

A scenic view of a lake with mountains in the background and a boat on the water, framed by a red border. The text is overlaid on the image.

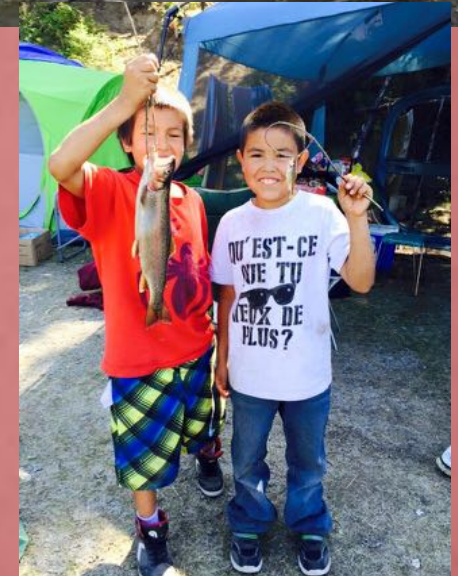
# Doing business with Indigenous Peoples

Loretta Williams

First Nations Women Advocating for Responsible Mining

November 14, 2019

# Respect Title and Rights



# Respect Traditional Laws



# Tsilhqot'in Aboriginal Title Case

- On June 26, 2014, the Supreme Court of Canada rendered a historic judgement in the Tsilhqot'in Nation's Aboriginal title case.
- The court declared Aboriginal Title to approximately 1900 square kms
- First time in Canadian history
- The court rejected the 'postage stamp' view of Aboriginal Title once and for all
- Gwets'en Nilt'i – Transformative Change Agmt

# Tsilhqot'in Title Land



# History

## Chilcotin War

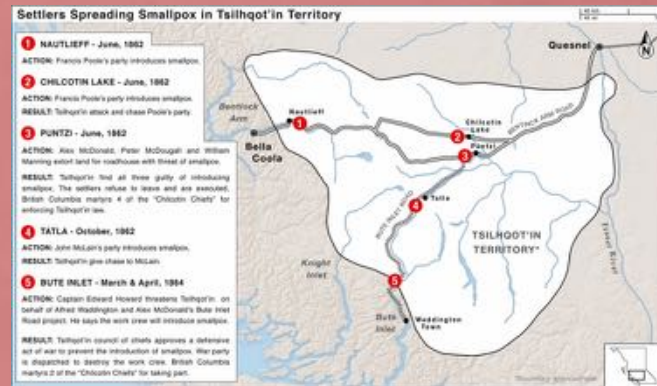


## Chilcotin War

The Chilcotin War, the Chilcotin Uprising or the Bute Inlet Massacre was a confrontation in 1864 between members of the Tsilhqot'in people in British Columbia and white road construction workers. Fourteen men employed by Alfred Waddington in the building of a road from Bute Inlet were killed, as well as a number of men with a pack-train near Anahim Lake and a settler at Puntzi Lake.



## Small Pox



## Residential School



# Teztan Biny – Fish Lake



# Conflicts arise

## Oka Crises



## Unist'ot'en Camp



## Tsilhqot'in

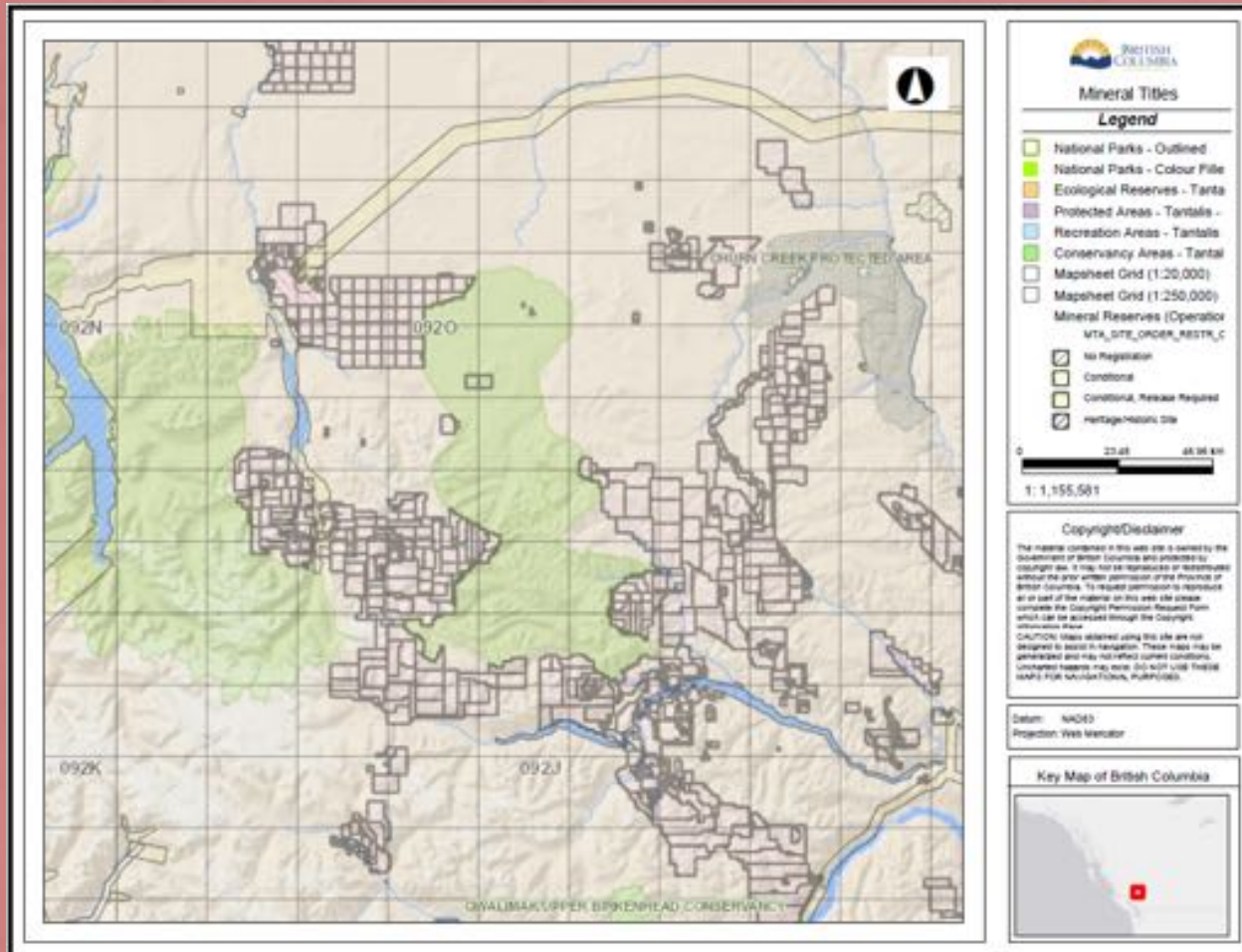


## Amazon Deforestation





# Mining Reform: One issue - Online Mineral Staking – Cost \$60



# Mount Polley Mine Disaster

*“Shortly after midnight on August 14, 2014, a major breach occurred at Mount Polly tailings storage facility. The failure of the dam was sudden, with no warning. It sent 25 million cubic metres of wastewater and mine waste solids into downstream waters, destroying or affecting over nine kilometres of aquatic and riparian habitats.”*

- This is why ‘business as usual’ can not continue.
- 123 Active mine tailings dams in BC. If things go unchanged, there will be 2 breaches every 10 years.

# Bill 41 – The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People's Act

- A new law to uphold Indigenous Rights in BC
- BC is one of the first jurisdictions in the world to implement UNDRIP
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – all BC laws must line up with the Declaration
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> – government is to develop an implementation action plan
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> – annual progress report will be developed
  - 4<sup>th</sup> – provide for certain statutory decisions to be made jointly

# United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

- Free, Prior and Informed Consent
- Free
- Prior
- Informed



*“If implemented well, the Declaration Act has the potential to provide much more transparency and certainty for all moving forward, resulting in better long-term decisions, and avoiding endless and expensive court battles.” West Coast Environmental Law Eugene Kung*

# Steps for Engagement – Doing Business the Tsilhqot'in Way

- Engage Early
- Learn
- MOU Stage
- Project Formulation
- Decision Making



# Tsilhqot'in Initiative - Solar Farm

The largest solar farm in British Columbia



# “Superfish”



- The Chilko River has approximately 1 million returning salmon every year
- Travel 805 kms to reach Chilko Lake from the ocean
- Dubbed “superfish” by National Geographic
- These salmon were found to have larger than normal hearts and healthy cardiovascular systems which better equips them for Climate Change

*“As one person, we are too small but together, we can do so much more.” Nelson Mandela*

*Sechanelaygh... thank you.*

*Loretta Williams, FNWARM  
Email: [lorettaw714@gmail.com](mailto:lorettaw714@gmail.com)*

