



BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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BCAFN observes Lhats'as?in Memorial Day to commemorate the Chilcotin War of 1864

(Lheidli T'enneh Territory, Prince George, BC) – The BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) joins the T̓silhqot'in National Government today in observing Lhats'as?in Memorial Day to commemorate and honour six T̓silhqot'in Chiefs who fought to defend their territories from the colonial government and who were betrayed, captured and hanged in 1864 and 1865. The persecuted chiefs – Chief Lhats'as?in; Chief Biyil; Chief Tellot; Chief Tahpitt; Chief Chayses; and Chief ?Ahan – were exonerated of any wrongdoing by the Prime Minister of Canada in March, 2018.

“The T̓silhqot'in people and their government have taken control of their narrative and history and keep the truth alive with this annual memorial event. I acknowledge their continued leadership to uphold the sacrifice of their War Chiefs by their demonstrated perseverance to secure recognition for Aboriginal title in the historic T̓silhqot'in decision,” stated Regional Chief Terry Teegee. “First Nations will continue to bring forward historical injustices and their own stories to make visible what was once hidden, lost and misunderstood.

The overreaching jurisdiction of the colonial government and their actions have social, legal and political implications that extend into, and inform our present realities. Reconciliation builds on this understanding and will reverberate through the work as governments and First Nations implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* in Canada.

Background links:

Trudeau apologizes to T̓silhqot'in community members for 1864 hanging of chiefs

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/trudeau-apologizes-to-tsilhqot-in-community-members-for-1864-hanging-of-chiefs-1.4890486>

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