

Slexéyem (News release)

Ye7éne re slexéyectlmen re Tsqéscen First Nation

For immediate release [on behalf of Tsqéscen First Nation]

T'kwenm7íple7tens re Kíkwe te Tsqéscen First Nation, me7 cnesép te stkwenme7íple7 ne...

December, 23, 2024 — Tsqéscen First Nation, Canim Lake, B.C., Indigenous Services Canada and the British Columbia Ministry of Children and Family Development

Le7 ri7 re pespúsmens-kucw es púcwentem-kucw te swuméc ne q7es te tkwenm7íple7tens-kucw es yecwemíntem re stsmemelt.s-kucw, re tutuwiwt.s-kucw ell re kwséltkten.s-kucw, tsílem te tsúwet.s le q7es te qelmúcw. Le m-q7est.s ri7 re syecwmenílt.s ell re syecwenstwécws re Tsqéscenémc. Emétentem ri7 re Tkwenm7íple7tens re Kíkwe. Me7 cnesép ri7 ne Dec. 21, 2024.

Tkwenm7íple7tens re Kíkwe ri7 re s7elkst.s re kepkúkwpis ell re tkwenm7íple7tens re Tsqéscenémc, m-knúcwens-kucw ell re stetex7éms-kucw es lleqmentés-kucw re ckúltens ell re xqwelténs le q7es te qelmucw, tkenhe7e es yecwmentwécws. Ne seme7tsin ri7 re s7emétentem “Law of Valerian Plant”—te penpnúle7cw ri7 re stenmíns re Tsqéscenémc es lémentem-kucw re stsmémelt.s-kucw. Re stkwenm7íple7 tsúns-kucw yerí7, “re Tsqéscenémc me7 yecwemíns re xwexwéyt te Tsqéscenémc ell Secwépemc,” yerí7 re stsuts te Tsqéscenémc es yecwemíns ell es tekémct.s xwexwéyt te Tsqéscenémc ell re stsmémelt.s-kucw, re tutuwiwt-skucw, ell re kweskwséltkten.s-kucw we7 kénmes thé7en k tsyem. Yerí7 re stsílems te ckúltens re Tsqéscenémc, yexmell ta7 ri7 pyin k stsyems ne7élye ne tmicws-kucw, kemell me7 le7 re spelqílcmentem ne tmicws-kucw es knucwentem.

Yerí7 re scseséps pyin es pucwentem te swumec ne Tkwenm7íple7tens re Kíkwe, Tsqéscen yerí7 put re stekstés re Syecwementwécw—tknémentwecws-kucw, es knúcwentwécws-kucw, ell syecwemíntem xwexwéyt re Tsqéscenémc, ye-ekwe re Xexe7úlecw. Re Syecwementwécws tikwemtús ri7 me7 s7elkst.s-kucw ne Tsqéscenémc re tmicws. Yerí7 re s7elkst.s re Kíkwe (tsítslem ell ícwell te nekúsem).

Quotes

“We have been walking this path for generations, guided by the strength of our ancestors and the clarity of Tsqéscenémc mandate since creation. Our work is rooted in the laws and teachings that have always defined who we are as Secwépemc. It is not just about governance or jurisdiction—it is about living our values, honouring our responsibilities, and ensuring the health and well-being of our stsmémelt (children), tutuwiwt (youth), and kweskwséltkten (families). We journey—not toward something new, but toward the continued fulfillment of our sacred responsibilities. Together, we walk with purpose, ensuring our future generations grow in strength, identity, and connection.”

Kukpi7 Helen Henderson Chief Tsqéscen First Nation



“Congratulations to Tsq̓ésceñ First Nation on the enactment of their child and family services law, T’kwenm7íple7tens re Kíkwe. Indigenous children deserve to remain connected to their families and communities. This legislation honours all Tsq̓ésceñ children and their families whose well-being is inextricably tied to the future of the nation. We look forward to continuing this partnership and concluding a coordination agreement in the near future. This milestone is an important step towards self-government, and for children’s futures.”

The Honourable Patty Hajdu

Minister of Indigenous Services and Minister responsible for FedNor Government of Canada

“This agreement upholds Tsq̓ésceñ First Nation’s inherent rights and is a significant step on their jurisdiction journey as they continue working on behalf of the safety and wellness of their children and youth. Reaching this milestone in under a year highlights Tsq̓ésceñ First Nation’s commitment to make sure their children and youth thrive in community, close to family, within their culture, and based on their own laws.”

Jodie Wickens Minister of Children and Family Development Province of British Columbia

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