

PRESS STATEMENT | AUGUST 24, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



THE SYILX OKANAGAN NATION ARE CALLING FOR “RECONCILIATION UNDERSTANDING IN CANADA”

tkwəłniwt (Westbank), Syilx Okanagan Nation Territory: Recently, we have witnessed much discussion regarding the provincial government's initiatives to settle with various nations in this province.

Despite expected criticism and fear-mongering, none of these now-settled claims appear to impact private ownership of land. We feel this has not been emphasized enough and that public opinion is led by the misperception that nations wish to extinguish indefeasible title. This is simply untrue.

Further, modern treaties are constitutionally grounded, legally binding settlements intended to resolve generations of crippling anxiety and confusion and establish land certainty for our people. This system is not intended to injure fee simple ownership or land title, which would be an unfavorable result for all stakeholders.

Instead, in the spirit of true reconciliation, we challenge all citizens, including public servants and representatives of all political parties, to appreciate that the true spirit of reconciliation is imbued in social, cultural, and only then economic change.

If our generations are together in this sacred and transformational journey, we must embrace our separate paths to a better understanding of where we will exist in harmony and prosperity for all British Columbians.

We congratulate Premier David Eby and the provincial government for resolving so many potential disputes, sparing all stakeholders unnecessary hardship and setting a path where reconciliation is real and appreciable.

Our Nations stand behind these efforts and look forward to forging ahead with peaceful resolutions for one and all

A blue ink signature of Clarence Louie, Tribal Chair of the Osoyoos Indian Band.

ki tan na-yilmix™ Clarence Louie
Tribal Chair & Osoyoos Indian Band

A blue ink signature of Robert Louie, representing the Westbank First Nation.

simo-yilmix™ Robert Louie
Westbank First Nation

Media Contact:

Tara Montgomery

ONA Communications Lead

Email: tmontgomery@syilx.org

Mobile: 250-862-6866

Okanagan Nation Alliance

101-3535 Old Okanagan Hwy Westbank, BC V4T 3L7 (250) 707-0095 www.syilx.org