TITLE:	Support for the Tsilhqot'in Nation in Asserting Title
SUBJECT:	Rights and Title
MOVED BY:	Chief Joe Alphonse, Tl'etinqox-t'in, BC
SECONDED BY:	Chief Marilyn Baptiste, Xeni Gwet'in First Nation, BC
DECISION:	Carried by consensus as part of an Omnibus Motion, Moved by Chief Maureen Chapman, Skawahlook First Nation BC & Seconded by Chief Marcel Head, Shoal Lake First Nation, SK

WHEREAS:

A. The Tsilhqot'in people have occupied and lived in their lands since time immemorial and have never ceded those lands to the Crown or extinguished any rights derived from occupation of those lands.

B. The BC Court of Appeal has recognized that the Tsilhqot'in have proven Aboriginal rights.

C. As indigenous peoples, the Tsilhqot'in possess at minimum all rights articulated within the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, including Article 26 which recognizes that "Indigenous peoples have the rights to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise acquired".

D. The Tsilhqot'in National Government received the welcomed decision from the British Columbia Court of Appeal upholding Justice Vickers' findings with regards to the recognition of their Aboriginal rights and the unjust infringement by the forestry regime of British Columbia.

E. The Tsilhqot'in take strong issue with the British Columbia Court of Appeal's view that Aboriginal title is limited to small 'postage stamp' areas since this view does not protect the hunting, trapping and gathering areas that have sustained them since time immemorial.

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SHAWN A-IN-CHUT ATLEO, NATIONAL CHIEF

F. The view taken on the issue of Aboriginal title by the British Columbia Court of Appeal is unacceptable and inconsistent with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and Section 35 of the *Constitution Act*.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Fully support the efforts of the Tsilhqot'in Nation to protect their rights and title from infringement or adverse effects as a result of the BC Court of Appeal's interpretation of Aboriginal title.
2. Call upon the Assembly of First Nations and the National Chief to support the Tsilhqot'in by educating the public, politicians and courts, including the Supreme Court of Canada, that the full recognition of Aboriginal title is the only path to lasting reconciliation.
3. Declare that the British Columbia Court of Appeal's limited definition of Aboriginal title is a huge and potentially disastrous step backwards for Crown-Aboriginal relations that will never be accepted in any way by First Nations across Canada and will only heighten conflict and uncertainty.
4. Direct the National Chief and the Assembly of First Nations to advocate on behalf of the Tsilhqot'in Nation and to communicate the clear support of the Chiefs-in-Assembly to the Government of Canada.

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