new government

June 1st, 2017 (Williams Lake, British Columbia) – The recent May 9th British Columbia election has resulted in the province's first minority legislature since 1952, the end of the Liberal majority government that has led the province since 2001, and the first election in Canada at the federal or provincial level that saw more than one Green elected.

In light of the recent NDP-Green party power-sharing agreement, current Liberal Premier Christy Clark plans to call the legislature into session for a confidence vote in early June to determine who will be governing the province, and ultimately who the next Premier will be. With this news, the Leadership Council of the Northern Secwepemc te Qelmuw (NStQ) have issued statements regarding their concerns with the provincial government and its position with regards to the BC Treaty Process.

Quotes:

Patrick Harry, NStQ Spokesperson and Chief of Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation – Political change in BC has been long overdue. Whatever formation government takes, the NStQ expects that our Government-to-Government relationship expands and grows. There were many promises made prior to the election with regards to UNDRIP, along with the implementation of the *Tsilhqot'in Decision*, and we hope to see those statements and promises upheld.

Ann Louie, Chief of Williams Lake Indian Band – British Columbia's impending new government must respect the promises made by current Premier Clark to visit with the NStQ, in our territory, to follow-up on commitments made by her government to the NStQ regarding our treaty concerns. Clark promised to meet with us soon after the election, possibly during Williams Lake Stampede week. This is imperative to achieve reconciliation with First Nations and to ensure promises made by government will be followed through immediately.

Background:

*NStQ traditional territories comprise the four Northern Secwepemc communities of *Williams Lake Indian Band (T'exelc)*, *Soda Creek Indian Band (Xat'süll)*, *Canim Lake Indian Band (Tsq'escen')* and *Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation (Canoe Creek / Dog Creek)*.

For Media Inquiries please contact:

- **Patrick Harry, NStQ Spokesperson**
Phone (Office): 250-440-5645 *Phone (Mobile):* 250-855-8621 *Email:* chief@canoecreekband.ca