



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tsawwassen First Nation statement on deceased ducks found at Tsatsu Shores

TSAWWASSEN LANDS – An investigation conducted by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has concluded malnutrition as the cause of death for 31 waterfowl discovered on Tsawwassen First Nation (TFN) lands.

On February 26, TFN Natural Resources Enforcement Officers were alerted to the discovery of 31 deceased ducks floating in a body of water nearby the Tsatsu Shores condominiums.

Scientists with ECCC ordered a necropsy on the birds, with TFN offering its full support in the investigation. Of the total number of dead birds, six were identified for necropsy.

Prior to necropsy, it was known the birds were extremely emaciated, which ECCC determined could only have resulted from weeks or months of malnutrition. No other indicators were present that would account for the emaciation, with no foreign objects found inside the birds. One bird tested positive for influenza; a naturally occurring ailment in birds.

ECCC conducted extensive water testing, finding no hazardous substances. Two compounds were detected in the form of vegetable oil fats, which are not harmful to waterfowl. As such, scientists have determined the birds died of natural causes due to lack of nutrition, possibly exacerbated by unusually poor weather in February. The report did not officially find a cause of death of the birds, except that there was no water contamination of any kind on TFN lands.

TFN would like to thank its Natural Resources Enforcement Officers and Environment and Climate Change Canada for its investigation into the matter.

About Tsawwassen First Nation (TFN)

Tsawwassen First Nation is a Coast Salish First Nation community located in southwest British Columbia. In 2009, Tsawwassen Members ratified the first urban Treaty under the BC Treaty process, providing TFN with self-government jurisdiction and land ownership on a renewed land base. TFN's economic development initiatives include developing TFN's land assets to create a sustainable economy for TFN by generating revenues and creating jobs and business opportunities for TFN Members.

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