



# OKANAGAN NATION ALLIANCE

101 - 3535 Old Okanagan Hwy, Westbank, BC V4T 3L7  
Phone 250-707-0095 Toll Free 1-866-662-9609 Fax 250-707-0166 www.sylx.org

## REBUILDING OUR SYILX NATION + RECOGNITION

July 22, 2019

### Way' Chiefs, Councillors and Membership,

Following the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) Annual General Assembly of July 17-18, 2019, it is important to emphasize that the proposed Recognition Agreement process is one of de-colonization where we as members of the Syilx Nation finally hold the power to decide how we are to govern our collectively-held territorial lands and future.


Our Title and Rights are held collectively at the Nation level, not at the community Band level. It is at the Nation level that we must work together to fully realize our Title and Rights.

- This Agreement is in no way a surrender of title or lands or jurisdiction or power.
- It does not give away anything or affect any of our rights.
- It does not change *Indian Act* reserve structure, local governance or status in any way.
- This is about rebuilding our power as Syilx People at the Syilx Nation level.
- This is not a treaty or a land claim. It does not set up any municipal level government or corporation structure.
- This ensures the government does not ever deny our Title or Rights, including in court.
- This is an unprecedented Agreement and opportunity to ensure our power Nation to Nation.
- It creates opportunities to rebuild our Syilx laws and responsibilities and our own Syilx governance processes.
- This allows us to rebuild our own Syilx Nation governance and move beyond the ONA *Society Act* process.

The Chiefs Executive Council has committed to Nation-wide community discussions specifically on this Recognition Agreement. **Syilx Nation members will be notified of Recognition discussion forum schedules as soon as they can be confirmed.** This will be in addition to the community-led Syilx Nation Rising rebuilding engagement already underway.

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*Naʼsi Wʼt* Grand Chief Stewart Phillip  
Chair

attach: Rebuilding Our Syilx Nation and Recognition INTRO (*July 22, 2019*)

