



Williams Lake
FIRST NATION

PRESS RELEASE

03/09/2025

WLFN TCETŚ (ELK) HARVESTING DIRECTIVE

Williams Lake First Nation (WLFN) has received credible reports of Tcetś (elk) being harvested in the Horsefly area. WLFN wishes to state unequivocally that at this time we do not authorize or condone the hunting of Tcetś within our Traditional Territory.

Historically, Tcetś were abundant across our lands, playing a vital role in our traditional food systems, culture, and way of life. Today, however, the population is critically diminished. Any further harvesting places these vulnerable herds at risk of collapse and jeopardizes the possibility of future recovery. In light of this, WLFN directs that all WLFN Members, as well as others who may harvest within our Territory, refrain from hunting Tcetś until further notice. WLFN will not issue permits for Tcetś harvesting to non-WLFN First Nation hunters, and it will support enforcement measures against non-WLFN hunters who disregard this directive.

Until Tcetś populations recover to a level that can support sustainable harvesting, WLFN will not authorize the hunting of Tcetś and will continue to oppose the establishment of any provincially regulated Limited Entry Hunt (LEH) or general open season for Tcetś within our Traditional Territory.

Currently, there is very limited data on Tcetś populations and herd health within the Territory. To address this, WLFN's Natural Resources Department will be launching a Tcetś camera trap research project in collaboration with the Province of British Columbia in the fall of 2025 to strengthen population monitoring, data collection, and management efforts. This work is essential to ensure long-term conservation and sustainable stewardship of this culturally significant species.

Our goal is to see Tcetś populations recover and thrive, so that all people may one day benefit from their respectful and responsible harvesting.

Thank you,

Chief Willie Sellars



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REPORT ELK SIGHTINGS

WLFN is also requesting that Members and the general public report any Tcets' sightings or incidents of harvesting within the Traditional Territory to the Natural Resources Department. Please contact:

- Ty Sorensen, Natural Resources Manager – Ty.Sorensen@wlfn.ca / 778-296-3507 ext. 314; or
- Maddie Novakowski – Madison.Novakowski@wlfn.ca / 250-296-3507 ext. 317

We sincerely thank all Members and the general public for honoring this important directive and for continuing to uphold our shared responsibilities as stewards of the land and its resources.