



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Tsilhqot'in and CRD take initial steps in relationship building**

**Williams Lake, BC** (October 9, 2014): On October 7<sup>th</sup> the Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG) and Cariboo Regional District (CRD) engaged in a Community-to-Community forum as an initial step in relationship-building within a post Aboriginal Title environment.

Attended by a majority of directors and senior staff from each organization, the morning was dedicated to introductions in an effort to increase understanding of the respective backgrounds, roles and responsibilities of each individual. Topics within the agenda included engagement/communication processes, solid waste management and emergency management. The day-long forum concluded by setting next steps in relationship building, including further forums of a similar nature.

#### **Quotes:**

##### **Chief Joe Alphonse, Tribal Chairman of the Tsilhqot'in National Government:**

"Today was about building trust, respect and an understanding in order to move forward in a positive manner. We have our differences but need to come together around our common interests and goals. Engaging with organizations and different levels of government takes time and energy, but developing resilient and long-term relationships will benefit everyone in the Chilcotin and broader area. The TNG is hopeful that these initial steps will improve relations with the CRD."

##### **Chair Al Richmond, Cariboo Regional District:**

"This meeting was a positive first step in developing a solid working relationship with the TNG based on mutual trust and respect," said CRD Chair Al Richmond. "We will continue working together to identify areas of common interest and improve on past performances, while gaining a better understanding of our cultures and governance models; this is what *building communities together* is all about."

-30-

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