



NEWS RELEASE

July 10th, 2018

Winchie Creek Hydro Grand Opening – fully owned by Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations

(Tofino, B.C.) The Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations (TFN) is pleased to announce the grand opening of the Winchie Creek hydropower facility, on Wednesday, July 11th, 2018. This 4-Megawatt clean energy facility is the first hydropower facility wholly owned by the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations and is the Nations' third hydropower facility in their Economic Development Portfolio.

Similar to the Nations' Canoe Creek (2010) and Haa-ak-suuk Creek (2014) hydropower plants, Winchie Creek is located in the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations traditional territory (Ha'wiih Haahoulthlee) in Clayoquot Sound and will generate electricity for sale to BC Hydro under a 40-year agreement. The three facilities help to generate the electricity that powers the homes and business in Tofino, Ucluelet, Port Alberni and surrounding communities. These facilities provide an important source of clean, reliable and environmentally sustainable electricity on Vancouver Island, which imports approximately 70 % of its electricity from the mainland.

The construction of Winchie Creek Hydro was completed primarily by local contractors and suppliers, including Roc-Star Enterprises and Athecon Projects of Port Alberni, Barkley Project Group of Nanaimo, Prime Engineering of Victoria and Westpark Electric of Chilliwack, among others. The Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations wish to express their gratitude for the valuable project funding support provided to the project by the Nuu-chah-nulth Economic Development Corporation, the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia, including the Western Diversification Program, Community Opportunities Readiness Program, BCICEI, BC Rural Dividend Program and the First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund.

Through the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations Economic Development Corporation (MLP), the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations have plans to construct as many as four more clean energy facilities, pending market and procurement decisions by the BC Ministry of Energy and BC Hydro. These hydropower projects, and other economic development projects, help to bring revenue to the Nation which is used to fund essential programs and services for our members as well as secure economically and environmentally sustainable livelihoods for the Nation, and region as a whole.

Any additional requests for information can be directed to Connor Paone the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations Executive Assistant at execassist@tla-o-qui-aht.org or 250-725-3350.

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