



# Position Statement

## The Supreme Court of Canada's Decision in Tsilhqot'in v. British Columbia

**The TLA recognizes the importance of the Tsilhqot'in Decision and will continue to build mutually beneficial relationships with First Nations to the benefit of all British Columbians.**

The TLA recognizes and respects the historic decision declaring Aboriginal title to lands within the Tsilhqot'in territory. This Decision strengthens the ongoing need to consult with and accommodate First Nations' interests where land title has the potential to be disputed through litigation, impacting natural resource use in British Columbia. The TLA encourages the provincial government to move expeditiously to facilitate shared sustainable resource use that builds on this Decision.

A proactive government approach to Aboriginal relations in British Columbia will empower Aboriginal peoples, increase their economic participation and, ultimately, create certainty and a positive business environment within BC where businesses can continue to succeed.

Many TLA member companies have a successful history of working with First Nations, building collaborative relationships that are rooted in a foundation of deep respect. These meaningful partnerships boost employment and build capacity within First Nations communities as well as increase First Nations participation in all aspects of the forest economy. At the same time they ensure the forest industry continues to operate effectively within our province to the benefit of all British Columbians. The Association will continue to build on that tradition in the context of the Tsilhqot'in Decision.

Continuing to build strong, positive and lasting relationships with First Nations will not only support local communities, but will also help attract First Nations youth to the industry. Importantly, this solution can advance significant career opportunities for First Nations while also tackling the shortage of skilled workers facing BC's forest industry.

The TLA will continue to work cooperatively with First Nations and government to explore new ways to strengthen the forest industry in British Columbia and will continue to inform its members about policy developments related to this landmark Supreme Court decision.