



SQ'EWÁ:LXW
SKAWAHLOOK FIRST NATION

Comprehensive Community Plan Project Report Volume I - 2017 2018





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SQ'EWA:LXW FIRST NATION VISION PROJECT REPORT



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Accompanying Documents

Sq'ewá:lxw Sqwélqwel - Issues 1 through 6

Sq'ép No 2 Fishing Pictures and Comments.pdf

Traditional Land Use and Ecological Knowledge Final Report March 26 2018.pdf

SQEP Presentation August 12th 2017.pdf

SQFN Feb 17 2018 Sqep Presentation Climate Change and Emergency.pdf

HRVA through a Climate Change Lens Goulding.pdf

SQFN CCP SQEP Presentation as Delivered April 28 2018.pdf





1.0 INTRODUCTION

Sq'ewá:lxw has begun preparing a comprehensive community plan (CCP). Our planning initiative takes a community driven approach to creating a future that our people desire. The process is made possible by funding awarded by the Professional and Institutional Development Program of Indigenous Services Canada.

This project report is not the Plan, but a documentation of the planning process. It has evolved from a project plan used to define a process which would best serve the community. The project plan was used to ensure that Sq'ewá:lxw leadership, staff, and the planning team carried a common understanding of the project including objectives, methods, and desired outcomes. This project report has been prepared at the end of the first year of the project. A second volume will be prepared as we proceed through the second year.

The direct audience for this project report is the CCP planning team but is considered a public document and is available to Sq'ewá:lxw First Nation members if they wish to review it. This is in accordance with the open and transparent planning process which we have undertaken.

In strategic review of the project plan, Chief and Council directed the planning team to use a name for the process which is less bureaucratic sounding than comprehensive community plan. For this reason, you will see the name *Vision Project* used interchangeably with CCP.

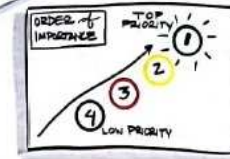




SQ'EWÁ:LXW
SQ'EP

APRIL 28, 2018

BRINGING IT ALL Together



HOUSING

- AFFORDABILITY
- FAIR & TRANSPARENT PROCESS
- SAFETY & SECURITY
- PERSONAL PREP FOR HOME OWNERSHIP
- ACCESSIBILITY OPTIONS
- LOW ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

EDUCATION

- HELP MEMBERS HELP THEIR KIDS & PROVIDE POSITIVE ROLE MODELS
- INTEGRATE CULTURE IN ALL WE DO TO FOSTER PRIDE
- RE-CREATE A COMMUNITY ROLE IN CULTURAL TEACHING
- SUPPORT PARTICIPATION IN LANGUAGE LEARNING
- HELP LEARNERS & FAMILIES DEAL w/ GRIEF & LOSS AND TRAUMA & ABUSE
- SUPPORT & CELEBRATE FORMAL EDUCATION (FINANCIAL SUPPORT)

EMERGENCY Planning

- FIRESMART PLANNING
- ESTABLISH FOOD, H₂O, FIRST AID & EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT / SUPPLIES
- PROMOTE FIRST-AID TRAINING
- INSTALL FIRE SUPPRESSION EQUIPMENT
- ESTABLISH SERVICE AGREEMENTS W/ NEIGHBOURS
- CONSIDER A LOCAL FIRE RESPONSE CAPABILITY

CLIMATE CHANGE

- REDUCE OUR OWN CONTRIBUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE VIA ENV. PROTECTION & GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE
- INVESTIGATE IMPROVEMENTS TO WASTE MANAGEMENT
- ESTABLISH A FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM ~ COMMUNITY GARDEN
- TURN TO TRADITIONAL MEDICINES FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL WELLNESS
- ADDRESS AFFECTS OF AODR AIR QUALITY VIA AIR CONDITIONERS & FACE MASKS
- PARTICIPATE IN RIVER MONITORING SYSTEMS AND CONSIDER DYING TO PROTECT THE LAND
- PROTECT THE LAND

CULTURE

- ART / CULTURE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM
- CULTURAL PROTOCOLS
- INFUSE EVERYTHING WE DO W/ CULTURE
- PROMOTE THE RESULTS OF THE TRADITIONAL STUDY TO SUPPORT CULTURAL & EDUCATIONAL GOALS
- BUILD PLACE NAMES, STORIES & SITE PROTECTION INTO LAND-USE PLANNING
- SUPPORT ELDERS ATTEND GATHERING

FISHING

- FISH & FISHING POLICY
- TEACHING & MENTORING OF NEW FISHERS
- SUPPORT COMMUNITY FISHING & FOOD PRESERVATION
- COMMUNICATE TO OUR PEOPLE & OUTSIDERS THE IMPORTANCE OF FISH TO THE SUSTAINABILITY OF OUR COMMUNITY
- FIRST FISH CEREMONY PRACTICES



2.0 COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLANNING

Comprehensive community planning is widely seen as an effective tool to build sustainable communities. Sustainability implies a high standard of living and persistence through time. Sustainable communities are adaptive, honour tradition and culture, and exist in harmony with the environment around them. Such communities generate wealth to support the current generation of people, while not limiting the opportunities available to future generations.

The CCP is the umbrella under which all community activity takes place. Subordinate plans address all aspects of Nation life, including governance, administration, land use, environmental management, culture, education, economic development, and housing.

Essential characteristics of a CCP are that it:

- Is enabled by the inherent title and rights of the people;
- Is community driven;
- Is long-term and living;
- Honours the past and embraces change;
- Is inclusive of all elements of community;
- Strengthens governance and builds capacity;
- Articulates a vision; and
- Sets a path forward.





2.1 CCP'S PLACE IN SQ'EWÁ:LXW PLANNING

The figure below describes the Sq'ewá:lxw planning framework as it exists going into the CCP process. It reflects a top-down planning process with feedback looping back to the top from all levels.

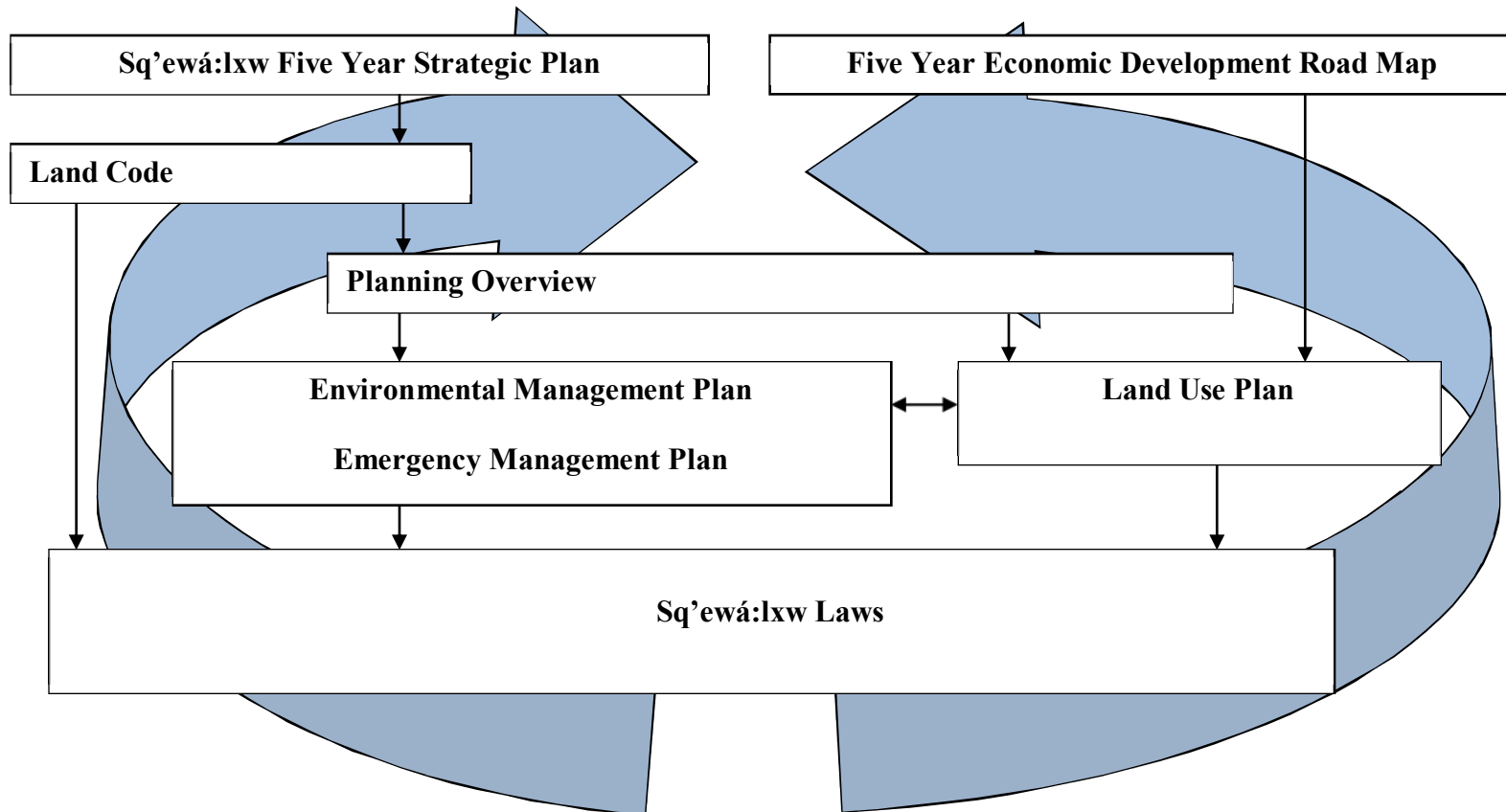


Figure 1 - Existing Planning Framework



This figure re-envisioned the Sq'ewá:lxw planning framework with the comprehensive community plan providing strategic direction to all elements of Nation planning and administration.

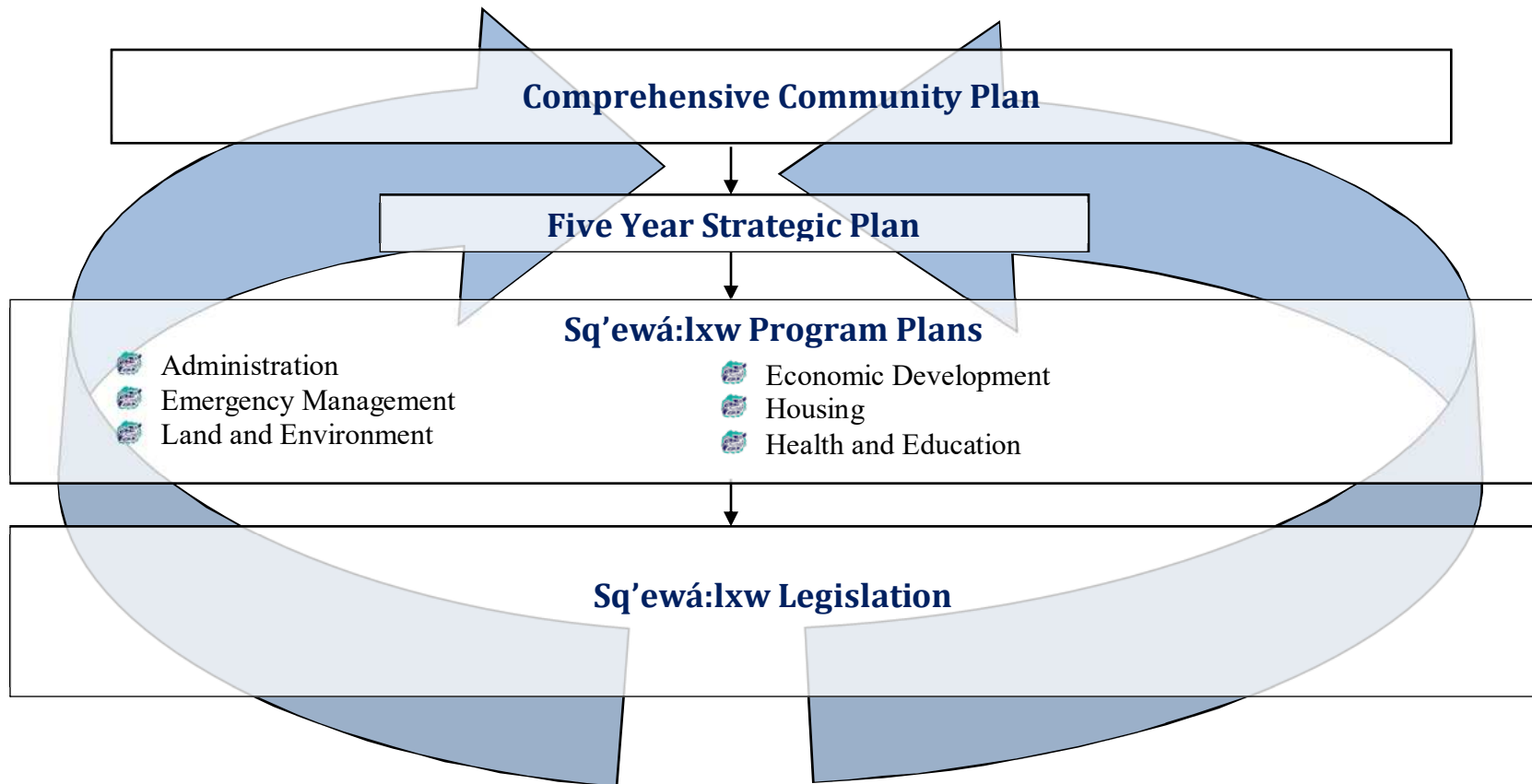


Figure 2 - Planning Framework Envisioned by the CCP



2.2 CCP PRODUCT DESIGN

Together, the planning team and the community have been determining the nature of the CCP product and this process will continue in the second year of the project. At this point the plan is envisioned as accessible, with plain language, graphics, pictures, and video. We envision a set of products that will be both inspirational and practical. The plan will reflect culture through artwork and language. The team undertook a review of standards and best practices in the production of comprehensive community plans. The results of the review formed the basis for the following proposed design of the CCP itself, and supporting documents and media. This proposed design has been included in discussions with the community.

DESIRABLE ELEMENTS OF A SQ'EWA:LXW CCP

The Sq'ewá:lxw CCP will:

- Look and feel Sq'ewá:lxw and Stó:lō;
- Address the full shared interest area of Sq'ewá:lxw;
- Speak to all Sq'ewá:lxw members;
- Allow members to see and hear the voices of community leaders and be encouraged by the message;
- Be organized in a simple manner reflecting, and reporting on, the past, the present, and the future;
- Utilize culturally appropriate notions of time, history, *Sqwelqwel* (oral narratives relating to personal history), and *Sxwôxwiyám* (oral histories that describe the distant past);
- Provide information in graphic form, animated if possible, in situations in which it will enhance understanding and appreciation; and
- Finish with a practical and meaningful action plan.

We envision more than a hard-copy plan, but a collection of multi-media products supporting each other in expressing the community vision: online; printed; summarized; and presented in posters, PowerPoint presentations, video, and signage. Existing materials such as the *Memories of Ruby Creek* video will be used to leverage success. Specific products might be:

- The comprehensive community plan delivered in website format on www.skawahlook.com;
- The comprehensive community plan delivered in video form;
- Video vignettes which introduce the CCP process, introduce each engagement session, and report the results;
- CCP delivered as Acrobat PDF format mimicking the website product with links to the same video and documents content; and
- CCP handbook for wider distribution and summary purposes.



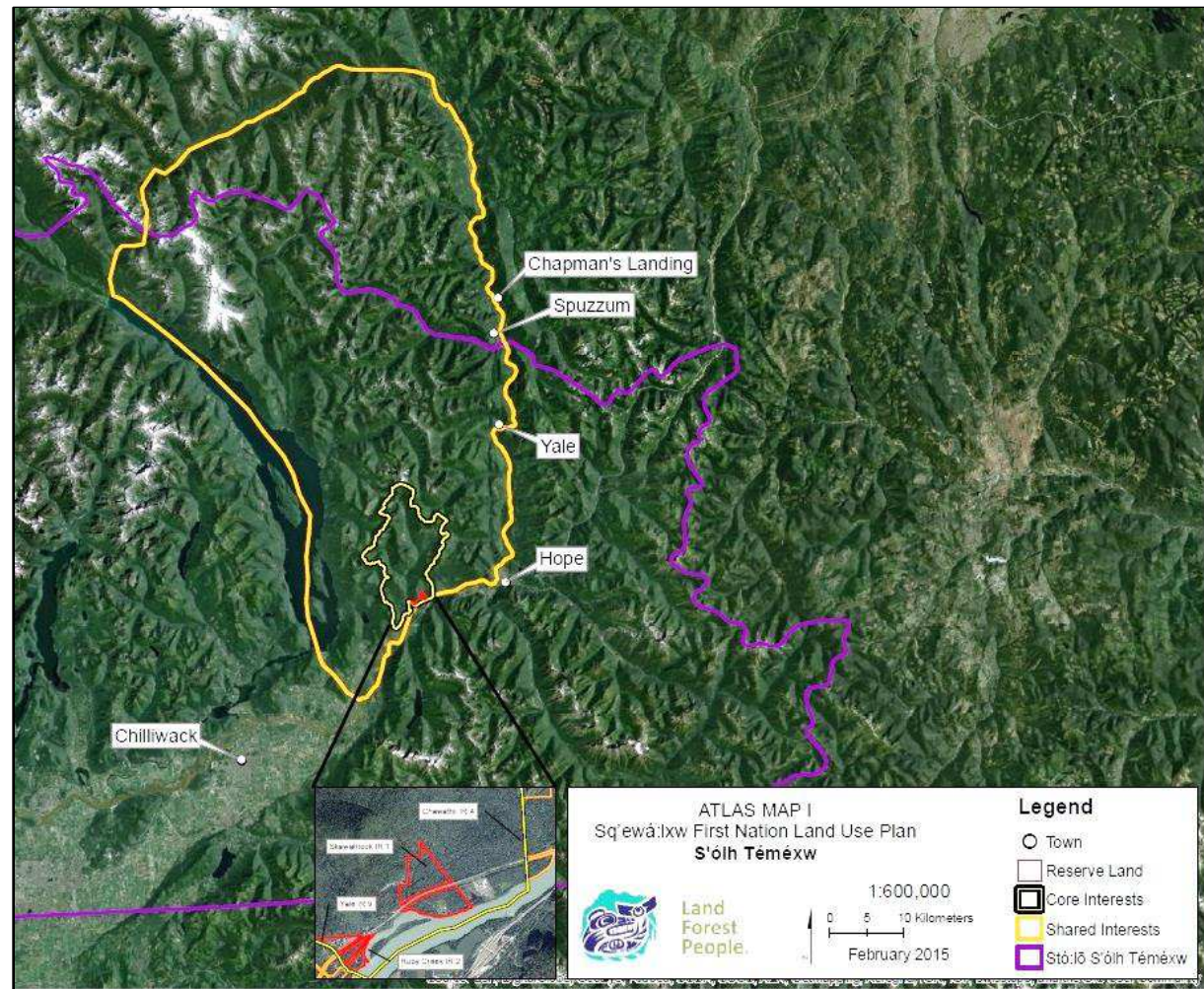
3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

3.1 SCOPE

The geographic scope of the CCP is proposed to be the Sq'ewá:lxw shared interest area defined by the *Sq'ewá:lxw Land Use Plan* and depicted in Figure 3 - Sq'ewá:lxw Shared Interest Area.

The scope of the plan content is only limited by the wishes of the community.

Figure 3 - Sq'ewá:lxw Shared Interest Area





3.2 OBJECTIVES

Through this project Sq'ewá:lxw has set out to:

- Empower the community through direct involvement;
- Build the personal and collective strength of the people through coaching and mentorship;
- Bring forward and celebrate tradition and culture as a common thread in the work;
- Promote healing and reconciliation through positive action;
- Protect and enhance all manner of natural and cultural resources which support the community;
- Boost economic opportunities and entrepreneurship; and
- Facilitate the growth of a healthy and happy community on Sq'ewá:lxw land.

3.3 TEAM

A planning team was established to take ownership of the process of developing the CCP.

Team Member	Roles
Sharron Young, Administrator	CCP Champion and Housing Leadership
Debra Schneider, Councillor and Lands Governance Director	Governance Leadership
Susan McKamey, Office Manager	Coordinator, Support, and Logistics
Mike Bellegarde, Economic Developer	Economic Development and Economy Leadership, Funding Acquisition, Communication
Charles Chapman	Elder Representative and Culture Leadership
Jenn Carman	Youth Representative
Trena Point	Recorder and Supporter
David Carson, Land Forest People	Lead Planner and Fishing, Lands, and Resources Leadership
Jonathan Taggart, Land Forest People	Facilitator, Communicator
Josh Alexander, Land Forest People	Facilitator, Governance Leadership

The central tool of the project will be community engagement sessions (or sq'ép as described in section 6.0) at which the project team will be tasked with facilitating, challenging, informing, listening, recording, and validating. In each sq'ép, team members will have different roles. For example, for the Health, Culture and Education Theme the Elder representative will play a lead role, but in other themes the Elder will still advocate for culture in order to ensure that all programs are mutually supportive and avoid duplication and inefficiencies.

The planning team is presented in Figure 4.



Figure 4 - Planning Team



3.4 TERMS-OF-REFERENCE

The terms-of-reference for the planning team are presented below.

TEAM MANDATE

The Sq'ewá:lxw CCP planning team provides leadership in the preparation of the comprehensive community plan and is charged with ensuring the success of the initiative. The team will ensure that the necessary information is available to the community to support planning and that the community is fully engaged in the process. The team will facilitate preparation of the CCP by the community.

The team, through the CCP Champion, is responsible to Chief and Council and to the membership. Team members commit to seeing the assignment through to the completion of the CCP, which is expected to be a two-year time frame.

COMPOSITION

The Sq'ewá:lxw CCP planning team is composed of Sq'ewá:lxw staff, two Sq'ewá:lxw members (an Elder and a Youth), and planning staff from Land Forest People Consulting Ltd.

DUTIES

- CCP Champion - Project oversight, cheerleading, and liaison to Chief and Council.
- Coordinator - Ensure the availability of resources, documents, and other support materials. Scheduling, logistics, and hospitality.
- Lead Planner - Preparation of planning documents and quality assurance.
- Theme Leadership - Ensure fulsome consideration of the Theme including available information, identification of appropriate guests, the setting of goals and objectives, and the identification of appropriate actions.
- Elder - Support the planning team in all ways necessary to ensure that all works reflect who we are as Sq'ewá:lxw – our culture, our experience, our knowledge.
- Youth Representative - Keep the team on track to provide the future that the community needs.
- Land Forest People staff - Facilitation, planning document collation, communication, and coaching. Facilitation of the community sessions will be vitally important due to the short time available for each topic.

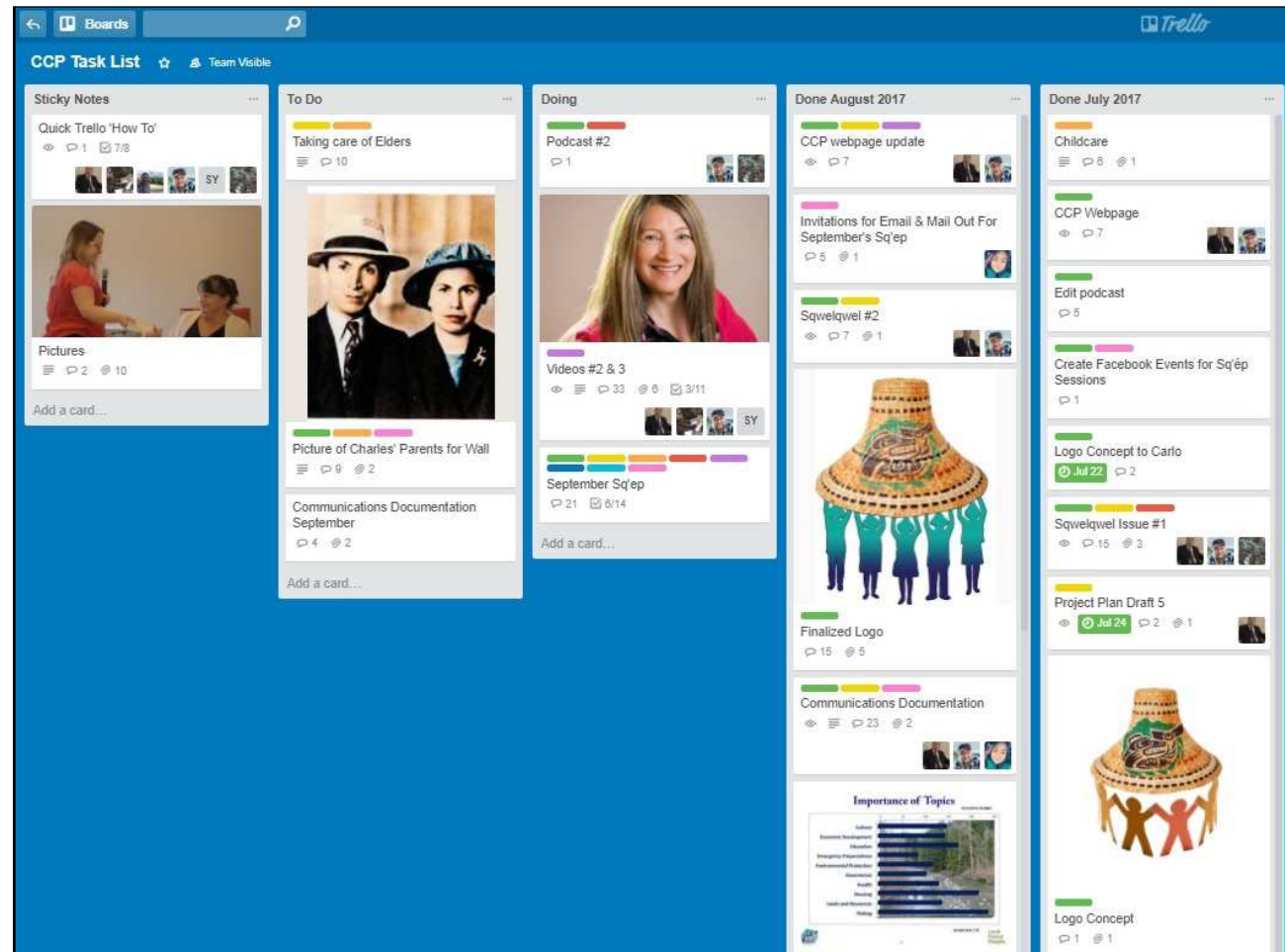
MEETINGS

Sq'ép (gatherings) are preceded by planning team meetings and followed by a debriefing session.



3.5 PROJECT COLLABORATION

With a complex set of tasks being undertaken together by several team members, effective collaboration is essential. We used the collaboration software Trello to share information, define tasks, assign responsibilities, set deadlines, and request and provide assistance to each other.





4.0 PROJECT INITIATION

4.1 INFORMATION GATHERING

A comprehensive set of information was identified for input to the planning process. The library of pertinent materials includes existing planning products (economic development, environment and land use, housing, governance and administration), and all relevant research and studies.

4.2 PROJECT INITIATION MEETING

The initial meeting of the planning team was held on June 28th, 2017 at the Sq'ewá:lxw office. The first draft of the project plan was presented at the meeting, and review of the plan provided the structure for the meeting.

In the meeting we:

- Began the CCP process in a good way and began to identify a path forward;
- Contemplated comprehensive community planning and the nature of the CCP product;
- Discussed goals for the CCP and the process;
- Confirmed the team and created a terms-of-reference;
- Identified all known information available to us;
- Provided input representing the thoughts of the team to a second draft of the project plan; and
- Scheduled our meetings for the period up to December 2017.

Following the meeting, the second draft of the project plan was created. That draft was submitted to the group for comments and edits which resulted in two subsequent rounds of drafting.

4.3 LEADERSHIP AND STAFF STRATEGY SESSION

Sq'ewá:lxw Chief and Council and staff undertook a review the fourth draft of the project plan in a group session. The goal was to ensure that the project proceeds in the best way possible. Discussions were used to build consensus and a clear pathway to a renewed administrative strategic plan guided by the comprehensive community plan. Following this session, feedback and input resulted in the production of drafts 5 and 6 of the project plan. Draft 6 was the final version of the project plan.

Following the initial community meeting, the planning team switched from preparing a project plan, to documenting project progress through this project report.



5.0 COMMUNICATIONS

Effective community engagement and open communication are essential to the success of the comprehensive community planning process. A project communication plan was developed in order to achieve the goals set out above in Section 3.2, and particularly the goals of empowering the community and achieving their vision of the future. That plan has been incorporated into this report.

The purposes of our engagement and communications efforts are to:

- Obtain community involvement;
- Capture member vision;
- Acquire community support; and
- Foster community ownership.

Throughout the planning process we will emphasize:

- Project branding;
- Continuous feedback and validation of information gathered and recommendations as they are developed;
- Use of honouraria (Elder and Youth planners) and other financial incentives to recognise the value of people's time and contribution; and
- The identification and engagement of community champions.

In order to report outcomes and promote our gatherings we used multi-channel communication including social media, our website, the Sq'ewá:lxw newsletter, a dedicated CCP newsletter called Sq'ewá:lxw Sqwélqwel, blogs, and member surveys.



5.1 BRANDING

Branding of the CCP assists in attracting interest, developing enthusiasm, focusing efforts, and relating the process to the everyday administration of Sq'ewá:lxw.

A CCP specific logo was prepared and is presented in Figure 5 - Community Vision Project Logo. Incorporated is the Sq'ewá:lxw logo and consistency in branding is achieved by use of the Sq'ewá:lxw colour scheme.

The logo is a woven cedar hat that symbolizes the weaving together of the community vision through the comprehensive community plan. Below the hat are Sq'ewá:lxw people, both holding up the planning process, and being sheltered by the protective force of plan represented by the hat.



Figure 5 - Community Vision Project Logo

5.2 COMMUNICATION TOOLS

PHOTOGRAPHS

We have invited members to submit photographs of people and places with any associated names, places, and stories.

VIDEO VIGNETTES

Concise and interesting video vignettes are being used to promote and inform.

SURVEYS

Time is limited at each sq'ép, so online surveys are used to gather community input outside of the gathering. The first survey was undertaken in July to learn the relative importance the community puts on the topics to be discussed in CCP. The results were used to allocate time and resources, including establishing the topics for each sq'ép. See Figure 6 - Importance of Discussion Topics on the next page.



Surveys are primarily advertised on line. Members in attendance at sq'ép are given the opportunity to complete the surveys if they are not receiving information electronically.



Figure 6 - Importance of Discussion Topics



Sq'ewá:lxw First Nation Vision Project Quick Review Info Sheet

What is Comprehensive Community Planning?

Comprehensive community planning is widely seen as an effective tool to build sustainable communities. Sustainability implies a high standard of living and persistence through time. Sustainable communities are adaptive, honour tradition and culture, and exist in harmony with the environment around them. Such communities generate wealth to support the current generation of people, while not limiting the opportunities available to future generations.

The CCP is the umbrella under which all community activity takes place. The other plans under the umbrella address all aspects of Nation life, including governance, administration, land use, environmental management, culture, education, economic development, and housing.

Comprehensive community planning is a Member-driven approach to creating the future that our people desire. The *Sq'ewá:lxw First Nation Vision* will:

- Have its foundation in the inherent title and rights of the people;
- Be inclusive of all community members;
- Describe a long-term vision;
- Honour the past, embrace change, and evolve with time;
- Address all aspects of community life;
- Strengthen governance and build capacity; and
- Include an action plan that will immediately set us on our path.

What's that New Logo All About?

Our work will be made easier by having a clear symbol that represents our efforts in defining our future. The logo is a cedar hat displaying the Sq'ewá:lxw First Nation logo. The woven hat symbolizes the weaving together of the community vision through the comprehensive community plan, as well as the protective force of the hat itself. Below the hat are Sq'ewá:lxw people both holding up the planning process, and being protected by it.



For further information please contact Sharron Young our Sq'ewá:lxw Nation Vision Champion!
(604) 796-9129 sharron@skawahlook.com

Quick Review Info Sheet

Frequently Asked Questions

• What is comprehensive community planning (CCP)?

CCP is a planning process that is driven, designed and implemented by the community for the community. It allows a community to plan its development (both present and future) in a way that meets its needs and aspirations. It is comprehensive because it addresses all aspects of community life, including governance, land and resources, health, infrastructure development, culture, social issues, and the economy.

• Why would a community want to do CCP?

CCP is becoming a priority for many First Nation communities who see it as an effective tool to build healthy and sustainable communities that improve the quality of life in their communities. It is a tool that is already being used by many First Nations in B.C. to achieve short- and long-term results that meet the needs and aspirations of their communities. The bottom line is that comprehensive community planning, like all forms of planning, enhances the probability and capacity for success.

• What are the benefits of CCP?

Undertaking long term planning helps communities to address current needs and build on existing strengths, while preparing for the future. Community development that is driven by a community plan strengthens governance, focuses decision-making and ensures a more cost effective use of funding.

Source: CCP Backgrounder, Strategic Planning Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Community Vision Statement

We, the Sq'ewá:lxw First Nation strive to achieve a healthy, proud and prosperous community for future generations and for ourselves. We will achieve the goal of building a self-sufficient community with the energy of our Council, the guidance of our community members, and the support of external partner organizations.

Objectives of the Nation Vision Project

With this Nation Vision project, Sq'ewá:lxw has set out to:

- Empower all Sq'ewá:lxw members through direct involvement;
- Build the personal and collective strength of the people through coaching and mentorship;
- Bring forward and celebrate tradition and culture as a common thread in the work;
- Promote healing and reconciliation through positive action;
- Protect and enhance all manner of natural and cultural resources which support the community;
- Boost economic opportunities and entrepreneurship; and
- Facilitate the growth of a healthy and happy community on Sq'ewá:lxw land.



Figure 7 - Quick Reference Information Sheet



INFORMATION SHEET

The “Quick Review Info Sheet” reproduced on the previous page was prepared as a community member resource and distributed electronically and at the September Sq'ép.

SQWÉLQWEL

Following each community engagement session, the planning team prepared an update that we will call Sq'ewá:lxw Sqwélqwel (news). This name helps us differentiate from the formal Sq'ewá:lxw newsletter.


Each Sqwélqwel will:

- Be on-brand, use plain language, and be concise but informative;
- Reinforce work-to-date;
- Provide a report of the meeting's discussions and outcomes;
- Report any other related developments;
- Actively promote and encourage attendance by reporting prize winners and advertising upcoming draws, *etc.*;
- Include a schedule for upcoming sessions and gatherings; and
- Invite comment and discussion with the planning team.

Each Sqwélqwel is provided to all members via email, Canada Post, posted on the website and promoted via Facebook.

Pictured on the following pages as examples are the July (Figure 8 - Sqwélqwel Issue No 1) and August (Figure 9 - Sqwélqwel Issue No 2) issues of Sqwélqwel. The full set of Sqwélqwel are appended to this report.






Sq'ewá:lxw Sqwélqwel
The Newsletter of the
Sq'ewá:lxw First Nation Vision Project
Issue #1 July 2017

What is the Sq'ewá:lxw First Nation Vision Project?

Working together we will define our future. It is as simple as that. Chief and Council invite all members to participate in guiding our community to a future that is best for all of us.

The *Sq'ewá:lxw First Nation Vision* will:

- Have its foundation in the inherent title and rights of the people;
- Be inclusive of all community members;
- Describe a long-term vision;
- Honour the past;
- Embrace change and evolve with time;
- Address all aspects of community life;
- Strengthen governance and build capacity; and
- Include an action plan that will immediately set us on our path.



Sq'ép (Gatherings)

The *Halq'eméylem* word *sq'ép* means a meeting or a gathering. With community participation being at the heart of this work, planning will take place within community engagement sessions which we will call *sq'ép*. Together we will learn from the past, evaluate the present, and envision the future. In order to give as many people as possible a chance to participate, *Sq'ép* will be on Saturdays following a luncheon meal.

How Can I Get Involved?

- Attend monthly *Sq'ép* and work with your friends and family;
- Regularly review website and Facebook information and reply with your ideas;
- Share your email address if you would like information to be sent directly to you;
- Volunteer to take the lead on an issue of particular importance to you; and
- Share your vision and make the *Sq'ewá:lxw First Nation Vision* your own.

For further information please contact Sharron Young our Sq'ewá:lxw Nation Vision Champion!
(604) 796-9129 sharron@sqawahlook.com

Sq'ewá:lxw Sqwélqwel

A Message from Chief and Council

Welcome to this first sqwélqwel (news) of our Sq'ewá:lxw First Nation Vision project.

We are ready and able to plot our own course into the future. We have initiated a process to create a future which is genuine for our people and supportive of a sustainable community. We are pleased to be moving forward on such an important initiative.

We encourage you to get involved and create the future you want to see for your children.

Chief Maureen Chapman
Councillor Debra Schneider

How Do I Learn More?

We will be reaching out via the Sq'ewá:lxw website, our Facebook page, postal mail-outs, this newsletter, and email.

Feel free to contact Sharron Young; she would be pleased to speak with you. We encourage your involvement in whatever way suits you best.

Save The Date!
Saturday August 12th
Noon at the
Hall in Ruby Creek

We will have lunch and then discussions in the circle until 3 pm. More information on our first *Sq'ép* will be coming soon!

Community Vision Statement

We, the Sq'ewá:lxw First Nation strive to achieve a healthy, proud and prosperous community for future generations and for ourselves. We will achieve the goal of building a self-sufficient community with the energy of our Council, the guidance of our community members, and the support of external partner organizations.

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With this Nation Vision project, Sq'ewá:lxw has set out to:

- Empower all Sq'ewá:lxw members through direct involvement;
- Build the personal and collective strength of the people through coaching and mentorship;
- Bring forward and celebrate tradition and culture as a common thread in the work;
- Promote healing and reconciliation through positive action;
- Protect and enhance all manner of natural and cultural resources which support the community;
- Boost economic opportunities and entrepreneurship; and
- Facilitate the growth of a healthy and happy community on Sq'ewá:lxw land.


July 2017
Page 2


Figure 8 - Sqwélqwel Issue No 1





Sq'ewá:lxw Sqwélqwel

The Newsletter of the
Sq'ewá:lxw First Nation Vision Project
Issue #2 August 2017



Sq'ép #1 - August Community Gathering

Pictured above are our Members who came together Saturday August 12th at Ruby Creek. We spent the afternoon together discussing how we will all work together to plan for the future. We had Elders, and youth, and everyone in-between! We took lots of time to get re-acquainted with each other. We revisited the vision for the future that community Members have developed in previous exercises. Following-up on our survey, we discussed and debated which topics are of greatest importance for us to consider over the next year as we move forward. Based on what we heard we will be grouping our discussions as per the graphic shown here.

Members shared their thoughts:
We will right it in our time - Lucy
We are all in this together - Bill
Elders believe that education is the key to survival and will help heal and reinvent ourselves - Harvey
Including youth in traditional way of life, it is the only way we are going to survive - Harvey
 Special thanks go to Bill Davis for supporting the work with drumming and singing.



Importance of Themes


Theme	Importance (Relative)
Fishing, Lands, Resources	High
Education, Health, Culture	Medium-High
Economics, Environment	Medium
Infrastructure, Housing	Medium-Low
Governance, Emergency	Low

For further information please contact Sharron Young our Sq'ewá:lxw Nation Vision Champion!
 (604) 796-9129 sharron@skawahlook.com

Sq'ewá:lxw Sqwélqwel

What's that New Logo All About?

Our work will be made easier by having a clear symbol that represents our efforts in defining our future. The logo is a cedar hat displaying the Sq'ewá:lxw First Nation logo. The woven hat symbolizes the weaving together of the community vision through the comprehensive community plan, as well as the protective force of the hat itself. Below the hat are Sq'ewá:lxw people both holding up the planning process, and being protected by it.



What is Comprehensive Community Planning?

Comprehensive community planning is widely seen as an effective tool to build sustainable communities. Sustainability implies a high standard of living and persistence through time. Sustainable communities are adaptive, honour tradition and culture, and exist in harmony with the environment around them. Such communities generate wealth to support the current generation of people, while not limiting the opportunities available to future generations.

The CCP is the umbrella under which all community activity takes place. The other plans under the umbrella address all aspects of Nation life, including governance, administration, land use, environmental management, culture, education, economic development, and housing.

Comprehensive community planning is a Member-driven approach to creating the future that our people desire. The *Sq'ewá:lxw First Nation Vision* will:

- ☑ Have its foundation in the inherent title and rights of the people;
- ☑ Be inclusive of all community members;
- ☑ Describe a long-term vision;
- ☑ Honour the past, embrace change, and evolve with time;
- ☑ Address all aspects of community life;
- ☑ Strengthen governance and build capacity; and
- ☑ Include an action plan that will immediately set us on our path.

Inside this Sqwélqwel

- ☑ Sq'ép #2 September 16th - P3
- ☑ Community Vision Statement - P3
- ☑ Frequently Asked Questions - P4
- ☑ How do I learn more - P4

Sq'ép (Gathering)

The *Halq'eméylem* word *sq'ép* means a meeting or a gathering. Our planning will take place within community engagement sessions which we are calling *sq'ép*.

August 2017
Page 2

Figure 9 - Sqwélqwel Issue No 2

Continued next page



Sq'ewá:lxw Sqwélqwel



Fishing, Lands, and Resources

At our September 16th Sq'ép we will be considering what place fish, fishing, lands, and resources will have in the future of the community.

We invite you to put some thought into these topics and come out to the Sq'ép prepared to offer your thoughts.

Sq'ép #1 Prize Winners

Wendy Chapman, Julie Lungal, Deano Chapman, Delores Jim, Shannon Chapman, Bill Davis, and Brett Chapman



Community Vision Statement

We, the Sq'ewá:lxw First Nation strive to achieve a healthy, proud and prosperous community for future generations and for ourselves. We will achieve the goal of building a self-sufficient community with the energy of our Council, the guidance of our community members, and the support of external partner organizations.

Objectives of the Nation Vision Project

With this Nation Vision project, Sq'ewá:lxw has set out to:

- Empower all Sq'ewá:lxw members through direct involvement;
- Build the personal and collective strength of the people through coaching and mentorship;
- Bring forward and celebrate tradition and culture as a common thread in the work;
- Promote healing and reconciliation through positive action;
- Protect and enhance all manner of natural and cultural resources which support the community;
- Boost economic opportunities and entrepreneurship; and
- Facilitate the growth of a healthy and happy community on Sq'ewá:lxw land.

August 2017

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Sq'ewá:lxw Sqwélqwel

Frequently Asked Questions

• What is comprehensive community planning (CCP)?

CCP is a planning process that is driven, designed and implemented by the community for the community. It allows a community to plan its development (both present and future) in a way that meets its needs and aspirations. It is comprehensive because it addresses all aspects of community life, including governance, land and resources, health, infrastructure development, culture, social issues, and the economy.

• Why would a community want to do CCP?

CCP is becoming a priority for many First Nation communities who see it as an effective tool to build healthy and sustainable communities that improve the quality of life in their communities. It is a tool that is already being used by many First Nations in B.C. to achieve short- and long-term results that meet the needs and aspirations of their communities. The bottom line is that comprehensive community planning, like all forms of planning, enhances the probability and capacity for success.

• What are the benefits of CCP?

Undertaking long term planning helps communities to address current needs and build on existing strengths, while preparing for the future. Community development that is driven by a community plan strengthens governance, focuses decision-making and ensures a more cost effective use of funding.

Source: CCP Background, Strategic Planning Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

How Do I Learn More?

Vision Project Video:

<https://youtu.be/IBCv5maxLC4>

Website:

<http://www.skawahlook.com/comprehensive-community-plan/>

Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/SkawahlookFN/#>



Sq'ép #2 - Fishing, Lands, and Resources

Saturday September 16th, 2017

Noon at Building #10 Stó:lō Nation

7201 Vedder Rd, Chilliwack, BC

We will have lunch and then discussions in the circle until 3 pm.

Save The Date!

August 2017

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SQ'EWÁ:LXW NEWSLETTER

The regular Sq'ewá:lxw newsletter was also utilized. With wide circulation and an existing readership, the newsletter increased the level of awareness among members or at least reinforced information obtained through our other channels. Each newsletter issued during the project will include information on the CCP process. The newsletter will also promote the use by members of the CCP web page to access information, videos, and other content. Figure 10 - July Newsletter (below) presents the CCP information shared in the July 2017 newsletter.

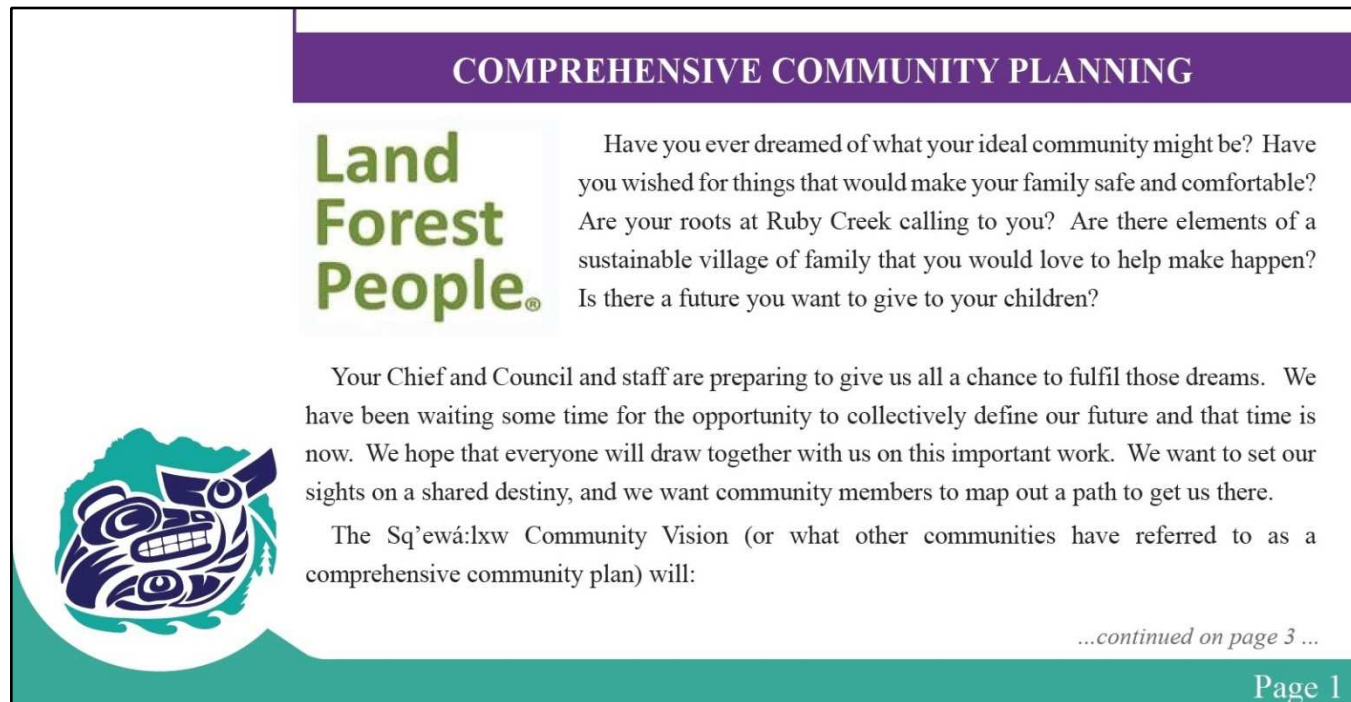


Figure 10 - July Newsletter

Continued next page



COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLANNING ... continued from page 1...

- Have its foundation in the inherent title and rights of the people;
- Be inclusive of all community members;
- Describe a long-term vision;
- Honour the past;
- Embrace change and evolve with time as a living plan ;
- Address all aspects of community life;
- Strengthen governance and build capacity; and
- Include an action plan that will immediately set us on our path.

The Halq'eméylem word sq'ép means a meeting or a gathering. With community participation being at the heart of the work, planning will take place within community engagement sessions which we will call sq'ép. Together we will learn from the past, evaluate the present, and envision the future.

Sq'ép will take place on Saturdays. We will start with lunch and continue into the afternoon for a few hours. All will be welcome at the circle. Facilitators will ensure that the sq'ép is at all times respectful, comfortable, and safe.

Supporting the work we will have a dedicated newsletter called Sq'ewá:lxw Sqwélqwel.

You will very soon be receiving more information. There will be many ways to participate. We will be reaching out via the website, Facebook, Sq'ewá:lxw Sqwélqwel, postal mail outs, and email. You will be encouraged to regularly look for new information on our website and Facebook page. Please send us your email address if you wish to receive information that way.

We urge you to get involved, share your vision, support the project team, and make the Sq'ewá:lxw Community Vision your own.

We have taken on a big task and we will be working together on a first version of the Community Plan for about two years. We will be kicking off our work with our first Sq'ép on August 12th in the hall at Ruby Creek. Please save that day on your calendar.

Your Champion of this initiative is Sharron Young. Please feel free to contact Sharron with any thoughts you may have. See you at Ruby Creek on August 12th!



SQ'ÉP INVITATIONS

Rather than using posters and announcements, an invitation approach to publicizing the sq'ép was used in the hope that the invitation was received as more personal and engaging.

POSTAL DELIVERY

Recognising that some members are not active online or in social media, mail outs remain an important tool. All materials produced should be mailed as well as distributed by other methods.

PRIZES

Prizes were used to increase involvement, and especially attendance at sq'ép. We:

- Offered door prizes at each sq'ép;
- Offered a grand prize of \$1,000 at the April session with entries accumulated by members through the process through:
 - Attendance at each sq'ép including attendance via Facebook Live;
 - Submission of the feedback form from each sq'ép;
 - Filling out surveys;
 - Submitting pictures, stories, *etc.*; and
 - In recognition of valuable contributions offer a guaranteed prize of \$50 for members who attend all meetings and complete all surveys along with being entered into the grand prize draw.



Figure 11 - Example Invitation



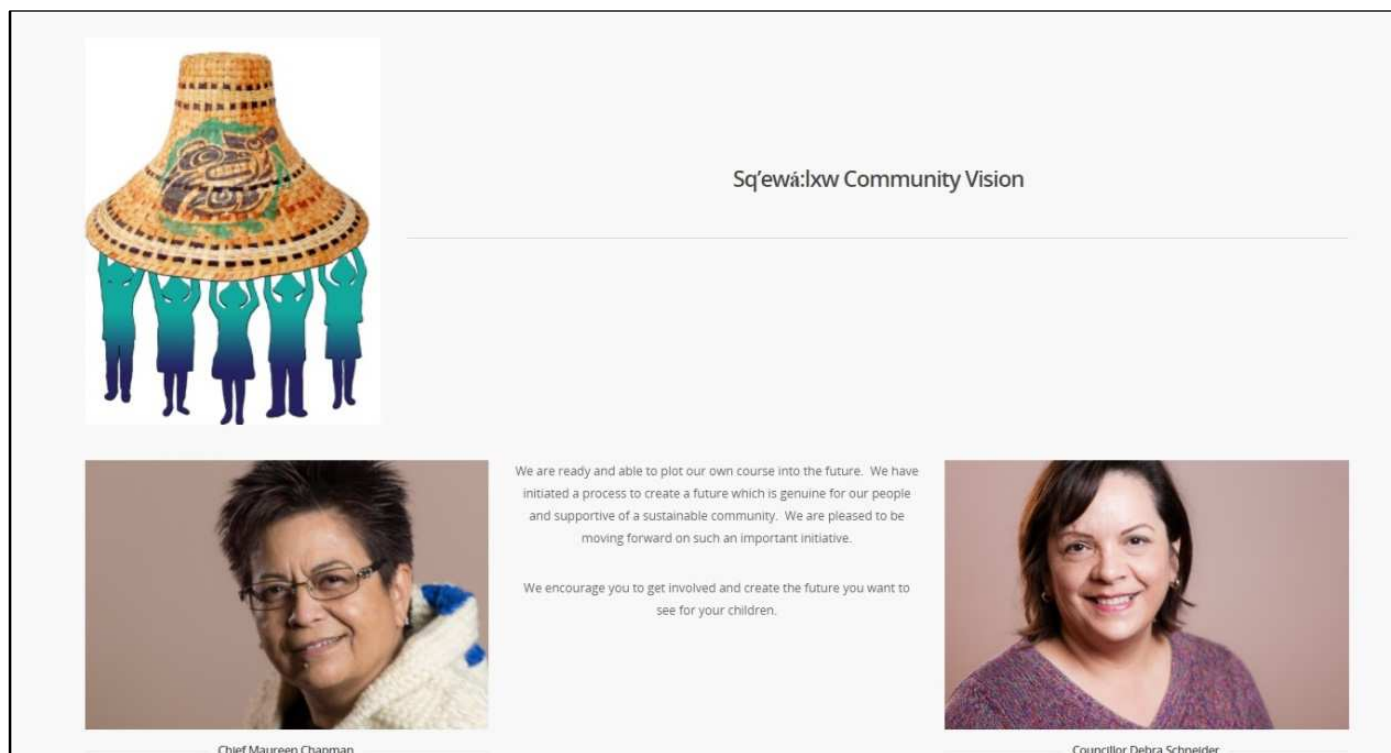
5.3 ONLINE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

WEBSITE

In addition to using the website to promote the CCP process, we are taking the opportunity to increase member traffic to the website. The Sq'ewá:lxw website, including the CCP web page:

- Tells the full story of the Sq'ewá:lxw CCP;
- Conveys a message from Chief and Council;
- Offers a library of resources and documents available to download;
- Features the planning team members and member participants; and
- Provides links to videos, a podcast interview, blogs, survey results, and sqwélqwel.

The CCP webpage can be accessed at: <http://skawahlook.com/comprehensive-community-plan/>





OTHER DIGITAL MEDIA

Digital media is an important promotional tool, especially for young Members and Members who live at a distance. We use:

- Email notifications;
- The Sq'ewá:lxw Facebook page (@SkawahlookFN) to advertise sq'ép, sqwélqwel, surveys, and survey results;
- Facebook Events to publicise the website and engagement sessions;
- Facebook Ads to boost exposure;
- Regular posts to Facebook and the website information and announcements;
- Blogs and online polling;
- Posts of pictures and video vignettes; and
- Broadcast CCP related events by Facebook Live.

An introductory interview with the lead planner was podcast in July. It can be found at <https://soundcloud.com/sqewalxw-ccp>.



Figure 12 - Example Facebook Page Post



6.0 SQ'ÉP - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

The Halq'eméylem word *sq'ép* means a meeting or a gathering. With community participation being the core of the project, planning took place within community engagement sessions which we call *sq'ép*. Planning involved learning from the past, evaluating the present, and envisioning the future. The *sq'ép* are at the heart of the CCP process. Our best sharing, envisioning, and planning took place at these sessions.

Messaging with respect to promoting the *sq'ép* assured members that it is their plan and their meeting. We believe that interest in attending increased when members felt that there is a true interest in them sharing their experiences. We integrated traditional protocols, drumming and prayer to provide a culturally familiar environment.

In order to increase attendance the planning team:

- Provided good food;
- Provided transportation if needed and where possible; and
- Actively reached out to members.

The business of community planning was divided into themes and discussed one at a time at each *sq'ép*. Although this approach might be perceived as limiting discussion, it best supports engagement by experts and assisted facilitators in focusing the discussions. The final *sq'ép* of the current year was focused on validation of the work accomplished, sewing it together into one narrative, and celebrating the achievement.

Sq'ép generally took place on Saturdays at the Stó:lō Nation Government House in Chilliwack. Although it would be appropriate to host sessions at Ruby Creek, it is acknowledged that meeting in Chilliwack increased attendance and offered improved internet access.

For each session, we held a morning planning team meeting to finalise the agenda and content of the day. Community members were invited to come for lunch. Each session started right after lunch and lasted approximately three hours.

Facilitators were charged with ensuring that the *sq'ép* was at all times fair, respectful, comfortable, and safe. Facilitation included techniques for involvement and engagement to maintain interest and enthusiasm. These included videos, immediate feedback (clicker or dotmocracy) exercises, demonstrations, the world café technique, and breakout sessions.



Each sq'ép took place in a circle. Facilitators structured the discussions while allowing the community to set the direction and content within the wide bounds of each theme.

Present in the circle were recognised experts to support each theme. This was to ensure that the process is well informed.

Sessions generally included:

- Traditional drumming and singing;
- Available background and informational material;
- Live streaming of the sq'ép in its entirety and comprehensive video capture;
- Video products were used to recap work undertaken previously;
- Validation of previous work;
- Breakout groups to increase the effectiveness of information gathering; and
- Video and photographs to trigger conversations.

Each sq'ép finished in the circle to allow reflection and feedback.

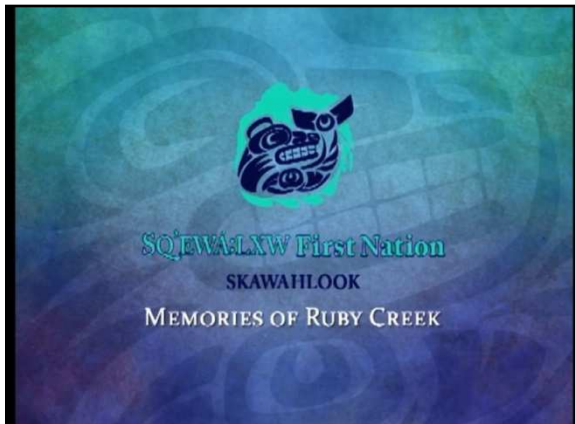




6.1 SQ'ÉP - INTRODUCTION

Our first gathering as a community to develop a comprehensive community plan was on August 12th, 2017 at the Sq'ewá:lxw Community hall. At this gathering, we began community engagement in a good way. The goal was to set the tone for the whole planning process. We shared information, asked questions, listened to the community, and facilitated consensus on project scope, goals, process, and desired outcomes. The meeting followed the outline provided by the PowerPoint presentation appended to this report (SQEP Presentation August 12th 2017.pdf). See that document for full information on the proceedings.

Following welcoming comments from our CCP Champion Sharron Young, we had a prayer and some lunch. During lunch we screened the video *Memories of Ruby Creek* for the interest of those in attendance and a primer to our work. This set the tone of family and togetherness. That video is available at the following link.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C9smYepk5n4&t=4s>

We took the opportunity for a group picture and returned to the circle.





Following the meal we came together in a circle to do the work of starting a communal journey toward a common vision. Once back in the circle we had prayer and drumming led by Bill Davis. David Carson facilitated the afternoon's agenda and started with housekeeping items and agenda review.

Sharron Young introduced the origin of the project, the planning team and their roles.

Shared with the gathering was a historical context for community planning, the emphasis being on self-determination and jurisdiction. The presentation went on to introduce comprehensive community planning, and its characteristics. An example of another community's experience, K'ómoks, was provided through video (see link below).



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3DawiNxbM14>

We also screened our own Vision Project video.



Figure 13 - Vision Project Video

<https://youtu.be/IBCv5maxLC4>

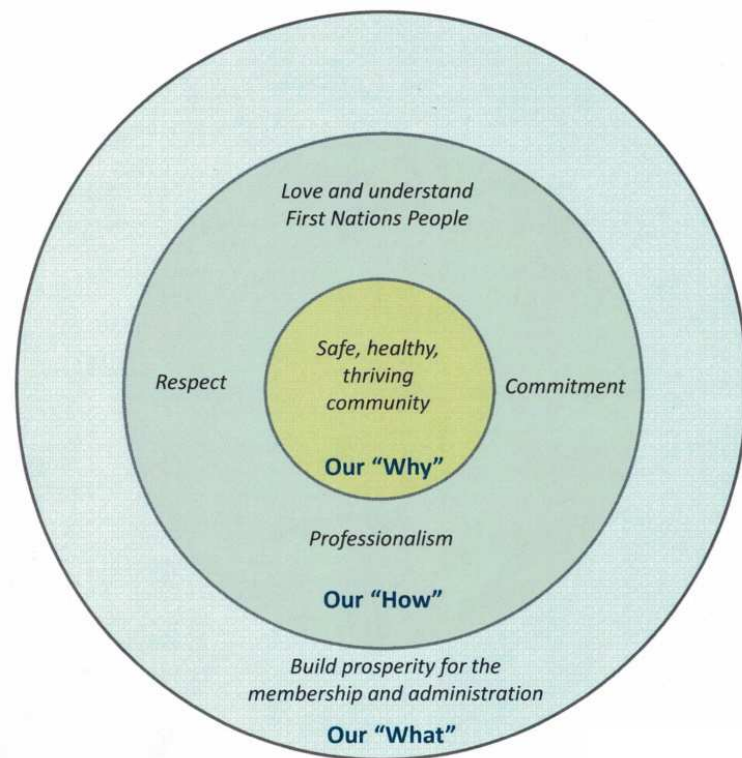


Sharron Young led a community participation exercise using clickers for immediate feedback on the ways in which the members have been engaging with the information provided so far and with the communication channels utilized. Understanding who was seeing messages via social media and who depended on postal delivery for information, or why or why not people were filling out surveys, helped guide our communication program.

A description of the prize scheme that would be used throughout the project was provided.

COMMUNITY VISION

Understanding and accurately representing community vision is an important step in planning. Sq'ewá:lxw leadership has expressed strategic vision through the graphics below .





Also brought forward to the project was the community vision statement:

We, the Sq'ewá:lxw First Nation strive to achieve a healthy, proud and prosperous community for future generations and for ourselves.

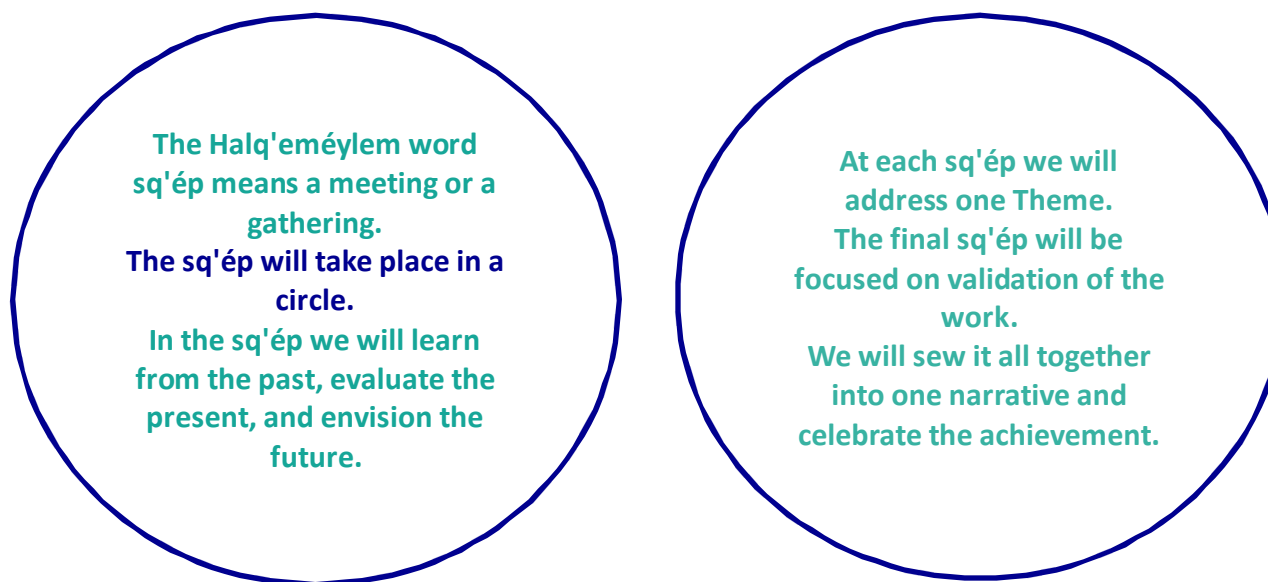
We will achieve the goal of building a self-sufficient community with the energy of our Council, the guidance of our community Members, and the support of external partner organizations.

Finally, project staff reviewed other community plans such as the land use plan and environmental plan for other clues on community perspectives.

All of this information was shared and discussed, as was scope and objectives of the project (see Sections 3.1 and 3.2 of this report).

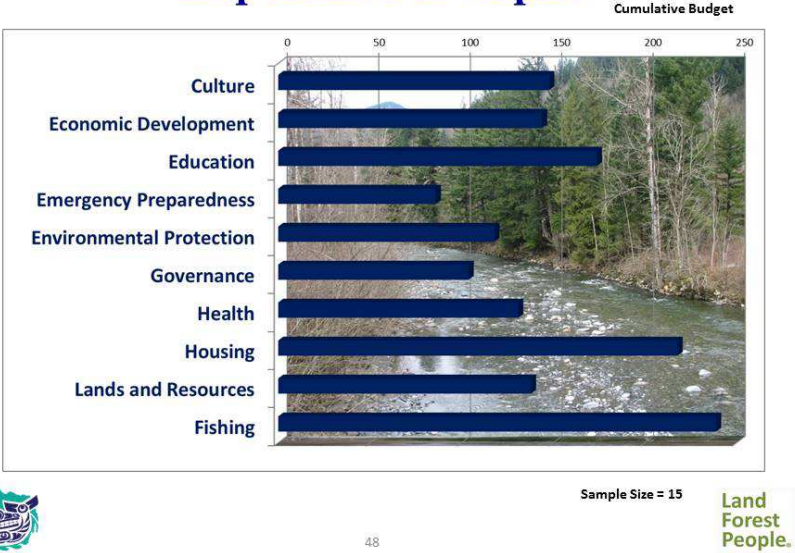
SQ'ÉP

The concept of sq'ép was introduced.





Importance of Topics



A survey of membership on the importance of various topics was used to identify priorities for discussions at sq'ép.

Mike Bellegarde introduced the project logo and its symbolism.

“The cedar hat is the CPP. It is woven together using the ideas of the community. The people are lifting up the plan while the plan is protecting them”.

Elder Charles Chapman note that symbols are important. The bear is our protector and fish is our food.



Further discussion was held on the need for a project slogan and a name for the project or plan.

SQ'EWA:LXW FIRST NATION VISION PROJECT REPORT



Sharron Young led a discussion looking for guidance from Members on where the process should go from here. She encouraged all members to participate.

In closing, David Carson summarized the day and Sharron Young held the prize draw. The group was thanked and reminded about the next Sq'ép.

The day's activities were captured on video for those who were not able to attend. Please see the link below.



Figure 14 - August Sq'ép Recap Video

<http://skawahlook.com/ccp/sqewalxw-first-nation-august-sqep-recap/>



6.2 SQ'ÉP - FISHING, LANDS, AND RESOURCES

Our second sq'ép was focused on fishing, lands, and resources and was held on September 16th, 2017 at the Stó:lō Nation Government House in Chilliwack. The purpose was to obtain input from Sq'ewá:lxw membership on the issues of lands, resources and fish, but also to discuss what form the final plan might take. We shared information, asked questions, listened to the community, and facilitated breakout sessions to collect input.

TEAM MEETING

Before community members arrived for lunch, the planning team met, reviewed ongoing project planning, and finalised the day's agenda. At this meeting the concept of a cedar hat, representing the weaving together of ideas to form the plan was first brought forward.

Elder Charles Chapman took the opportunity to remind us what we are doing:

- We should first look at ourselves. What happened? What changed us?
- Visit the cemetery; look at the oldest dates on the stones. See the attack on culture.
- Take a look at the people who attended the schools. Take a look at the practices endured at time of death.
- People are hurting and they don't even know why.
- This is the starting point of our work.

Following these statements, it was decided that our next priority for sq'ép was culture.

SQ'ÉP

Following a short welcome and a prayer by Jerry Chapman to bless the food, lunch was served. Following the meal the community came together in a circle to do the work of starting the communal journey toward a common vision on fishing, lands, and resources. The sq'ép was broadcast with Facebook live for members that could not attend.

A video introducing the comprehensive community planning process was presented. See the link to the right.



Figure 15 - Intro to CCP Video

<https://youtu.be/SIVg2fN-sEs>



Land Use Plan



Integrated Strategic Plan
Part B - Land Use Plan

Version 1.3
January 2016



- First produced 2012
- Community meetings
- Various updates including to January 2016

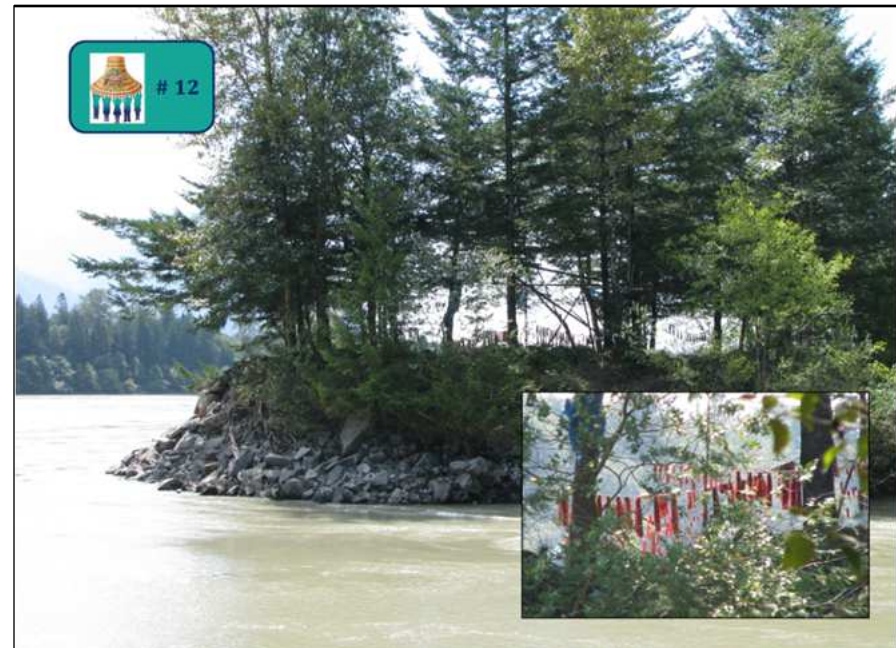
Land
Forest
People.

5

For context David Carson shared the nature and content of past related projects. Those included the *Memories of Ruby Creek* film, the environmental management plan, and the Land Use Plan. On hand was a library of associated documents.

Breakout groups were used to collect the thoughts of members in attendance. Each group had a set of photographs of Sq'ewá:lxw fishing, lands and resources places and things to which members shared their reactions. Comments ranged from childhood memories, Sq'ewá:lxw history and traditions, changes in access to cultural and economic resources like fish, hopes for the future, and suggestions for solutions to current challenges. The picture below is an example. The full set of pictures and comment can be found in the appended document *Sq'ép No Fishing 2 Pictures and Comments*.

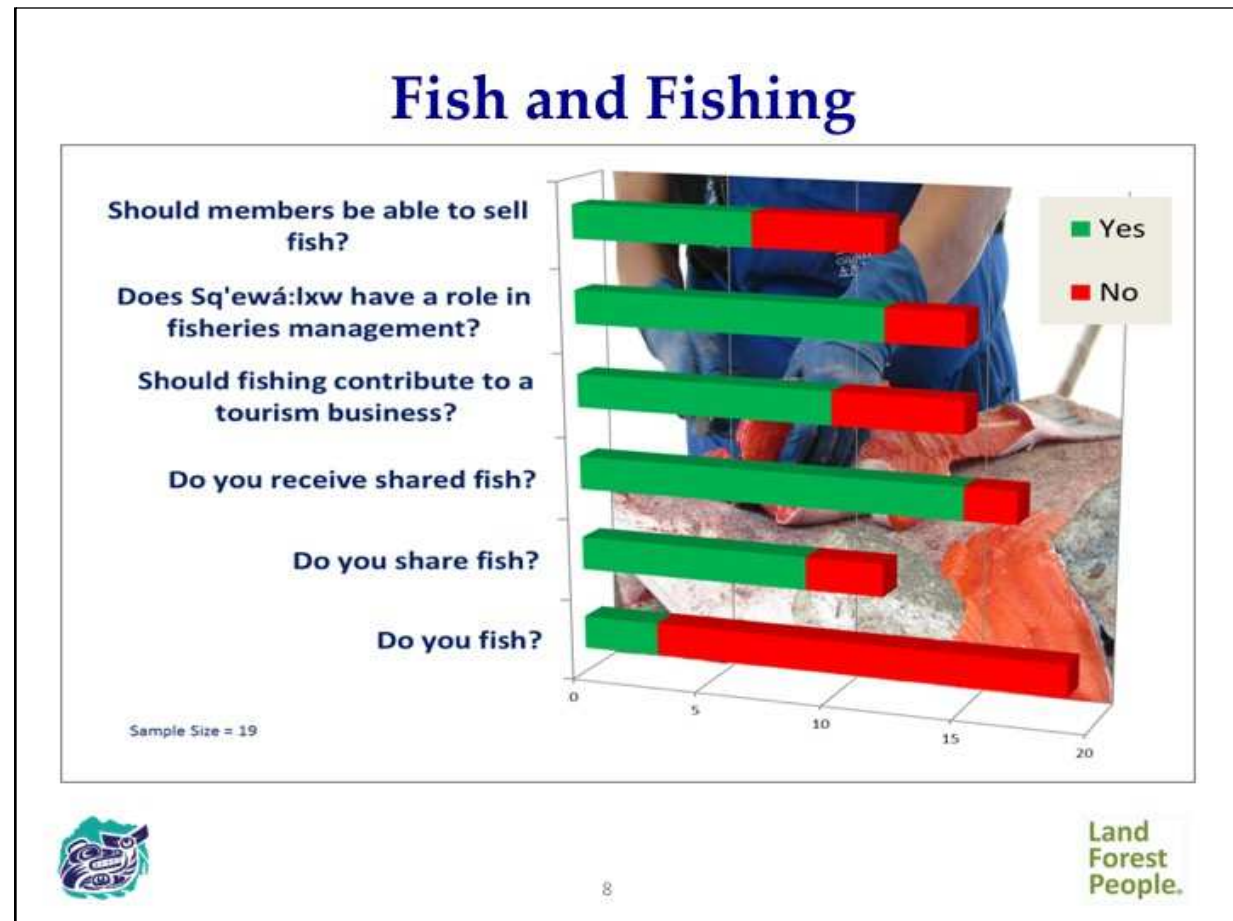
- Wind Dry
- When weather permitted
- Two weeks
- Hot weather
- Dates controlled by DFO
- Getting away from Indian Act
- Exercising Section 35





In preparation for the sq'ép a membership survey was undertaken to understand the community's relationship to fish and fishing. The results were reviewed and are summarized below.

- Sq'ewá:lxw members eat fish (94%) although most do not fish (84%).
- Sq'ewá:lxw members believe fish is important to health (44%), culture (33%), and ceremony (33%).
- Members value a wide range of species of fish (trout, salmon, and sturgeon) and consume the fish fresh, canned, smoked, or wind-dried.
- Most members report family possession of a traditional fishing site (83%) with only half of those reporting that they utilize the site.
- Most comments indicated that control of family fishing sites should be up to the family but one respondent indicated the Band should be in control, and one indicated the need for a governing body. Two respondents were of the opinion that if a site is not being utilized it should be available to others. One indicated that re-allocation should be discussed across the membership. One dissenting member felt that any community member can fish at any site on a first-come first-served basis.
- Half of respondents





share fish with family and 88% receive fish from family. Despite sharing of fish 80% of members must buy some fish to feed their families. Fishing should contribute to a tourism business within Sq'ewá:lxw according to 67% of respondents. However, use of fish in tourism must be within internal regulation with regard to how the fish is used, in context of sharing of tradition and education of participants.

- On the issue of selling fish, 58% of respondents think that members should be able to sell fish and 42% said no. One member warned that selling fish was not respectful to family needs. Most comments expressed a need to meet family and community needs first.
- In reaction to the statement "Fisheries and fishing is controlled by the DFO and we have no control", members were consistent in their responses that this was a poor situation. Eighty percent felt that Sq'ewá:lxw has or should have a role in fisheries management.
- In describing what contribution Sq'ewá:lxw might make in fisheries management, members suggested: ensuring sufficient quantities for the community; participation in outside processes; assist in conservation and regulation; spawning ground rehabilitation; and purchase a community boat and motor and install a boat ramp.

From the various forms of input the following Vision and Goals were developed for a Sq'ewá:lxw fishing program.

VISION

We envision a strong community of people honouring the past, empowered to live our lives as we see fit, and defining our own future. Our people and our community maintain our health and happiness in partnership with the fish as we always have. We are stewards of the fish as we have always been. We bring respect, family unity, ceremony, and traditional ways to the work required. We are a resilient community, secure in our own ability to provide fish for our people.

GOALS

- Sq'ewá:lxw is a full partner in all decisions made with regard to our fish and fishing.
- We are active in the stewardship of fish habitat and management of fish harvests.
- Every person and every family have the fish they need for their physical and spiritual health.
- Every person has the option to participate in the work of Sq'ewá:lxw fish and fishing.
- Each generation shares the same memories of family and fishing, and of fish.

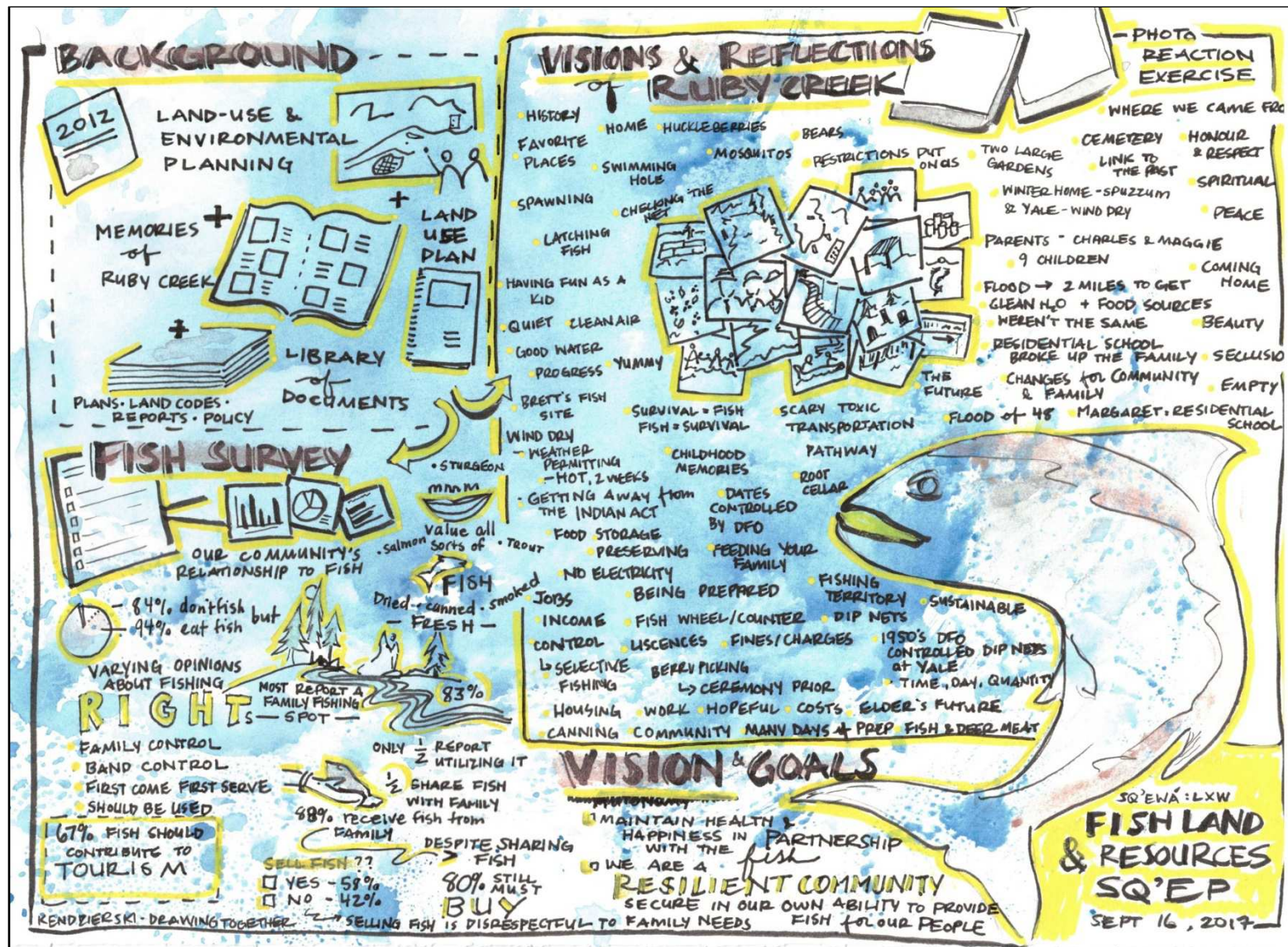


Figure 16 - Graphic Summary Fishing



ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are take-home messages for Sq'ewá:lxw planning staff, in no particular order.

- Write a fish and fishing policy (one page and to be shared publicly) including defining the Sq'ewá:lxw way of sharing and selling of fish.
- Determine the types and volume of fish required for each person and the community.
- Build food security, including fish, into our emergency preparedness program.
- Expand Sq'ewá:lxw fishing to all modes of catch.
- Establish a program of teaching and mentoring new fishers.
- Investigate fish habitat enhancement on Lexwthithesam (Ruby Creek) and Lexwskw'owōwelh (Skwawolt Creek).
- Exercise our rights to fish in the way our ancestors did and in the context of modern times.
- Support community fishing and food preservation including through the provision of equipment as necessary.
- Build a dry rack and re-introduce the practice to the community.
- Investigate the construction of a fish weir or wheel in the Vasasus Island passage.
- Re-initiate community fishing and processing (drying, canning), as a social undertaking.
- Build a communal kitchen facility for processing of fish and sharing of food.
- Build a community root cellar.
- Purchase a community boat and motor and build a launching ramp.
- Communicate to our people and outsiders the importance of fish to the sustainability of our community.

The following were added to this list following the April 2018 sq'ép:

- Revitalization of first fish ceremony as a community cultural event.
- Utilize informational signage at the adventure park to share with outsiders on the topic of fishing.
- As part of the policy work, define where family fishing spots are and the history of each to demonstrate rights.



Figure 17 - September Recap Video

The days discussions were summarized in a video for sharing with those who were not able to join us. The video can be viewed at this link: <http://skawahlook.com/ccp/sqewalxw-first-nation-september-sqep-recap/>



6.3 SQ'ÉP - CULTURE

The third sq'ép of the Vision Project process was on culture and was held on October 14th, 2017 at the Stó:lō Nation Government House in Chilliwack. The purpose of this sq'ép was to get input from Sq'ewá:lxw membership on the issues of culture. We shared information, asked questions, listened to the community, and facilitated breakout sessions to collect input.

TEAM MEETING

Before community members arrived for lunch, the planning team met in the morning, reviewed ongoing project planning, and finalised the day's agenda.








The success of the photo review exercise at the previous sq'ép was recognized and it was decided to continue the exercise through a weekly Facebook post of interesting or thought provoking photographs. An added benefit will be keeping the planning initiative at the top of member's minds.

Discussions also advanced the hat weaving theme. We received very positive feedback at the sq'ép and in the survey for the theme message. We envision use of the combined cedar hat logo and theme description as a prominent piece in the planning product and suggest:

"We the Sq'ewá:lxw People have gathered in sq'ép to share our values, traditions, history, thoughts, and visions - each of which are symbolized by a single strand of cedar. Our cedar strands are woven together, transformed into the Sq'ewá:lxw Cedar Hat and collectively honoured and held up by the People of Sq'ewá:lxw."

The team decided to recruit Crystal Chapman to assist in developing this theme by sharing her weaving skills.

Elder Charles shared his thoughts on what we will do today:

-  We have to understand culture and we do that by listening to stories of life.
-  Culture is who we are and what we do.
-  It has been difficult to learn culture under oppression.
-  Understanding what happened to us helps us understand why we are struggling with culture.
-  Basket weaving is very important to our people. We had/have skilled weavers.
-  Music and drums are tools for the ancestors.
-  We may receive messages from the ancestors, they may not be clear, but with the fullness of time ...



SQ'ÉP

Following a short welcome and prayer by Jerry Chapman to bless the food, lunch was served. Following the meal the community came together in a circle to do the work of starting the communal journey toward a common vision on culture.

Melissa Kendzierski recorded the day's events in words and pictures. Melissa describes her process as follows: listen and record in real time; represent graphically; and summarize in cartoons. We have found the process very effective. The sq'ép was broadcast with Facebook live for members that could not attend.

Two videos were shared:

- We repeated the CCP introductory video shown at the previous sq'ép for those who did not see it. It can be viewed at this link: <https://youtu.be/SIVg2fN-sEs>
- The September sq'ép recap video was shared in order to update the group on the proceedings of the previous sq'ép. It can be viewed at the following link <https://youtu.be/5yAicHo0Kmg>

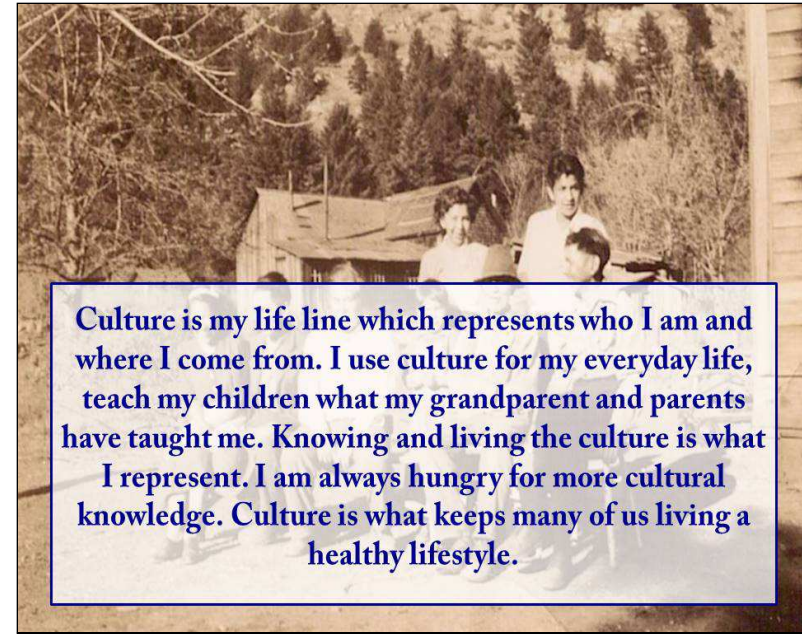
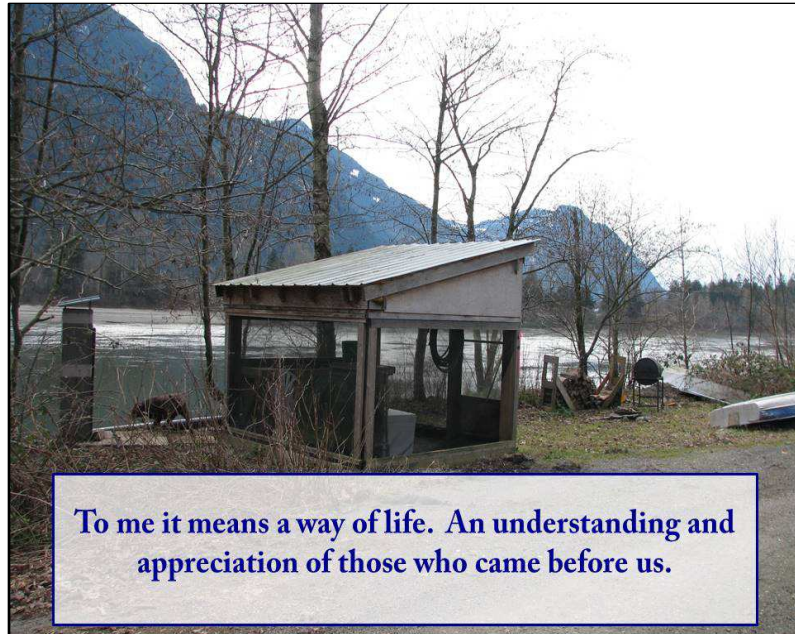
Feedback and validation is essential, and the day's activities began with a review of input on fishing. Topics of particular interest were:

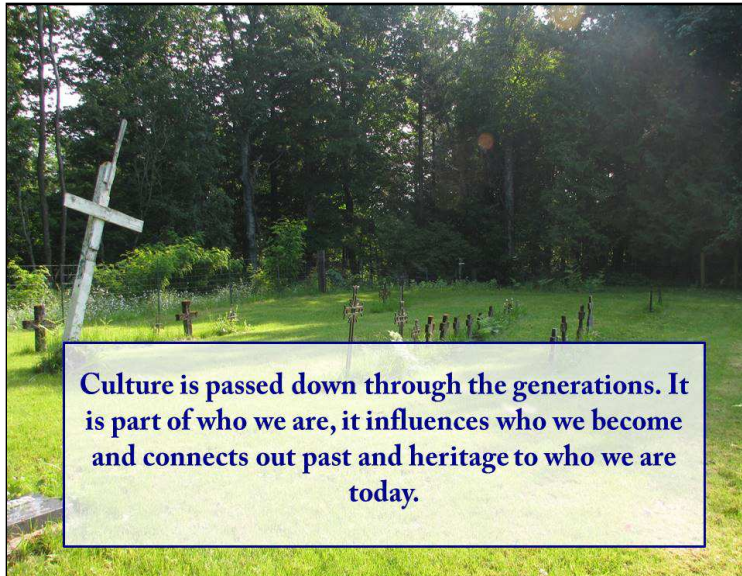
- The equal right of members living in the U.S. to fish when home;
- Government dictating what First Nations people can and cannot do;
- We need more information sharing within the CCP process and additional discussion on fishing;
- When we consider fishing, we need to take a different look at it; and
- Water is too shallow in the bay, not many fishing spots left. How and where are we going to fish?



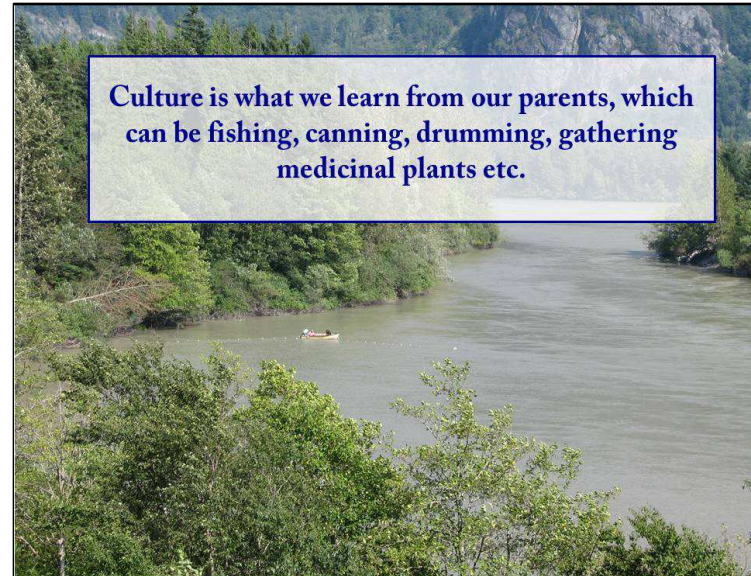
CULTURE

A survey of members on what culture means to them yielded profound insight.

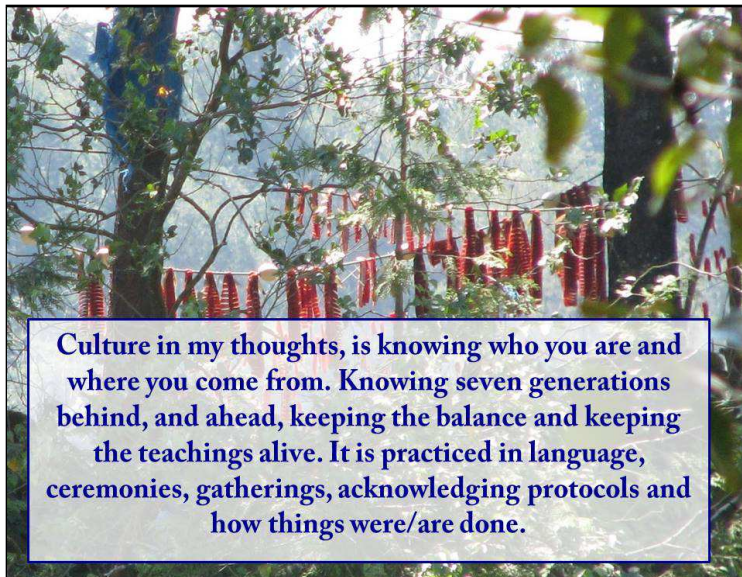




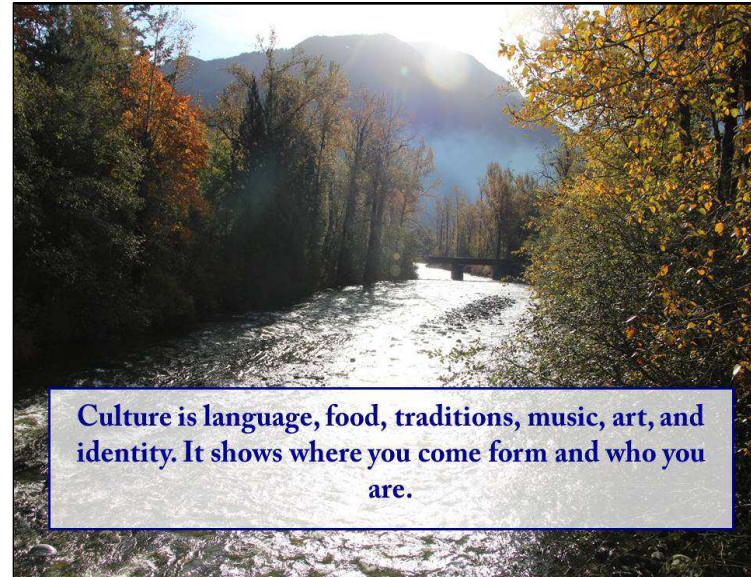
Culture is passed down through the generations. It is part of who we are, it influences who we become and connects our past and heritage to who we are today.



Culture is what we learn from our parents, which can be fishing, canning, drumming, gathering medicinal plants etc.



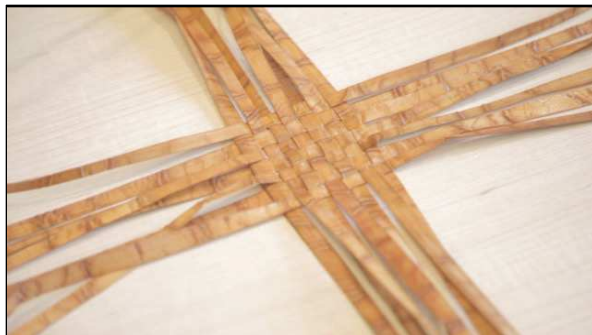
Culture in my thoughts, is knowing who you are and where you come from. Knowing seven generations behind, and ahead, keeping the balance and keeping the teachings alive. It is practiced in language, ceremonies, gatherings, acknowledging protocols and how things were/are done.



Culture is language, food, traditions, music, art, and identity. It shows where you come from and who you are.

WEAVING THEME

A woman is seated at a table, working on a large, conical woven object, possibly a basket or a hat. She is wearing a woven hat and a colorful vest with a geometric pattern. She is holding a long, thin strip of material, likely a reed or bamboo, and is in the process of weaving it into the structure. The background is a wall made of large, rounded stones. On the table, there are various weaving materials and tools, including a bundle of reeds and a small woven basket.





ELDER CULTURE PRESENTATIONS

Elder Charles Chapman was asked to speak. He stood up to address the group but shared that in a matrilineal family he should defer to his sisters to hear their thoughts. Charles introduced Delores Jim, Margaret Rose George, and Lucy Chapman in turn. With Charles, they spoke about childhood memories, protocol, marriage and shared culture, and residential schools.

Delores: In each of us is something we are born with. We all have our own gifts. Culture is the gift you are given. What is inside you will come out. We are not all the same. Accept the differences. We are all trying, and have different things on our minds.

Margaret: Culture is looking at the whole basket. I knit with my granny after coming back from school, but how the school changed the way I thought made it difficult. Everything we do is built around ceremony. Kids need to understand different cultures. Titles are given to preserve knowledge and protocol. Protocols are important to know who we are. Messages come from within. Protocol is the most important part of who we are. Remember protocol and that there are people listening.

Lucy: Opportunities arise, we need to speak up. Lucy shared a story of having been put into a situation of having to speak up. She spoke up in her own way, not wanting to be a robot any more. Others are not speaking up, so speak up on their behalf. Make sure that you say who you are and where you come from. I am Lucy Chapman from Thompson and Stó:lō. Acknowledge your culture in all its forms. Be proud of it. Introduce yourself to your Elders.





There was further sharing:

Charles: Females carry all of the responsibilities, the knowledge. Charles shared that the “girls” (his sisters) were active in the community playing music (hymns) during the time that the Church still ran the ceremonies.

Crystal Chapman: I learned a lot from my grandparents on Mum’s side. I was blessed with knowledge and skills. Acknowledge your gifts. Acknowledge protocol. Teach the kids.

Margaret: Names, training, and teachings were given to her. Margaret shared the story of the DIA (Department of Indian Affairs), church, and RCMP coming and burning the regalia, masks, and long house. How she at 5 years old witnessed this with Gladys and Patrick and did not understand what was happening. Things like this have not been shared. Neither was how we lost parents to murder. The grief we carried at the loss of two sets of parents. Talk about this stuff.

Elder Delores Jim



SONNY MCHALSIE

Dr. McHalsie is Cultural Advisor/Historian to Stó:lō Nation and holds an Honorary Doctorate of Law from the University of Victoria. He works at the Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre. Sonny shared with us the names and stories of culturally important places in Sq'ewá:lxw lands. His presentation to us is best represented by the graphic summary in Figure 18 - Graphic Summary Cultural Places.

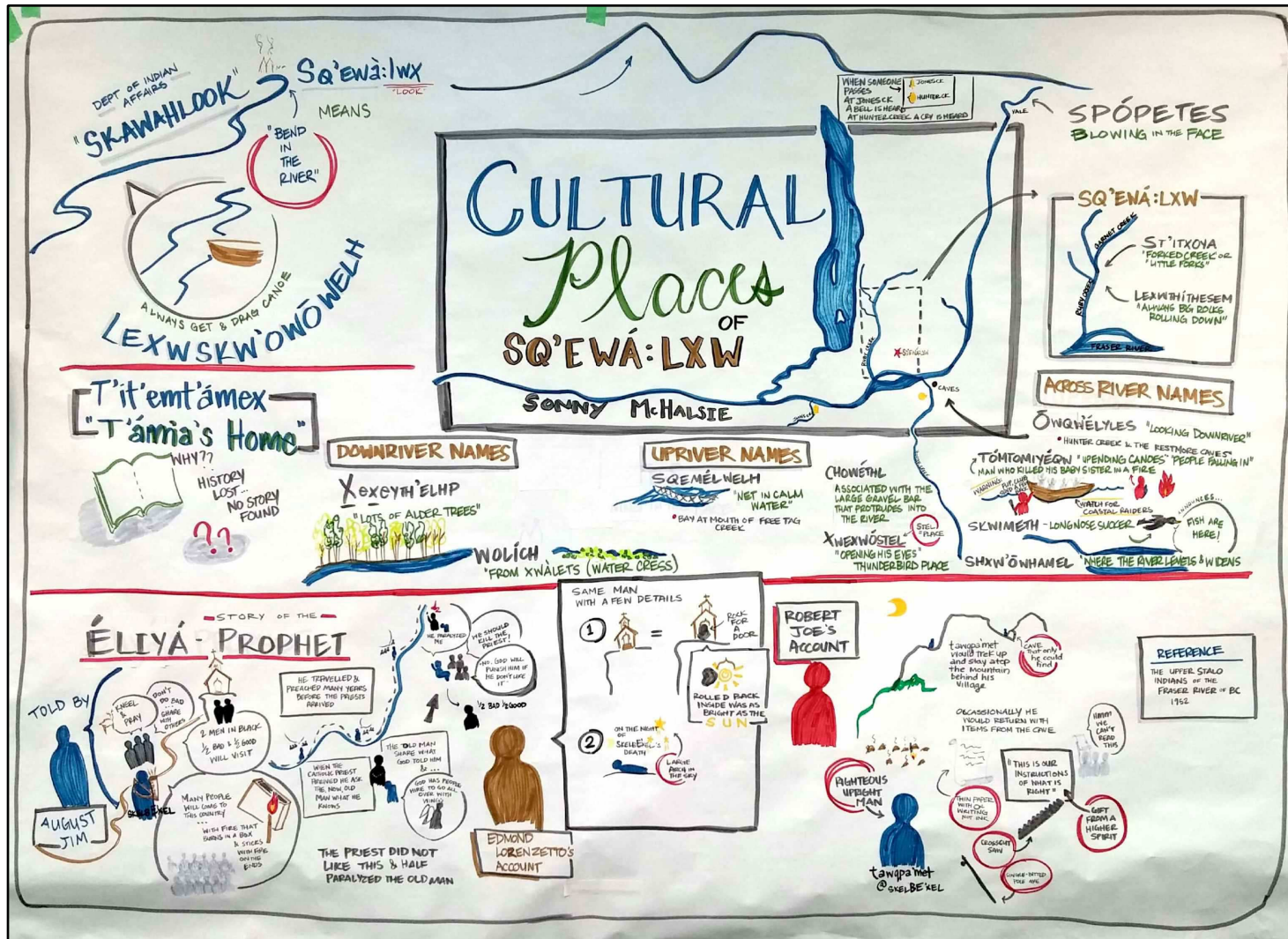


Figure 18 - Graphic Summary Cultural Places

SQ'EWÁ:LXW FIRST NATION VISION PROJECT REPORT



We learned that “Sq’ewá:lxw” means a bend in the river: the original location is no longer occupied but there is still evidence of pit houses upriver from Ruby Creek.

- Sq’ewá:lxw pronounced ska welkth - bend in the river.
- Lexwskw’owōwelh pronounced lexs sk ow welth - has to do with portaging - always dragging canoe.
- T’it’emtámex pronounced it am amek - T’ámiya’s home (wren).
- Told story of the prophet Éliya which took place on T’it’emtámex.
- Spópetes - blowing in the face - this is the Yale reserve at Ruby Creek. Originally made Yale due to family that moved from Yale for better farmland after the original people were killed by smallpox.
- Lexwthíthesam pronounced look ilth esem - always rocks falling down (Ruby Creek).
- St’itxoya pronounced steet x ia - forked creek, little forks.

To wrap up this discussion, David Carson provided this short summary:

- What we need to learn to appreciate culture: matriarchal society; many different gifts are given; many different cultures come together in our people; speak up for our people!
- What happened to us? Punishment and persecution drove parents to not teach culture. Criminalization of culture created barriers.
- We have lost enough, struggled enough.
- Use the tools we have - protocols, drums, burnings.
- Speak about it! Share it. Share it in ceremony.



The days discussions were summarized in a video (follow the link on this page) for sharing with those who were not able to join us.

<https://youtu.be/F5NBUVrl43c>

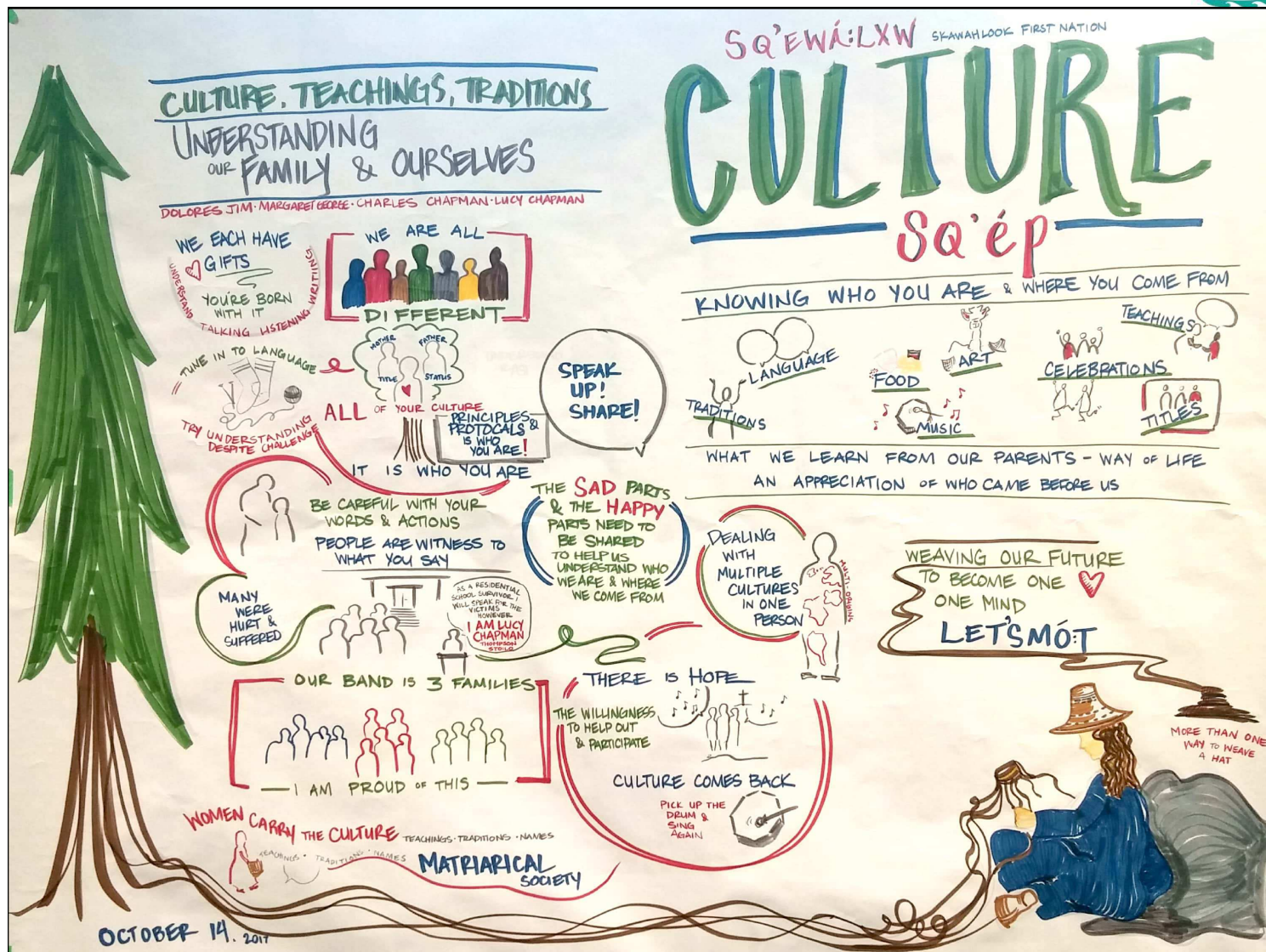


Figure 19 - Graphic Summary Culture



CULTURE SURVEY RESULTS

What is culture? We asked the membership this question through a survey. We received more than a dozen responses and of course a dozen different answers, but many of the answers shared some characteristics.

Every answer was positive and most acknowledged the link between the past and the future. Almost every answer contained the concept of personal and community identity based on culture. Here are the community survey responses:

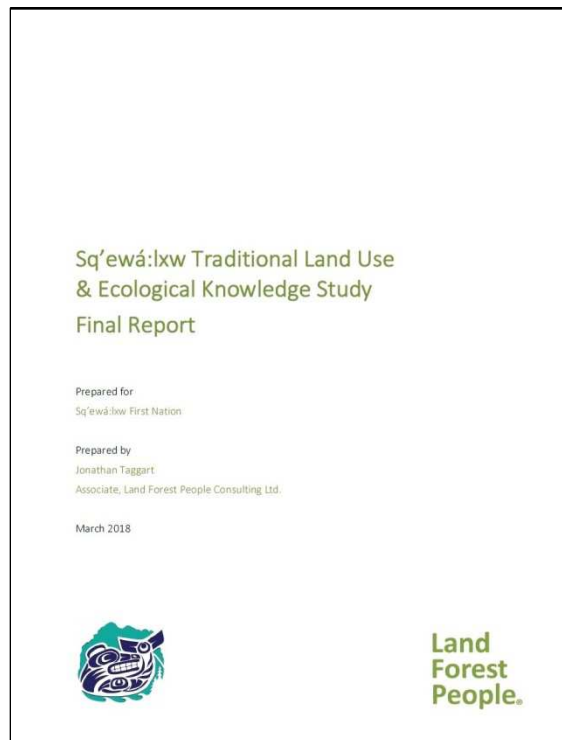
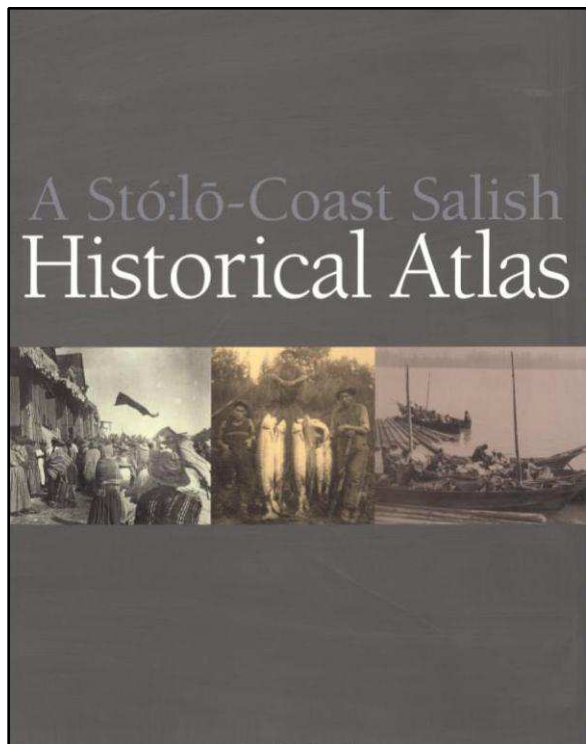
- Culture encompasses all aspects of life including language, food, music, art, identity, drumming, and ceremony.
- Culture exists in the protocols and teachings that were passed down from generations, and that will continue into the future.
- The foundation of who we are.
- Who we are and what we do. Culture guides us through life.
- Keeping teachings alive. It is part of who we are today. We learn from parents.
- What tells me who I am.
- I have a lot to learn about culture before I can describe what it means to me.
- Spirituality - Spirituality is Culture.
- A way of life. An understanding and appreciation of those who came before us.
- An opportunity to bring family together, time to share knowledge and traditions with my children.
- Knowing who you are and where you come from. Knowing seven generations behind, and ahead, keeping the balance and keeping the teachings alive. It is practiced in language, ceremonies, and gatherings, acknowledging protocols and how things were and are done.
- Language, food, traditions, music, art, and identity. It shows where you come from and who you are.
- My life line which represents who I am and where I come from. I use culture for my everyday life, teach my children what my grandparents and parents have taught me. Knowing and living the culture is what I represent. I am always hungry for more cultural knowledge. Culture is what keeps many of us living a healthy lifestyle.
- Passed down through the generations. It is part of who we are, it influences who we become and connects our past and heritage to who we are today.
- What we learn from our parents, which can be fishing, canning, drumming, gathering medicinal plants etc.
- What makes us who we are, Stó:lō, Telteit.



OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US

The following are also important resources on this topic:

- Stó:lō Atlas;
- Resources of the Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre;
- Recent archaeological studies by SRRMC on Sq'ewá:lxw lands;
- Recent Traditional Land Use and Ecological Knowledge project; and
- The knowledge of Bill Davis, Crystal Chapman, Jerry Chapman, Sonny McHalsie, and others.





6.4 SQ'EP - EDUCATION

The fourth community meeting of the CCP process was Education and was held on November 11, 2017 at the Stó:lō Nation Government House in Chilliwack. The purpose of this sq'ép was to get input from Sq'ewá:lxw membership on the issues of education. We shared information, asked questions, listened to the community, and facilitated breakout sessions to collect input.

TEAM MEETING

Before community members arrived for lunch, the planning team met in the morning, reviewed ongoing project planning, and finalised the day's agenda.

The team discussion on education yielded a few suggestions:

- Culture really in elementary stage right now.
- Supported by knowledgeable people like Wenona Victor, culture should be a required subject.
- Maybe we build an incentive system. Look for gaps in funding and ways we can assist students move through and succeed in the system.
- Really like what Andy Everson had to share at the Gala. How did we get to where we are? Where did we come from? Stories and songs are an answer.
- Make sure that we differentiate between history and culture.

SQ'ÉP

Following a short welcome and a prayer by Jerry Chapman to bless the food, lunch was served.

Following the meal the community came together in a circle to do the work of starting the communal journey toward a common vision on education. Melissa recorded the day's events in words and pictures. The sq'ép was broadcast with Facebook live for members who could not attend. The day was facilitated by Josh Alexander.

Melissa Kendzierski presented the graphic record captured in the culture sq'ép.

The culture recap video was screened. <https://youtu.be/F5NBUVrI43c>



DR. GWEN POINT

Dr. Point is a former manager in the Stó:lō Nation Education Department, the current Chancellor of the University of the Fraser Valley and formerly the Chatelaine of the Province of British Columbia (the title given to the spouse of the Lieutenant Governor).

In Stó:lō, and in the education world, Gwen Point needs no introduction. As a member of Skowkale First Nation she is family. She has had a long and illustrious career teaching and motivating First Nations students toward excellence.

Given free rein to help us understand the context for education in our community, Gwen delivered “Everything you need to know about education but were afraid to ask”. Messages for us included:

- Document and share who you are;
- There is a need to listen;
- Zero-in on connections to people;
- Acknowledge different kinds of learners;
- Teach in a way that is familiar;
- Learn the language;
- Build in culture and traditional knowledge; and
- Acknowledge different language, ideas, and ways of looking.

Gwen also blessed us with the story of Th'owxeya, the Cannibal Woman. To hear the story again, please visit this link:
<https://vimeo.com/141123309>





Mike Bellegarde presented to the gathering two hats which physically represent the theme of our work. They were woven by Crystal Chapman.

The days discussions were summarized in a video (follow the link below) for sharing with those who were not able to join us.

<http://skawahlook.com/ccp/november-sqep-recap/>



For closing David Carson gave thanks to all, and to special contributors like Crystal, Melissa, Meryl, and Jerry and family for travelling so far to participate. David encouraged participation in the surveys and spoke to the break for December and January and the continuing process next year.

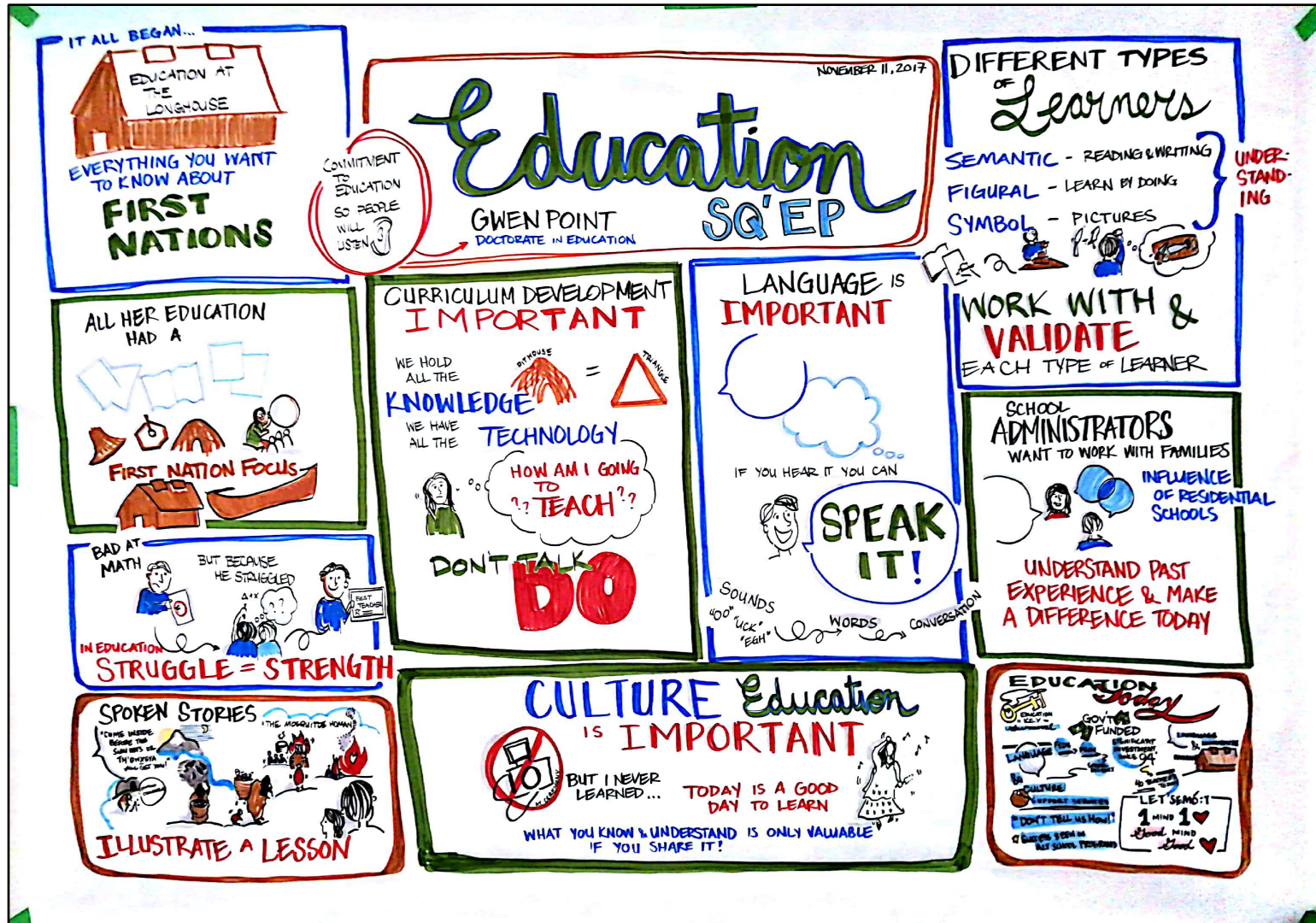
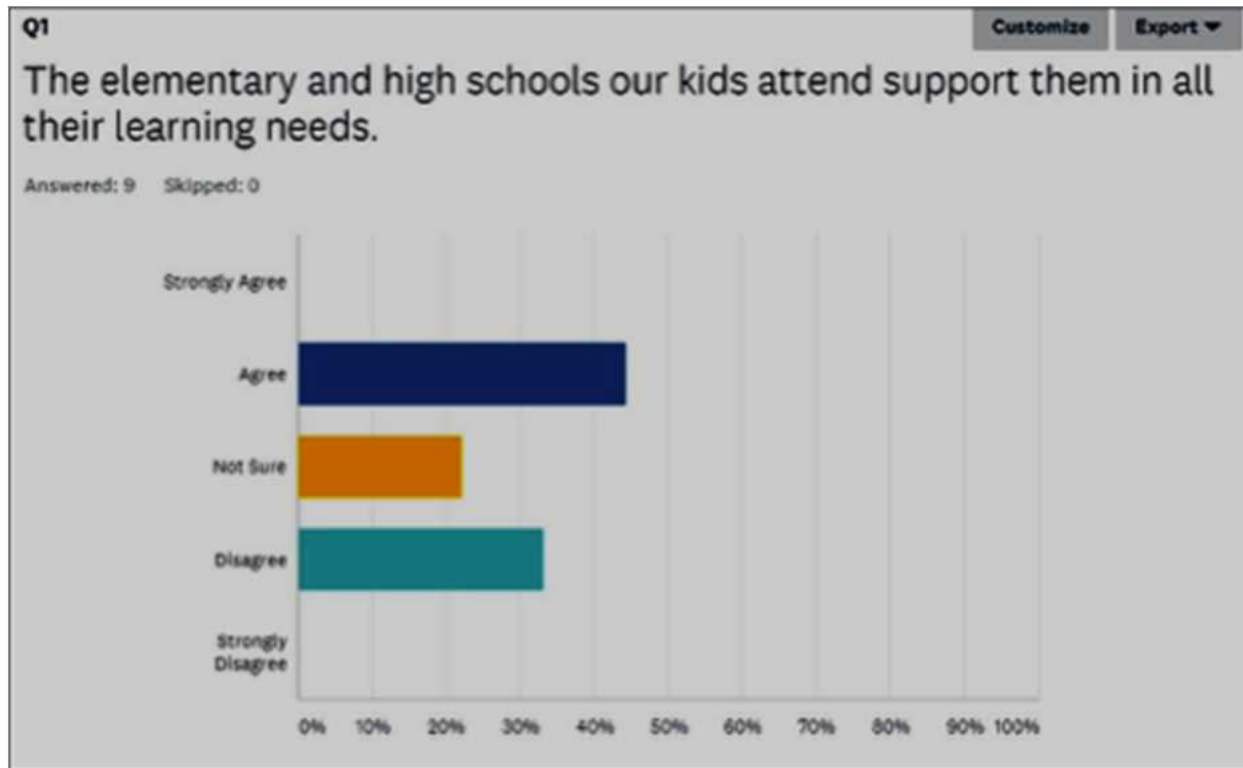


Figure 20 - Graphic Summary Education








EDUCATION SURVEY

A survey of membership on education was undertaken.



Q2 What elements of our childrens' education is lacking in our elementary and high schools?

-  More First Nation education material for all students.
-  Culture and multiple ways/approaches to education.
-  Taking time with students who are struggling.
-  Classes are too big, one teacher cannot possibly meet the needs of each student.
-  Sense of place within the larger FN community.



- Communication skills, feel they don't have a voice. Need to understand that their voices matter. Being able to voice how they are able to learn whether it's hands on, visual or auditory. Implementing more First Nation culture and history. Students need to feel safe without judgement from peers and teachers.
- They need to provide lessons of our language from K-12.
- Not sure, I don't have kids

Q3 Please share your thoughts on the CULTURAL education of our children. Who, or what organizations, should be active in their education?

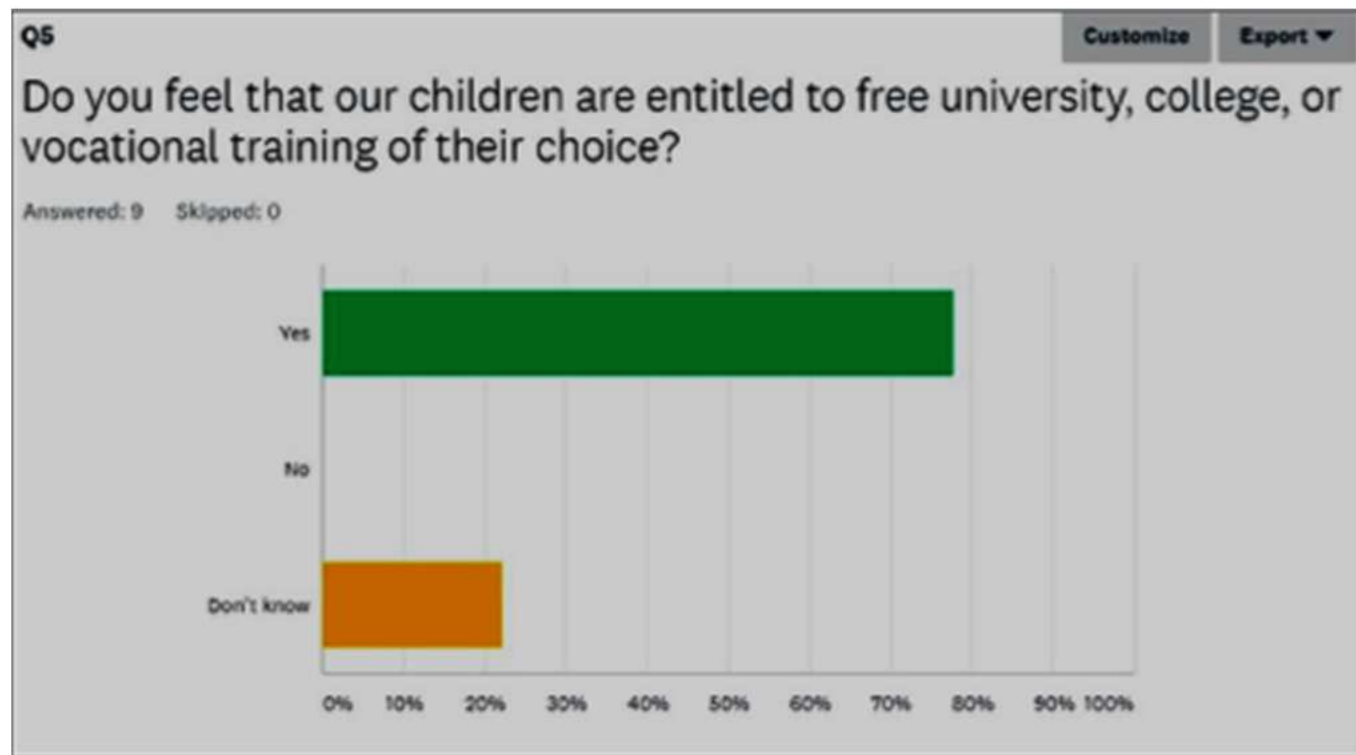
- Positive role models in a variety of industries.
- Bands, school districts, Elders, band leaders.
- Our own people who are acknowledged and respected by their community members.
- I think cultural education is sadly lacking, it's done in to meet basic requirements.
- Schools should have a FN coordinator that connects students with external community or band leaders. I think these positions are common in high schools, but elementary schools share one coordinator, making it difficult to develop relationships with students.
- Individuals who are a part of cultural traditions should have the biggest role in teaching culture to our children
- I assure that the children I work with understand who they are and what family they come from so they better understand themselves. These children are fortunate because the culture surrounds them consistently with the language, with the story telling, drumming, singing and dancing. Learning how to harvest cedar and be able to create beautiful things with the cedar they harvested. Bringing in presenters to share stories with them and take them on tours. If you don't know who you are and where you come from this enables growth of what our purpose is in life.
- Weaving and making of cedar items should be taught. Also the principals and teachers need to be educated about residential schools.
- Not sure as I am not aware of cultural programs.

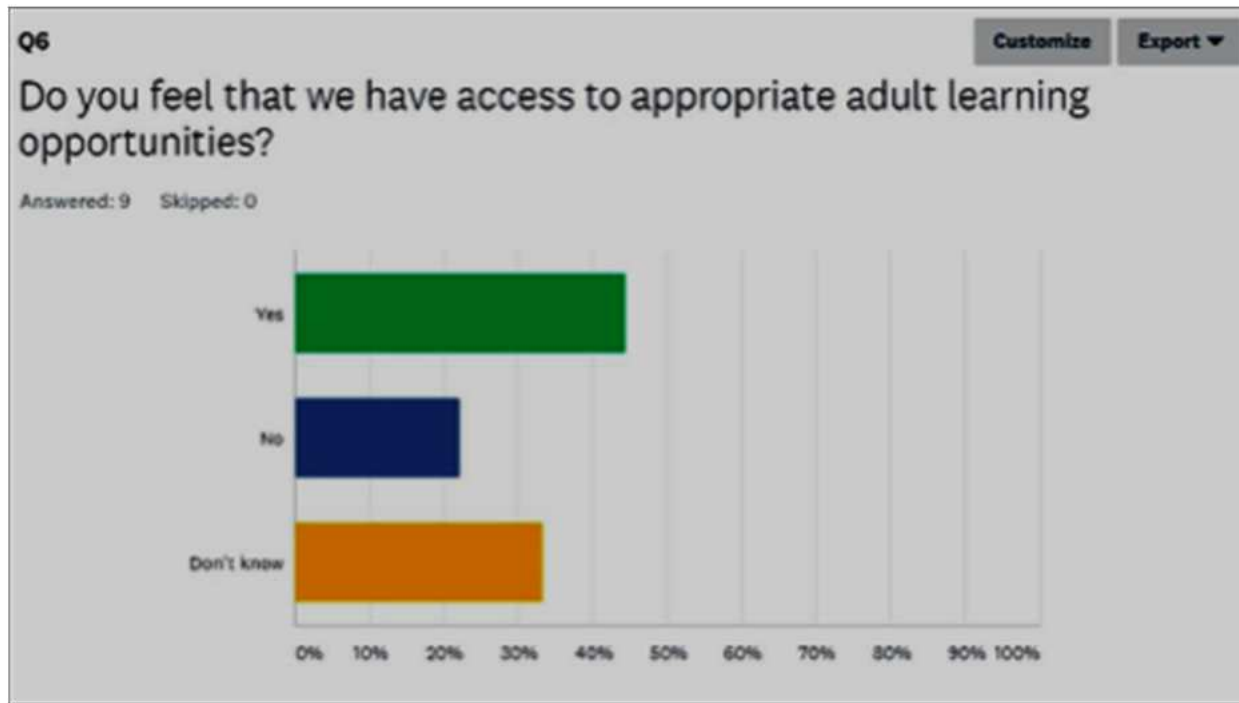
Q4 What are the barriers to our children receiving the education they need?

- Transportation, funding, day care
- Funding, educators that look like them.
- Sometimes funding, time dedicated to them, support at home.
- Support at home is crucial,
- Parental participation. Letting their children know what resources are available and encouraging them to be involved.



- Often time schools only provide one method of teaching. Children are all different and need a variety of methods of education to achieve their full potential.
- Some have learning disabilities such as reading and writing. This can be easily helped by properly assessing them continuously through their educational years. Other barriers are not knowing how to deal with grief and loss, trauma and abuse. These can block any type of learning because they are unable to focus or comprehend anything.
- Getting the parents involved.
- Guessing proper funding levels.





Q10 Please share any thoughts you care to with regard to the education and health services available to you.

- 👤 There is a lot of resources, funding, etc. Not sure how to research them.
- 👤 If there was a way we (from the states) could access these services that would be amazing!
- 👤 Children are entitled to free university if they earn it by keeping up their grades, showing initiative, etc.
- 👤 Education and health services have improved tremendously over the years.
- 👤 Regarding education, I've personally been supported by Stó:lō and Sq'ewá:lxw. This has made my post- secondary education possible, thereby allowing me to be personally successful, and provide a service within our community. As for health services, I'm aware of what's available, but rarely access them.
- 👤 I look forward to more opportunities to become available for families to learn about Stó:lō culture. Possibly weekend gatherings and or camps or retreats.



- I feel there needs to be more resources to education dollars to help further educate our people. Individuals are allowed a certain amount and then funds are no longer available. If there are more grants that can be apply for we need to know how to find these resources.

Information available to us:

- Brighter Futures program - SSA
- Post-secondary funding - SSA
- Advocates are in the schools
- Schools: Squiala has a Montessori elementary, Seabird K-8; Sts'ailes
- Language classes through Stó:lō
- Have a language speaker come to the meeting
- Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre – long house extension



6.5 SQ'ÉP - CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The fifth community meeting of the CCP process was on Climate Change Adaptation & Emergency Preparedness and was held on February 17th, 2018 at the Stó:lō Nation Government House in Chilliwack. The purpose of this sq'ép was to get input from Sq'ewá:lxw membership on the issues of climate change adaptation and emergency preparedness. We shared information, asked questions, listened to the community, and facilitated breakout sessions to collect input.

TEAM MEETING

Before community members arrived for lunch, the planning team met in the morning, reviewed ongoing project planning, and finalised the day's agenda. Charles shared that we experience cycles of weather and can expect more extreme weather. Return to extreme snow and flooding events of the past.

Following a short welcome and a prayer by Delores Jim to bless the food, lunch was served.



SQ'ÉP

Following the meal the community came together to build a common vision on adapting to climate change and emergency preparedness. Melissa Kendzierski recorded the day's events in words and pictures. The sq'ép was broadcast with Facebook live for members who could not attend. Facilitation was by Josh Alexander.

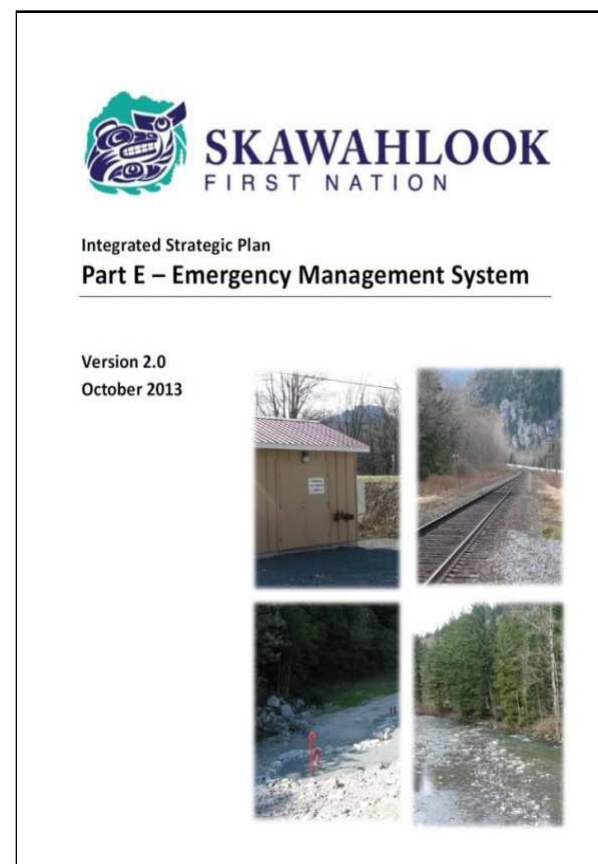
Following introductions, we screened the education sq'ép recap video. <https://youtu.be/NyCZmp9lQT4>

Melissa reviewed with us the graphic summary of the education Sq'ép.

David Carson gave an introduction to emergency preparedness.

Although we wish to not think of it, unpleasant things happen from time to time and it is the responsibility of the community to be prepared to respond to emergencies affecting our people.

The purpose of the Sq'ewá:lxw emergency program is to protect and preserve life, safety, health, and the environment. The objective of the planning process is to create a system that will be a part of how Sq'ewá:lxw operates on a daily basis. The strategy is to build ownership in the system and enthusiasm within leadership, staff, and members. The Sq'ewá:lxw emergency management system was developed in 2013 and is in the process of being updated. The discussions were to inform the plan update allowing Sq'ewá:lxw to make risk based decisions in the use of time and resources to protect our community.





Stacey Goulding, our climate change expert, provided an introduction to that topic: “Climate change what, why and impacts”.

What is Climate Change?

Climate change refers to a broad range of global occurrences that include:

1. Increased temperature trends in both water and on land;
2. Sea level rise;
3. Ice mass loss;
4. Shifts in flower/plant blooming;
5. Extreme weather events such as heat waves, hurricanes, rain storms, ice storms, winter weather etc.

Impacts of Climate Change

1. Human safety
2. Community structure
3. Availability of fish and species of fish
4. New or emerging diseases
5. Strain on health and cultural sustainability
6. Mental health and psychosocial well-being
7. Ecosystem changes: rare and endangered species; invasive species, shifting habitat
8. Risks to infrastructure



LISTENING TO OUR ELDERS

Drawing from the recently completed Sq'ewá:lxw Traditional Land Use & Ecological Knowledge (TLUEK) study, Jonathan Taggart shared the Elders' observations on changing lands and resources in the Ruby Creek and some of their thoughts on what might be done to help prevent and mitigate erosion and a dwindling local food supply. Jon's presentation is included in the presentation "SQFN CPP SQEP Presentation as Delivered April 28 2018.pdf" which is appended to this report.

Impacts



- Changes in the river: more shallow, warmer, more islands, more gravel, more flooding
- Declining snow pack
- Erosion: disappearing beach at fishing spot
- Not catching fish

Source: Brett Chapman, TLUEK project



25

Land
Forest
People.

Resilience



"Years ago one of the northern communities asked if we could help them out and provide them with some fish... So we did the best that we can to help that community, provide them with some food.

We need to get back the sharing and the trading so that maybe we could have a little bit more food to eat."

Source: Charles Chapman, TLUEK project



24

Land
Forest
People.



June 1948

"...in '48 all those graves were just washed away... as the water was coming up a lot of the land was already starting to break because of the pressure of the water...half of it was gone"

– Margaret Rose George, TLUEK project

- Flooding forced relocation, destroyed crops, washed away physical and cultural property

**THIS IS AN
EMERGENCY**

Disaster Has Struck
British Columbia

THOUSANDS ARE HOMELESS...
DWELLINGS WIPED OUT...

Years of Toil
Swept Away by Swirling Floods

Urgently
Need emergency relief!

\$1,000,000

URGENTLY
Need emergency relief!

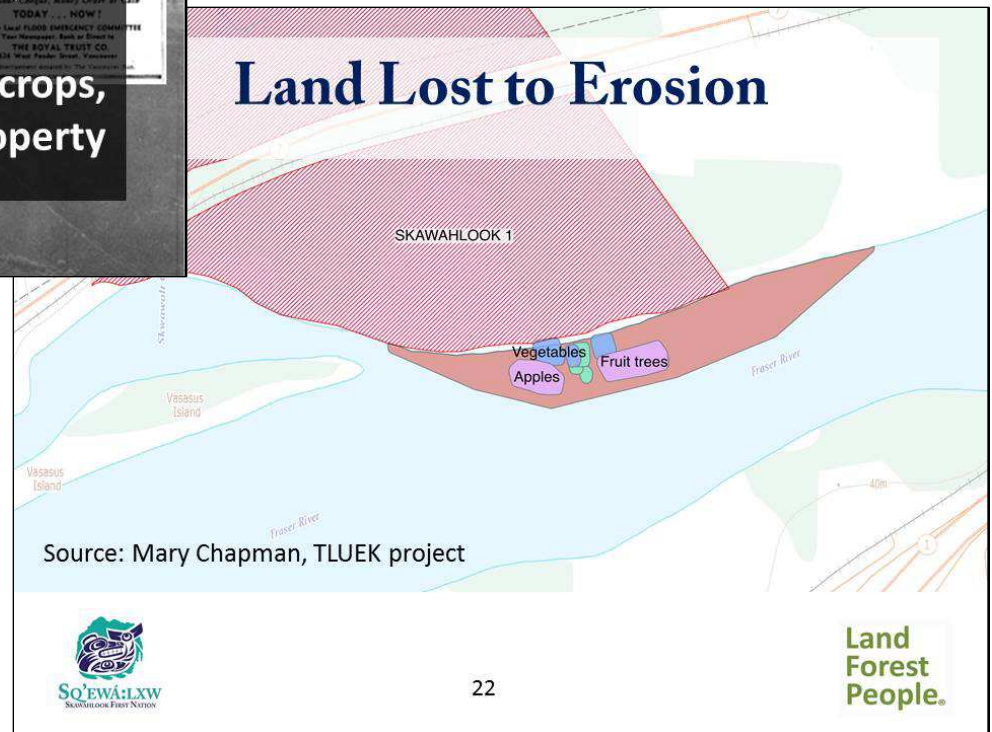
TO YOUR LOCAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
THE ROYAL TRUST CO.

Send your cheque, Money Order or Cash
TODAY... NOW!

To Your Local EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
THE ROYAL TRUST CO.

624 West Pender Street, Vancouver
Administrators assigned by The Trustees

Land Lost to Erosion





Following a short break, we divided into two breakout groups which were repeated back to back to allow everyone to participate in both.









BREAKOUT GROUP - HAZARD RISK AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

David Carson led members in a hazards, risks, and vulnerability assessment (HRVA) for the Ruby Creek area. HRVA is a fundamental input to emergency planning. It allows us to define concrete actions to increase resiliency and self-reliance. The purpose of an HRVA is to help make risk-based choices to address vulnerabilities, mitigate hazards and prepare for response to and recovery from hazard events. The objective is to anticipate problems and possible solutions to help save lives and property, reduce damage, and speed recovery.



Key to the discussion is understanding the difference between hazard and risk.

The highest risk hazards identified were:

-  Overland flooding;
-  Wildfire and structural fire;
-  Rockslide;
-  Extended severe winter weather;
-  Smoke or poor air quality;
-  Traffic accidents;
-  Earthquake; and
-  Gas line rupture.

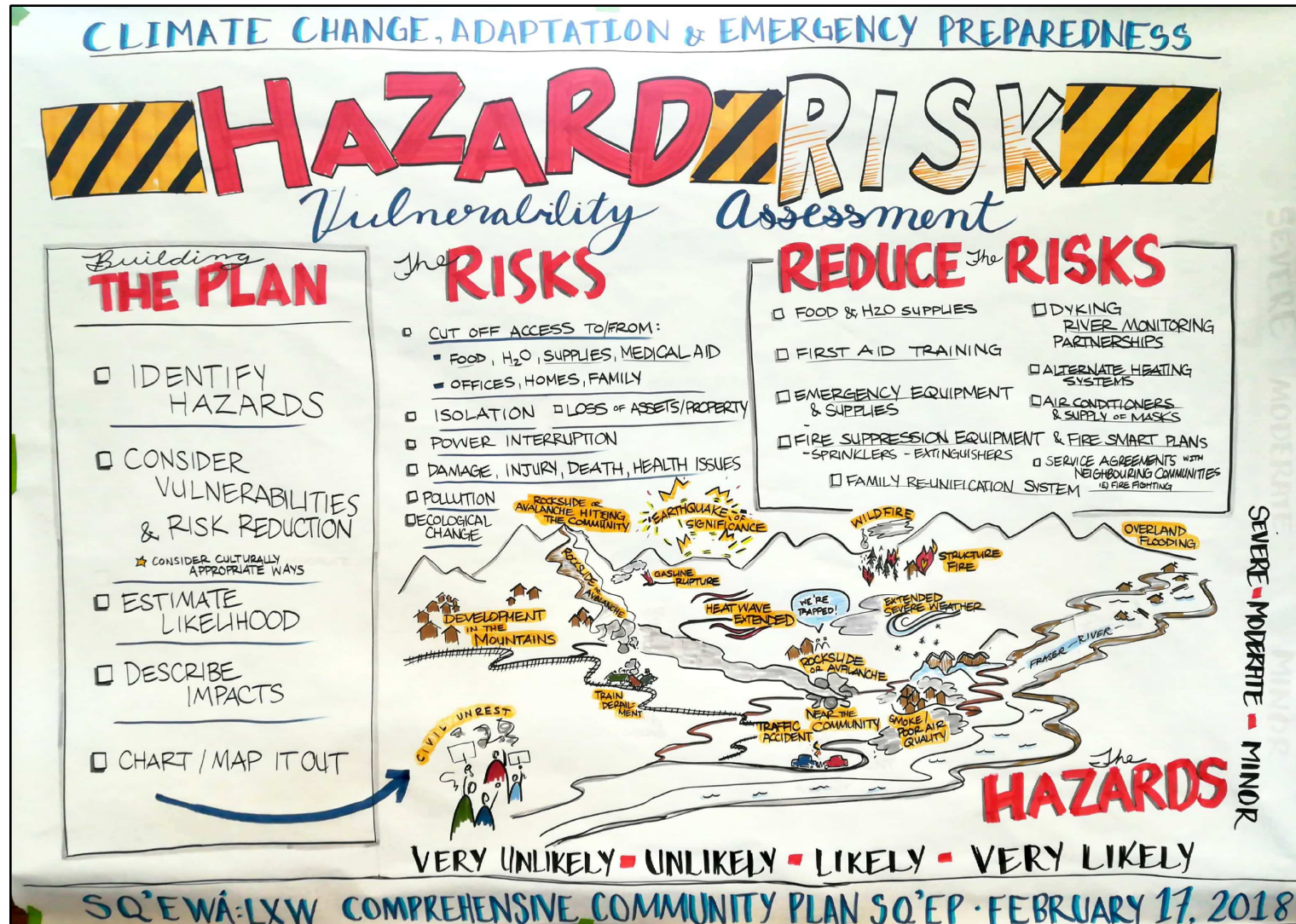
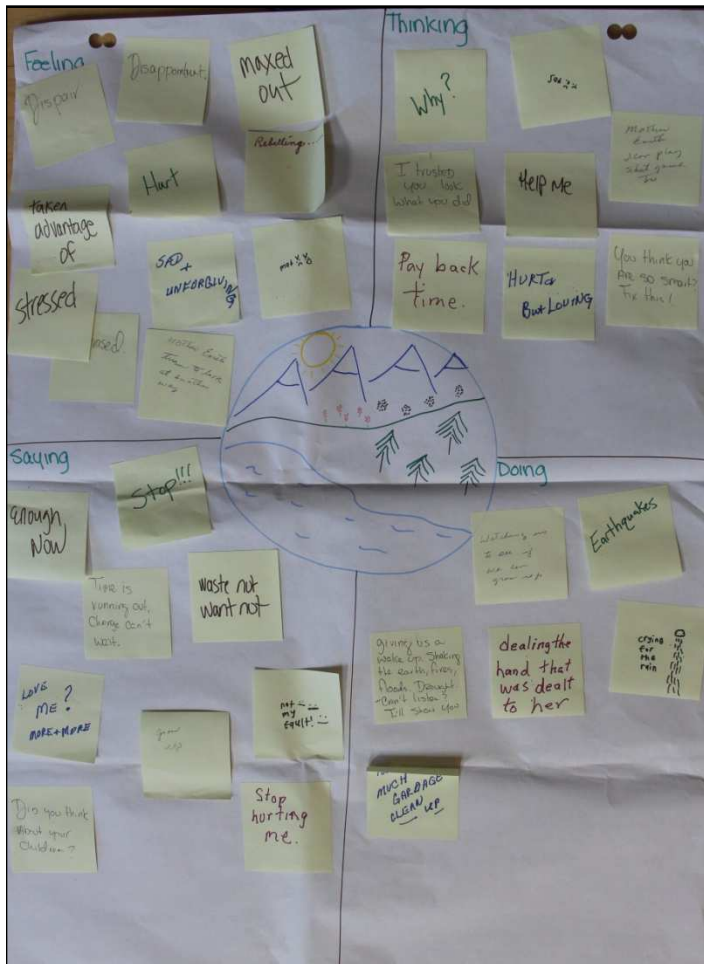


Figure 21 - Graphic Summary Hazard and Risk

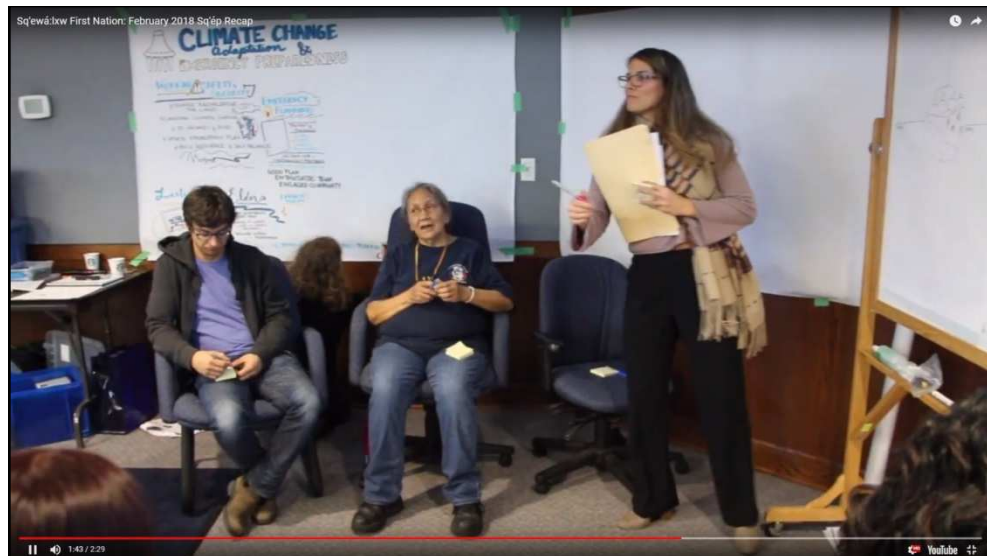


BREAKOUT GROUP - CLIMATE CHANGE, MITIGATION, AND ADAPTATION

Stacey Goulding described the conversation as hazard risk vulnerability assessment through a climate change lens from the voices of the Sq'ewá:lxw members. She asked members to share their thoughts on what the land is thinking, feeling, saying and doing, in the face of climate change and on how Sq'ewá:lxw might reduce their local contributions to climate change.



Additional detail is available in the report *Hazard Risk Vulnerability Assessment Through a Climate Change Lens from the Voices of the Sq'ewá:lxw Members* by Stacey Goulding which accompanies this report.



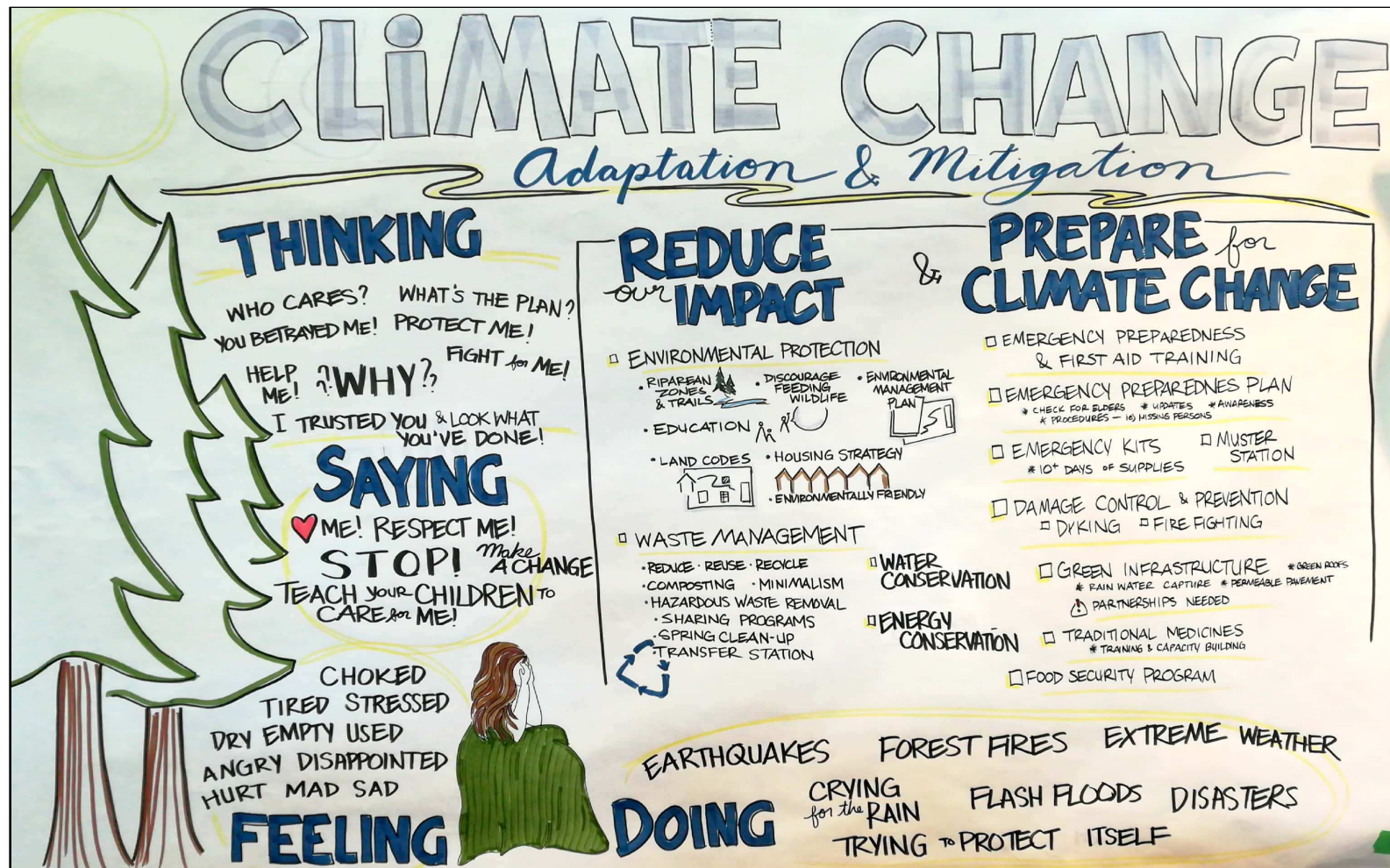


Figure 22 - Graphic Summary Climate Adaptation



SUMMARY

Our work on climate change adaptation and emergency preparedness is summarized in a video for sharing with those who were not able to join us (follow the link) and the graphic recording in Figure 23 - Graphic Summary Climate and Emergency.

<https://youtu.be/HY5T5okxUNE>



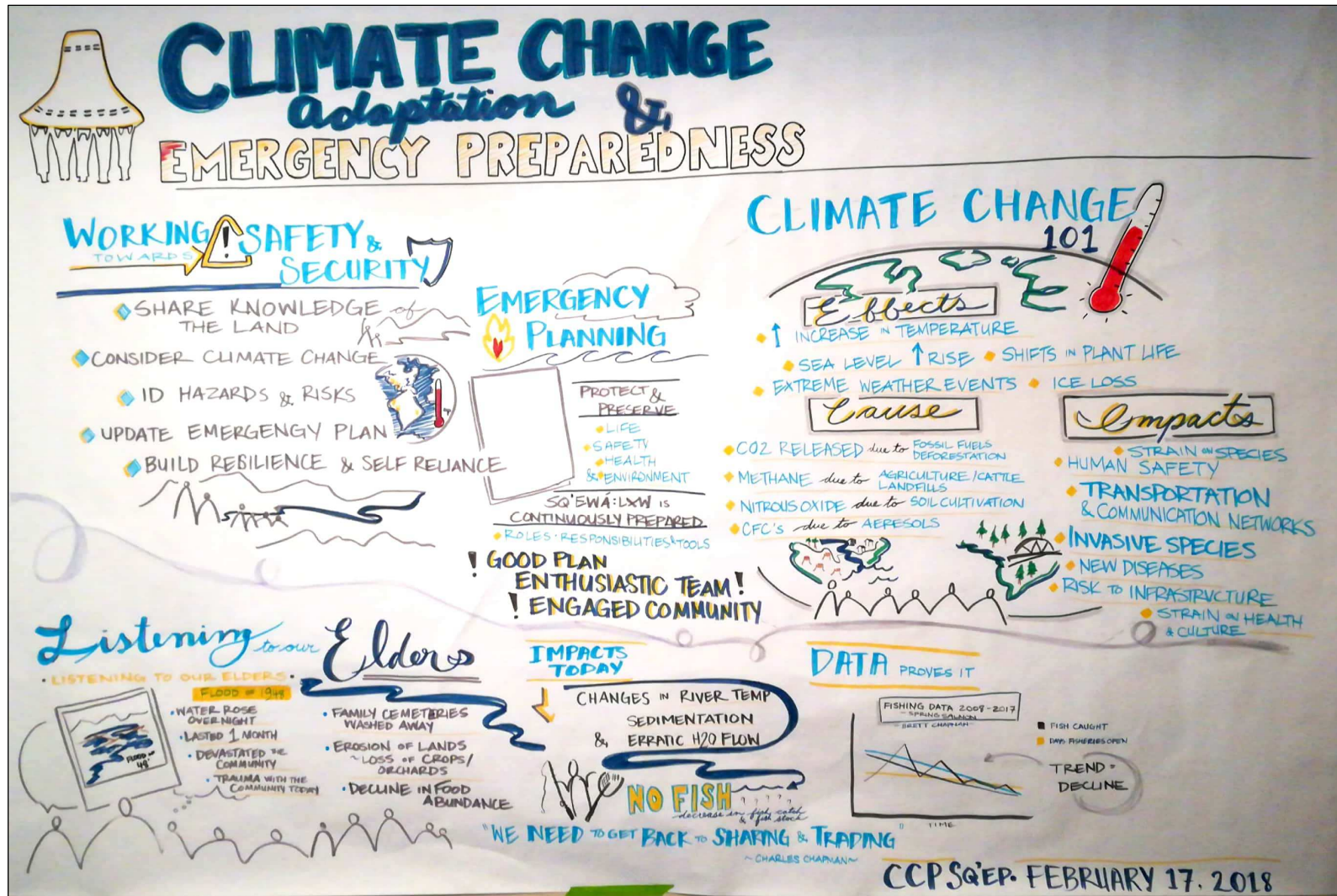















Figure 23 - Graphic Summary Climate and Emergency



Concrete actions for preparation for climate change and risk mitigation as prescribed by the people include:

-  Reduce our own contribution to climate change through environmental protection and green infrastructure;
-  Investigate improvements to waste management;
-  Establish food, water, first aid, and emergency equipment supplies;
-  Establish a food security program and consider a community garden;
-  Turn to traditional medicines for health and social wellness;
-  Promote first aid training;
-  Install fire suppression equipment;
-  Establish a muster point and a family re-unification system;
-  To address air quality issues look at use of air conditioners and supply masks;
-  Participate in river monitoring systems and consider dyking to protect the land;
-  Establish service agreements with neighbouring First Nations and municipalities;
-  Consider a local fire response capability; and
-  Undertake FireSmart planning.

CLOSING

In closing comments, Sharron shared that she is glad to have the opportunity to hear from members with regard to emergency preparations. This is very important to family. She is similarly glad to have a discussion on climate change and our ability to adapt to it. Great to hear from the traditional land use study project and have the various projects integrate.

Door prizes were awarded.



6.6 SQ'ÉP - HOUSING

Our sixth sq'ép addressed housing and was held on March 17th, 2018 at the Stó:lō Nation Government House in Chilliwack.

TEAM MEETING

Before community members arrived for lunch, the planning team met in the morning, reviewed ongoing project planning and scheduling for year two, and finalised the day's agenda.

SQ'ÉP

Following a short welcome and a prayer by Bill Davis to bless the food, lunch was served.

Following the meal the community came together in a circle to do the work of starting the communal journey toward a common vision on housing. Melissa Kendzierski recorded the day's events in words and pictures. The sq'ép was broadcast with Facebook live for members that could not attend. The gathering was facilitated by Josh Alexander.

Committee Members:

Sharron Young (Chair), Leah Sjovold (virtual), Crystal Chapman, Shannon Chapman, Monty Chapman, Julie Lungal and Jenn Carman



Our round of introductions included identifying the Sq'ewá:lxw Housing Committee members.



The climate change and emergency sq'ép recap video was screened (link: <https://youtu.be/HY5T5okxUNE>). Also screened was a video by Mike Bellegarde which gave a birds' eye view of the proposed housing development lands.

Melissa reviewed the information captured in the graphic summaries she created at the climate and emergency sq'ép.

PRIORITIES

Our priorities as defined by the membership:

1. Affordability;
2. Fair and transparent processes;
3. Safety and security;
4. Three bedrooms; and
5. Construction in the next three years.

Sharron provided a presentation on the housing program.

Chief Chapman shared an observation that putting a low importance put on child-care reflects the current situation of respondents but underestimates the importance to the community going forward.

Elder Margaret encouraged us to avoid situations of big houses with single people, under-utilized resources, and to think about small homes, elders' clusters, and single folk.

The timeline showing ground breaking in 2020 was well received.

WORLD CAFÉ












The world café method was used to gather detailed input from members at the sq'ép. That information follows below.

1. What are the pros and cons of owning your own home?

- Produces wealth, creates an asset, something to leave to family members, gain control over your living space, stop moving, social benefits.




2. What would allow you to move back to Sq'ewá:lxw tomorrow? What are the barriers/incentives of moving home to Ruby Creek?

-  Mosquitos.
-  Employment opportunities.
-  Health and health needs and services.
-  Traditional medicine access.
-  Transportation available.
-  No infrastructure.
-  Isolation and dependence on driving.
-  Would want to rent first before buying.
-  Affordability.
-  Beautiful setting.
-  Coming home - walking the ground the ancestors walked.


3. Why is budgeting important?

This is encouraging discussion around saving for their future home. if people have no experience with saving, this provides the opportunity to understand if people would like help and what kind of training the nation can provide.

-  It helps if you keep your eye on the prize

A budget helps you figure out your long-term goals and work towards them. if you just drift aimlessly through life, tossing your money at every pretty, shiny object that happens to catch your eye, how will you ever save up enough money to buy a car, take that trip to Aruba or put a down payment on a house?

A budget forces you to map out your goals, save your money, keep track of your progress and make your dreams a reality. ok, so it may stink when you realize that brand new Xbox game or the gorgeous cashmere sweater in the store window doesn't fit into your budget. but when you remind yourself that you're saving up for a new house, it will be much easier to turn around and walk out of the store empty-handed.

-  It ensures you don't spend money that you don't have

Far too many consumers spend money they don't have – and we can owe it all to credit cards. As a matter of fact, the average credit card debt per household reached \$8,377 in 2016, according to a recent study from wallethub.

Before the age of plastic, people knew if they were living within their means. at the end of the month, if they had enough money left to pay the bills and sock some away in savings, they were on track. These days, people who overuse and abuse credit cards don't always realize they're overspending until they're drowning in debt.

However, if you create and stick to a budget, you'll never find yourself in this precarious position. You'll know exactly how much money you earn, how much you can afford to spend each month and how much you need to save. Sure, crunching numbers and keeping track of a budget isn't nearly as much fun as going on a shameless shopping spree. But look at it this way: when your spend-happy friends are



making an appointment with a debt counselor this time next year, you'll be jetting off for that European adventure you've been saving for – or better yet, moving into your new home.

It leads to a happy retirement

Let's say you spend your money responsibly, follow your budget to a "T" and never carry credit card debt. Good for you, but aren't you forgetting something? As important as it is to spend your money wisely today, it's also critical to save for your future.

A budget can help you do just that. It's important to build investment contributions into your budget. If you set aside a portion of your earnings each month to contribute to your retirement funds, you'll eventually build a nice nest egg. Although you may have to sacrifice a little now, it will be worth it down the road. After all, would you rather spend your retirement golfing and taking trips to the beach or working as a greeter at the local grocery store to make ends meet? Exactly.

It helps you prepare for emergencies

Life is filled with unexpected surprises, some better than others. When you get laid off, become sick or injured, go through a divorce or have a death in the family, it can lead to some serious financial turmoil. Of course, it seems like these emergencies always arise at the worst possible time – when you're already strapped for cash. This is exactly why everyone needs an emergency fund.

Your budget should include an emergency fund that consists of at least three to six months' worth of living expenses. This extra money will ensure that you don't spiral into the depths of debt after a life crisis. Of course, it will take time to save up three to six months' worth of living expenses. Don't try to dump the majority of your paycheck into your emergency fund right away. Build it into your budget, set realistic goals and start small. Even if you put just \$10 to \$30 aside each week, your emergency fund will slowly build up.

It sheds light on bad spending habits

Building a budget forces you to take a close look at your spending habits. You may notice that you're spending money on things you don't need. Do you honestly watch all 500 channels on your costly extended cable plan? Do you really need 30 pairs of black shoes? Budgeting allows you to rethink your spending habits and re-focus your financial goals.

It's better than counting sheep

Following a budget will also help you catch more shut eye. How many nights have you tossed and turned worrying about how you were going to pay the bills? People who lose sleep over financial issues are allowing their money to control them. Take back the control. When you budget your money wisely, you'll never lose sleep over financial issues again.

Of course, this is just the tip of the iceberg. There are countless other advantages to following a budget. So what are you waiting for? Time to start budgeting!



4. How do you feel about members obtaining a lot as an investment property or constructing a vacation home? is it a good idea or bad idea? Why or why not?

How would you feel about strangers coming in and out of the community if they were renting a home?

- So long as it's maintained.
- Someone is checking on it.
- Vacation home - yes.
- Investment property - no; more worrisome; who would be in it?
- Airbnb, nice for owner, help with mortgage, options should be clear from the beginning.
- Not an issue with rentals - need to be screened.
- We need rental units. Owners have rights to do these things.
- Community safety is important.
- Zoning is a possible tool to control it.
- Multi-unit buildings provide opportunity to rent.
- Asking speculative buyers that are doing investments what they want to do with it.
- Nation tax to rentals.

5. What should the First Nation expect as a demonstration of a member's commitment to move home?

- Verbal notification.
- Financial commitment - deposit - not everyone can afford the deposit.
- No CMHC housing.
- Pre-approval from bank is given strong weighting.
- Elders not wanting a mortgage consideration - lodge based on (%) of income - other financial options.
- Commitment to maintain the property.
- It is clear that we need to completely articulate the process, what contribution is SQFN making, what are the expectations of the people, the buyers. words are important "mortgage" ownership

6. How do you feel about Sq'ewá:lxw engaging in market housing to non-members if members decide to not move home?

Market housing refers to properties that are rented or owned by people who pay market rent to lease the property or paid market value when they bought the property. There is no subsidy for the housing.

In this situation a non-member would obtain a lease, generally for 99 years.

- Good, source of income.
- Saving land for future generations.
- Pressure on land for future generations, does it eliminate options.
- Taxes for income.
- If we do want to provide rentals, high density can be the answer, hotel and housing.



- 📖 Suites are seen as a good thing.
- 📖 Emergency housing?
- 📖 Businesses accommodated, but the right kind of businesses.
- 📖 Phased approach will mitigate potential loss of availability to members in the future due to lack of short-term member demand.
- 📖 Interesting social approach to the band land. Keeping options open for the future members rather than maximizing immediate returns.
- 📖 Count of 20 kids growing into householders, need the opportunities soon!

7. If a member is interested in obtaining a lot to build their own home. what steps should be required to obtain a lot?

Gather information from website/office, attend a meeting with housing rep. to discuss application, fill out the information and bring back to housing rep, etc.

Understanding what they see as fair in regards to approvals and how that process should be implemented is important.

Trying to understand the level of involvement from the first nation to the community member is important. For example, if someone feels that the application should be filled out by the housing rep. vs someone who wants to do everything electronically and then submitting the information is important to understand.

- 📖 Apply to council.
- 📖 Depends what you want.
- 📖 Go to bank.
- 📖 Lottery.
- 📖 Timeframe for putting name down.
- 📖 Need an equitable, transparent, fair process.
- 📖 Depends on house.
- 📖 Anonymous acceptance/approval system.
- 📖 Land held in common and taking it to the bank - with the Housing Committee.
- 📖 First come first serve.
- 📖 Post as available - come in and put name on lot - proxy system.

8. How should preferred lots be divided?

- 📖 For example, lots close to water, larger lots or distance from noise.
- 📖 Lottery system? Down payments? First-come first-served? Arm wrestling?
- 📖 Get details and try to be specific.
- 📖 Answers mixed with question above



9. What should the neighborhoods look like? Should there be a policy that the homes look similar? If not, why and what would be the alternative? Parameters or guidelines?

- Colours, types, guidelines.
- Not cookie cutter.
- Use zoning to keep areas similar.
- Not opposed to similar but not over-the top.
- Mixing in of monster houses is bad.
- Certain types, styles could be out-of- sync with the neighbourhood.
- Personal style.
- Divide by type of housing.
- Combined effort, better deal on materials purchasing power.
- Collaborating with other communities.
- Look like a community.
- Bring plan for approval with housing committee.
- Toured different neighbourhoods for ideas.
- Up to us, make it look like a community.
- Use housing committee for vetting plans and designs.

10. How long can a member hold a lot (leave lot undeveloped) before they build? What should be the timeline from obtaining a lot to building a home?

- Six months.
- Year.
- Standard in municipality.
- Bank will drive process.
- Concern should be to access approved funds from the lender and as lender dictates when building must take place. 1) obtain lot; 2) timeline of concern; 3) lender approval; 4) build approved; 5) build.




11. What should the priorities be for pursuing eco-friendly/environmentally friendly housing? What does environmentally friendly mean to you?

What kind of policies should be developed?


















What kind of requirement should be expected of the membership?

- Maintained by community members - ability to do in community - keep technology simple and locally maintainable.
- Better building practices - using less energy - moisture/heat loss, materials to build the home.
- Toxins are a concern.
- Fire resistant products, FireSmart planning, sprinklers.






-  Solar power - power outage.
-  Risk of water damage/floods undertake mitigation.
-  Recycling program.



12. What does elders housing mean to you? What is important to consider when elders housing is a priority?

-  Single level homes.
-  Accessibility/stairs/lighting/easy maintenance.
-  Lighting - to change bulbs, accessible switches, sensors.
-  Bathrooms - falls.
-  Shelving accessible.
-  Appliances safe and in reach.
-  Nothing to trip over.
-  Four-plex - common gardens, emergency button.
-  System to check on elders (visit them).
-  Allow other people to come into the home.
-  Look to cooperatively build space with neighbouring communities to keep all elders closer to home.
-  Elders not able to cook for themselves - meals on wheels.
-  Location of their homes - north of tracks to ensure emergency response access, use commercial lot area near highway - easy access to get out.
-  Not able to hear trains/highway when getting out.
-  Alarm systems such as emergency response button worn by the Elder or person at risk.
-  Consider petitioning the government to slow down the speed limit.
-  Provision of trail off of the highway for walking, biking.

13. If rental housing is a priority, what kind of housing should be available? (townhouse, apartments, duplexes).

-  Build up, have more opportunity.
-  Good opportunity for younger people.
-  Good way to break into home ownership.

14. Members are not required to pay property taxes for municipal services however would you be willing to pay a strata fee to cover these services?

-  Fee will be needed to cover snow removal, garbage,
-  Cost neutral



CLOSING

Crystal Chapman shared these words with us for our closing message:

I have had the privilege of living at Ruby Creek, of the lifestyle of the place, of learning from my maternal Grandparents. Learn who you are, learn our ways. Know where you come from. We are the creek and the river. Some are hesitant, but in my heart I need to be there, and I will make it happen. The ones that will move forward and come home, it will be a big change and connect to something you have never had.

We had the door prize draws and expressed our thanks and provided a reminder for the next sq'ép.



Our discussions were summarized in a video for sharing with those who were not able to join us.

Please follow this link to view the video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B68dZdhPr9I>

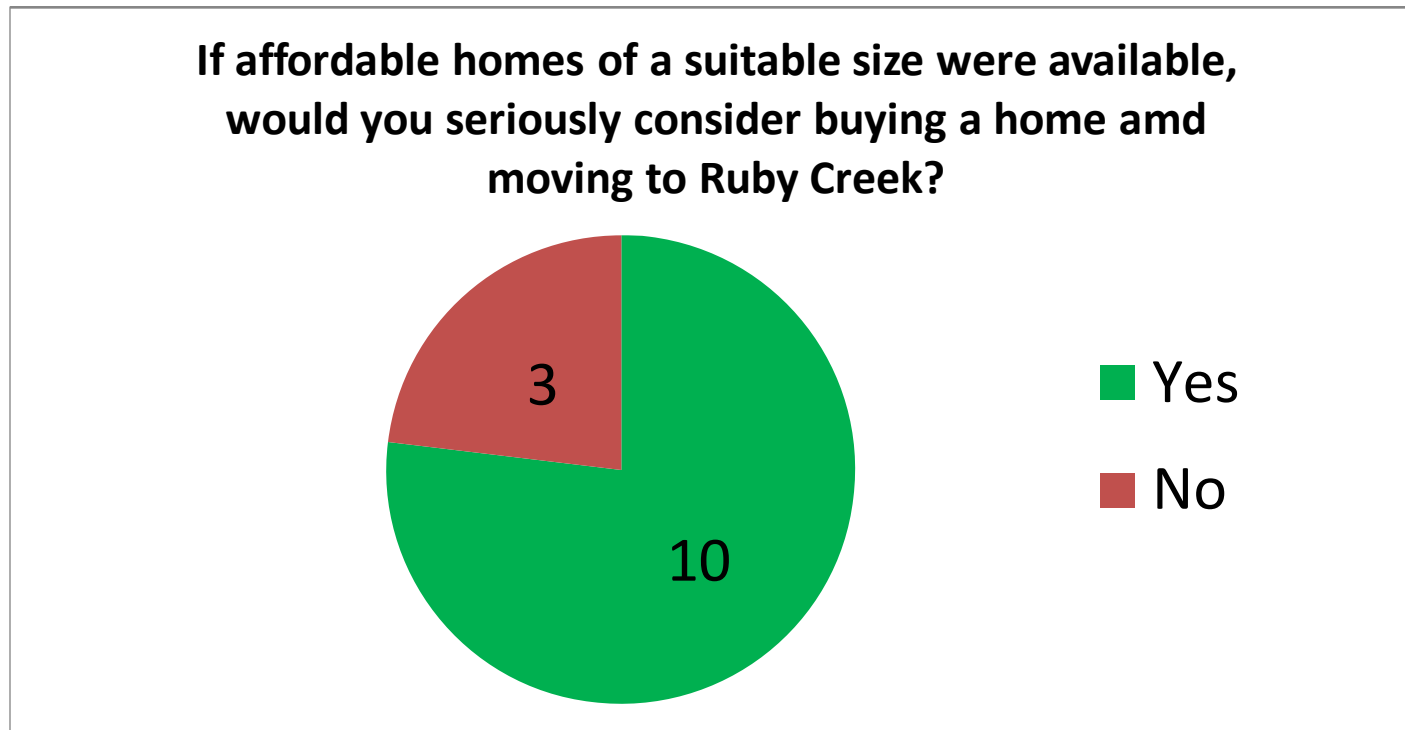


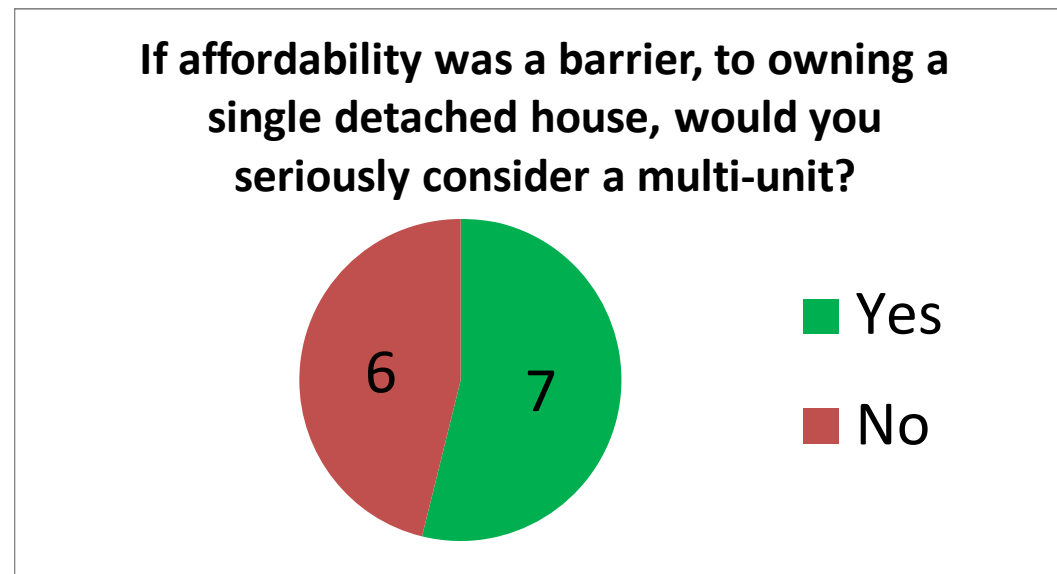
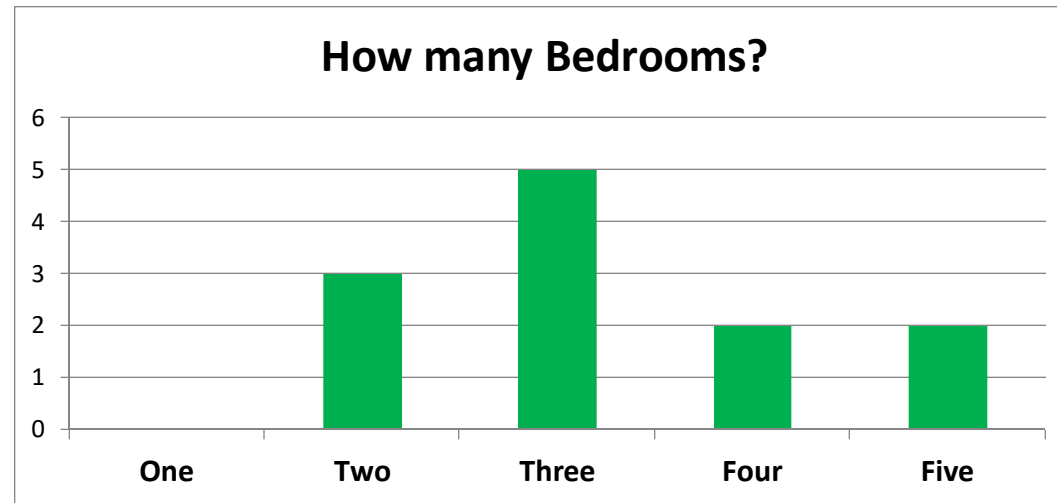
Figure 24 - Graphic Summary Housing



HOUSING SURVEY RESULTS

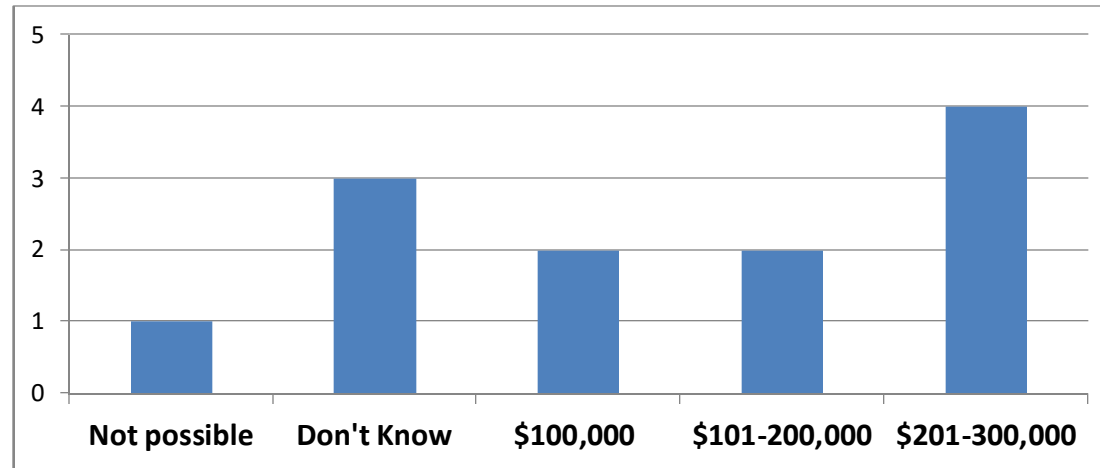
One of the first tasks of the Sq'ewá:lxw Housing Committee had been an extensive community survey from which much was learned. Two years have passed since that survey so a smaller update survey was undertaken. The following graphics present the results.



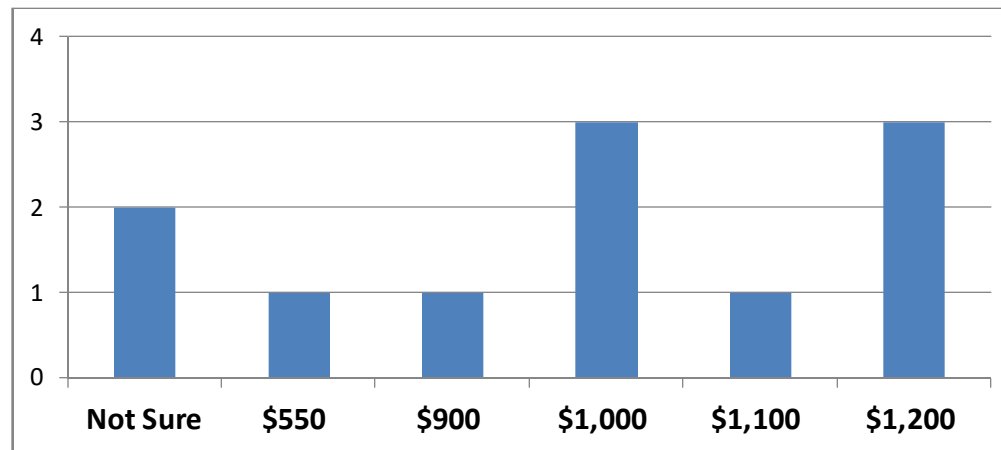




For your own financial situation, what do you feel is an affordable purchase price?

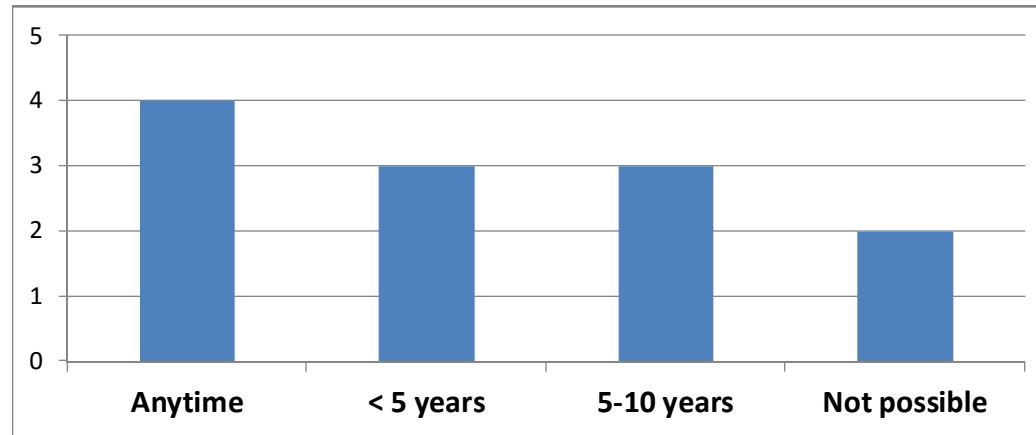


For your household, what is the maximum monthly mortgage payment you would feel comfortable with?





Given your particular situation with regard to saving for a down payment, your household income, and other family related timing issues, how many years away is your house purchase?





6.7 SQ'ÉP - REVIEW AND VALIDATION

With our seventh community vision sq'ép we took the time to look back on our first year of work. Nineteen members plus planning staff gathered at the Stó:lō Nation Government House in Chilliwack. Before community members arrived for lunch, the planning team met in the morning, reviewed ongoing project planning, and finalised the day's agenda,

With the community together, and following a short welcome and a prayer by Bill Davis to bless the food, lunch was served.

Following the meal the community came together in a circle to do the work of reviewing and validating our accomplishments of the year. Melissa Kendzierski, a graphic recorder, recorded the day's events in words and pictures. Facilitation was by Josh Alexander. The business of the day followed the presentation to be found appended to this report (SQFN CPP SQEP Presentation as Delivered April 28 2018.pdf).



As has become our custom, a short video recapping the events of the previous sq'ép was shown. That video is available at the link provided here.

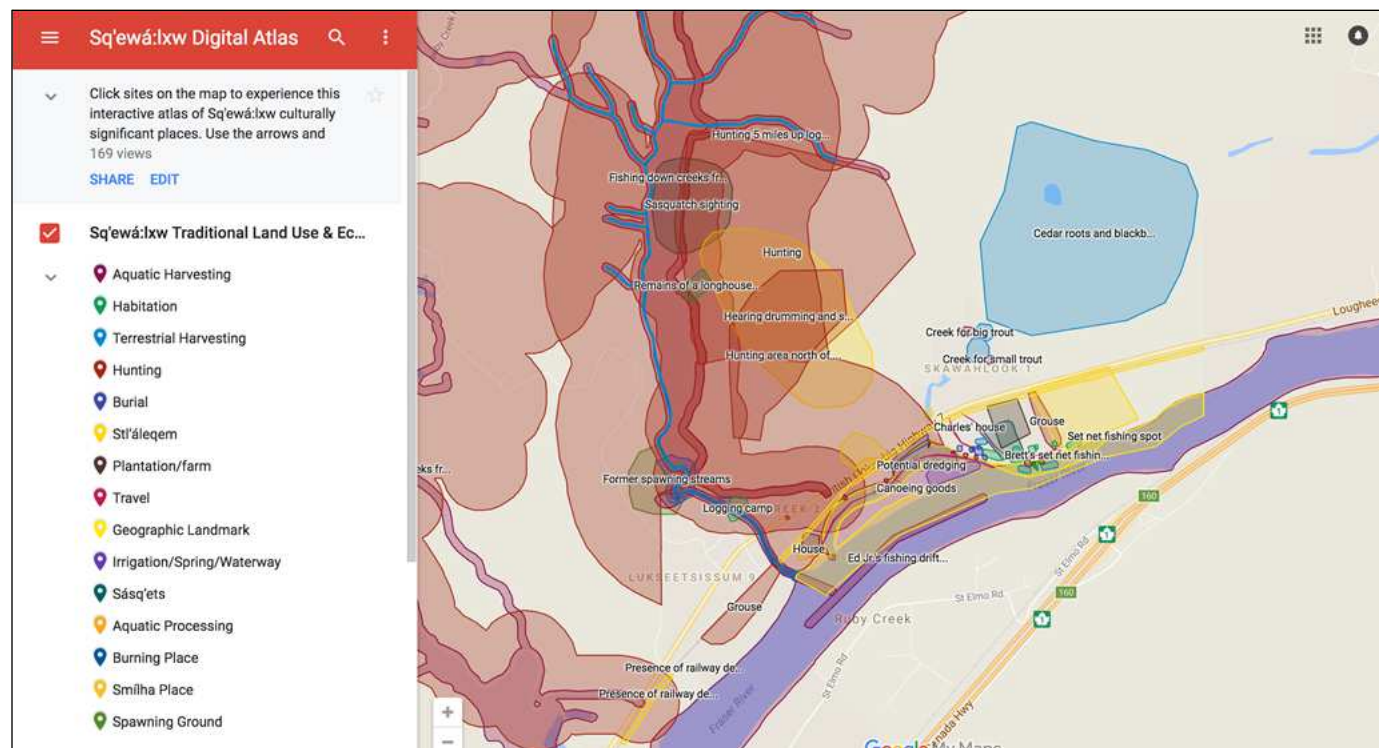


TRADITIONAL LAND USE AND ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE PROJECT

Jonathan Taggart of Land Forest People provided an overview of the traditional land use and ecological knowledge (TLUEK) project recently completed. John, along with Elder Charles Chapman and youth researcher Kecia Prevost worked with 11 Elders and knowledge holders to document and map our knowledge of Sq'ewá:lxw lands and resources.

The full project report (SQFN TLUEK Final Report March 26 2018.pdf) is available appended to this document. An interactive map service sharing the information is available on-line at the link provided here.

Sq'ewá:lxw Digital Atlas



<https://drive.google.com/open?id=105EI92a78Wa5b8TaCz2FoUS3ybtvxvBX&usp=sharing>



BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

In order to begin a discussion on what has been accomplished, David Carson presented on what we set out to do - the objectives of the vision project/CCP, the scope of our planning, and the vision we began with. The introduction video prepared at the start of the project was screened; please see the link provided below.

Discussion was had on the process of weaving the information into a plan which would successfully reflect the vision of the people. The process addresses vision and needs which drive policy, goals, objectives, strategy, and action.

The remainder of the sq'ép focused on reviewing, validating, and prioritizing activities for program delivery by Sq'ewá:lxw. Prioritization was achieved through a fun exercise of “dotmocracy”.





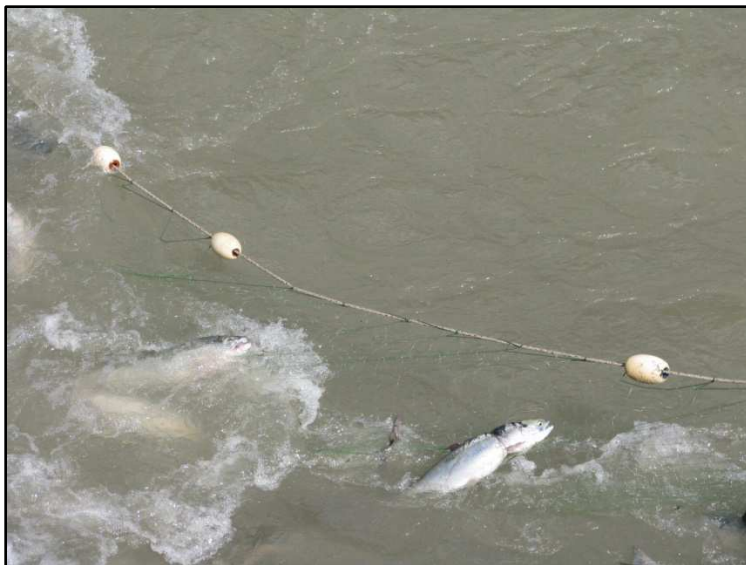
FISHING

Through our discussions over the past months, the community has defined the following vision for fish and fishing.

“We envision a strong community of people honouring the past, empowered to live our lives as we see fit, and defining our own future. Our people and our community maintain our health and happiness in partnership with the fish as we always have. We are stewards of the fish as we have always been. We bring respect, family unity, ceremony, and traditional ways to the work required. We are a resilient community, secure in our own ability to provide fish for our people.”

We have defined the following goals for fish and fishing:

- Full partner in all decisions made with regard to our fish and fishing;
- Active in the stewardship of fish habitat and management of fish harvests;
- All have the fish they need for their physical and spiritual health;
- All have the option to participate in the work of Sq'ewá:lxw fish and fishing; and
- Each generation shares the same memories of family and fishing, and of fish.








Review of information focused on fishing resulted in discussions on the revitalization of a first fish ceremony, utilization of the new adventure park to communicate with the public on fishing issues, and the need to define our fishing spots and rights to them.





After discussions of the various action items identified through the year and in the group at this time, the following priority action items were brought forward (in no particular order):

-  Revitalization of the first fish ceremony;
-  Communicate to our people and outsiders the importance of fish to the sustainability of our community - informational signage in the adventure park;
-  Support community fishing and food preservation;
-  Teach and mentor new fishers; and
-  Fish and fishing policy – including defining where the fishing spots are and the rights associated with them.

Following our discussions, attendees were able to vote on their priorities. Sticky dots of four colours were supplied to members and they were then applied to action items according to their first, second, and third priority. Dots were then counted with weighting as follows: First (green) - 4 points; Second (amber) - 3 points; Third (red) - 2 points; and Fourth (blue) - 1 point. This is our version of “Dotmocracy”.

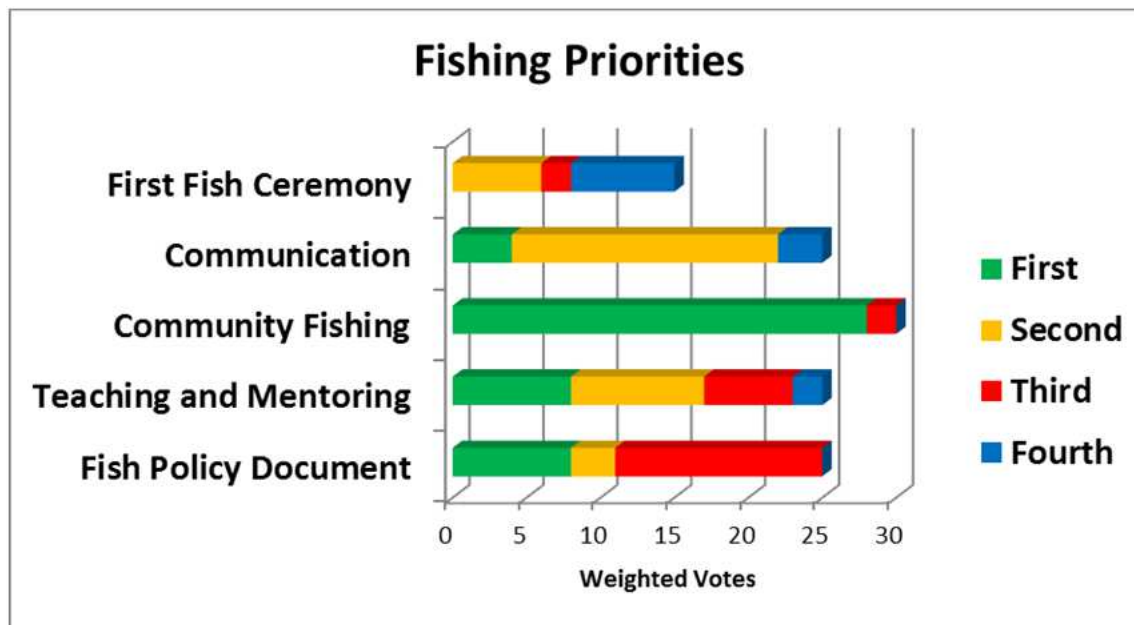




Figure 25 - Dotmocracy in Action



CULTURE

We reviewed what culture is to our people based on our previous discussions and survey results. Each of us defines it differently but we all seem to share certain ideas of what culture is:

- Life - both past, present, and future;
- Land - the location of those lives;
- Identity - the elements of life which we share; and
- Generations - sharing from the past to the present to the future.

Crystal Chapman offered to share her weaving and other art skills through teaching. This led to a recommendation of an art and culture mentorship program. which was added to our recommendations list.

Significant discussion was also spent on the role of natural and traditional medicines in sustaining culture - and the people. We note that this topic is also covered under climate change. Debra Schneider identified local practitioners (Ida and Evette John).






Elder Lucy Chapman expressed her opinion that cultural development should address both languages from the family's history.



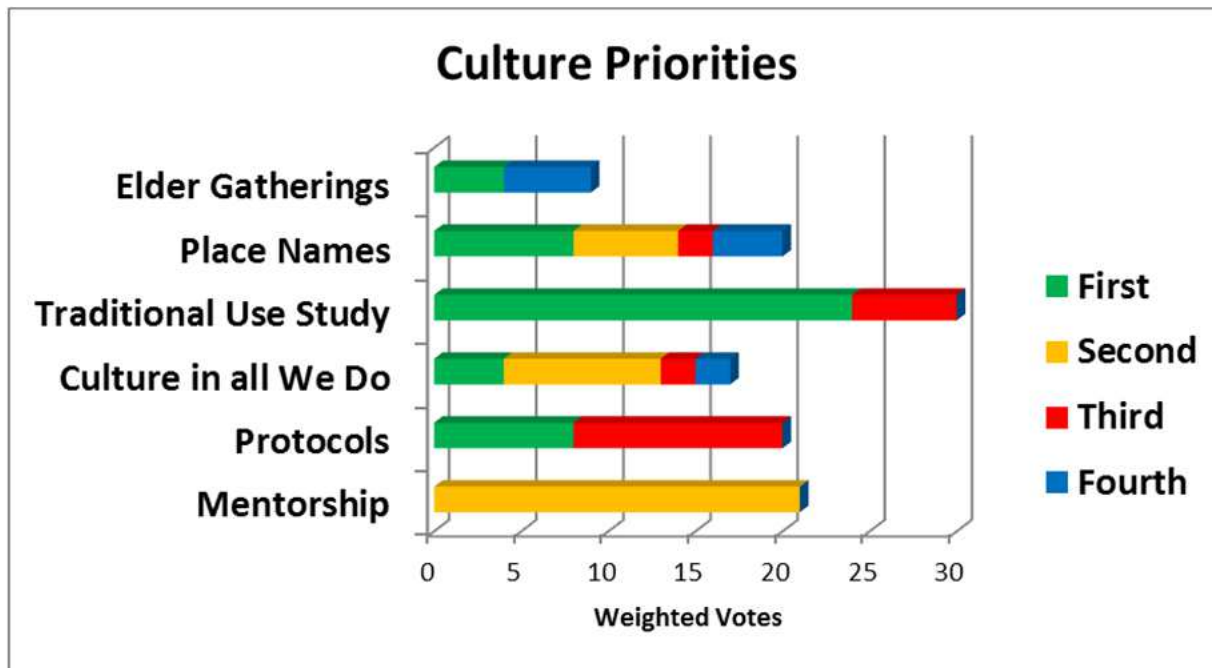




In our discussions we finalized this list of recommended action items:

-  Supporting Elders to attend gatherings;
-  Build place names, stories, and site protection into land use and other planning;
-  Promote the results of the traditional use study to support our cultural and educational goals;
-  Infuse everything we do with culture; and
-  Institute an Art and Culture Mentorship Program.

Following our discussions we again undertook the dotmocracy approach to prioritize recommendations. The results are below.





EDUCATION

From Gwen Point's presentation, we took home the following approaches to success in education:







- Document and share who you are;
- Zero-in on connections to people;
- Acknowledge different kinds of learners;
- Teach in a way that is familiar;
- Learn the language;
- Build in culture and traditional knowledge; and
- Acknowledge different language, ideas, and ways of looking.



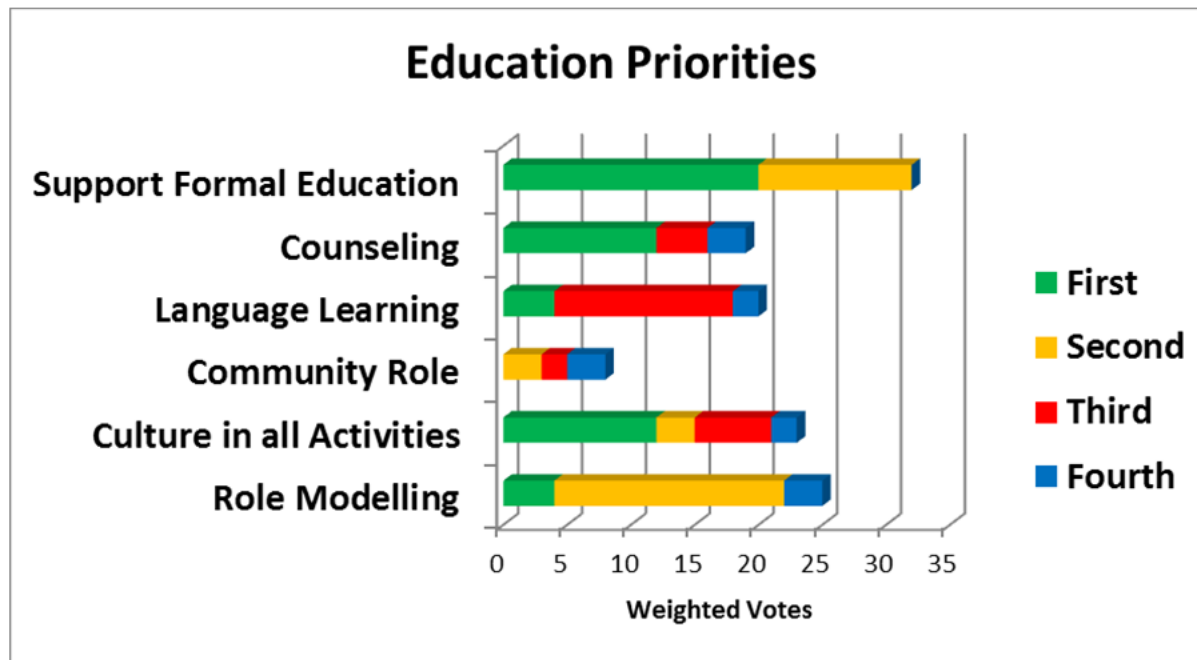


In our discussions Shannon Chapman suggested that the community could also take action to support formal schooling although this is a topic not directly in Sq'ewá:lxw jurisdiction. This resulted in a new activity: support and celebrate the formal education of our kids. This could take the form of incentive programs for good grades or funds for kids to remove financial barriers for classroom supplies and fees.

We finalized this list of recommended action items:

-  Help members help their kids and provide positive role models;
-  Integrate culture in all we do to foster pride;
-  Re-create a community role in cultural teaching;
-  Support participation in language learning;
-  Help learners and families deal with grief and loss, trauma and abuse; and
-  Support and celebrate education – incentives, rewards, funding to remove barriers.

Our dotmocracy exercise resulted in the following prioritization of recommended action items.

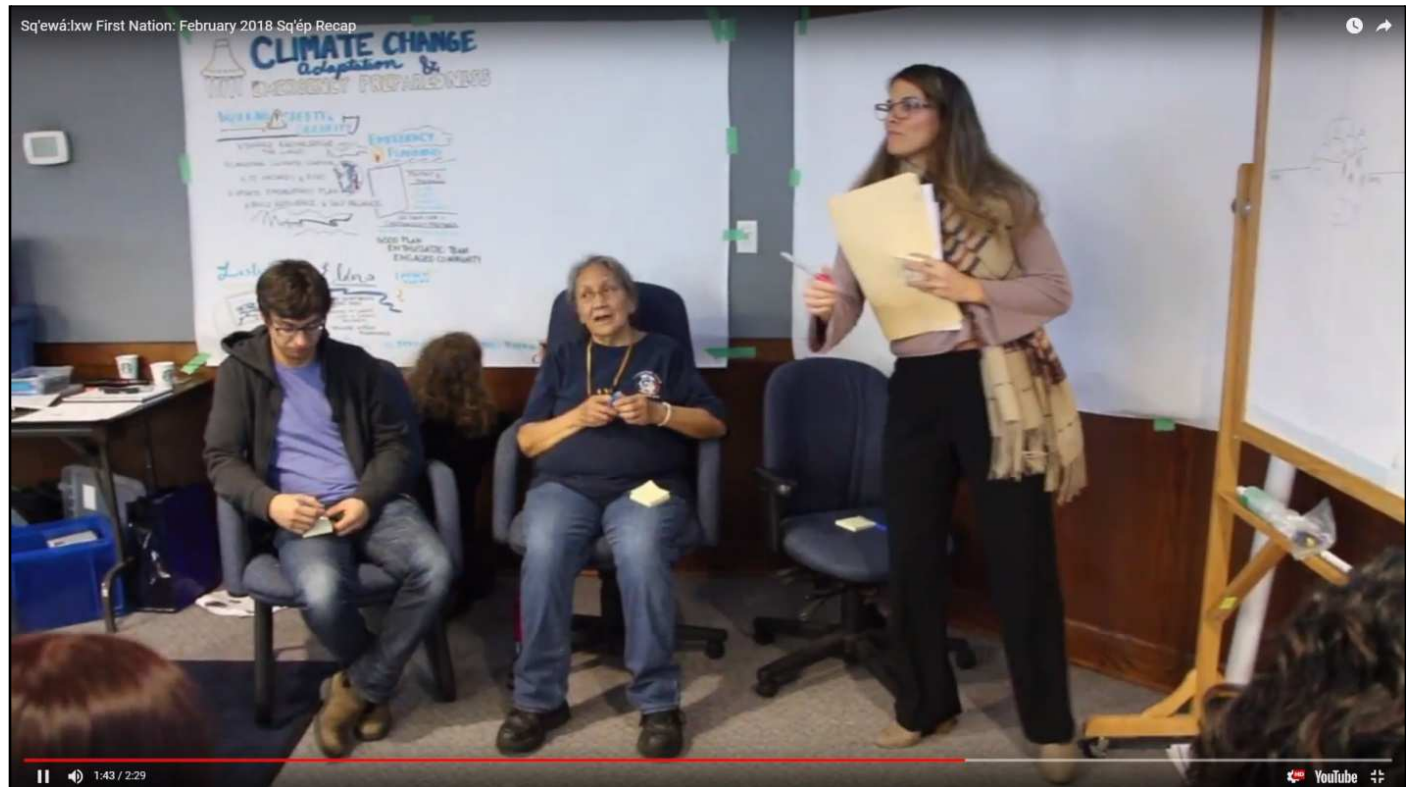




CLIMATE CHANGE








After reviewing the graphic recordings of the climate change breakout sessions (Climate Change and Emergency Management Sq'ép) we had a spirited discussion on protecting the land and particularly on rejecting pipelines and environmental activism. This resulted in a new action item suggested by Elder Lucy: protect the land.

Deano Chapman raised the issue of proper recycling and surplus packaging. A discussion followed on the concept of the “4th R” which is Rethink. Rethinking includes evaluating how and what you buy and making decisions based on environmental issues.

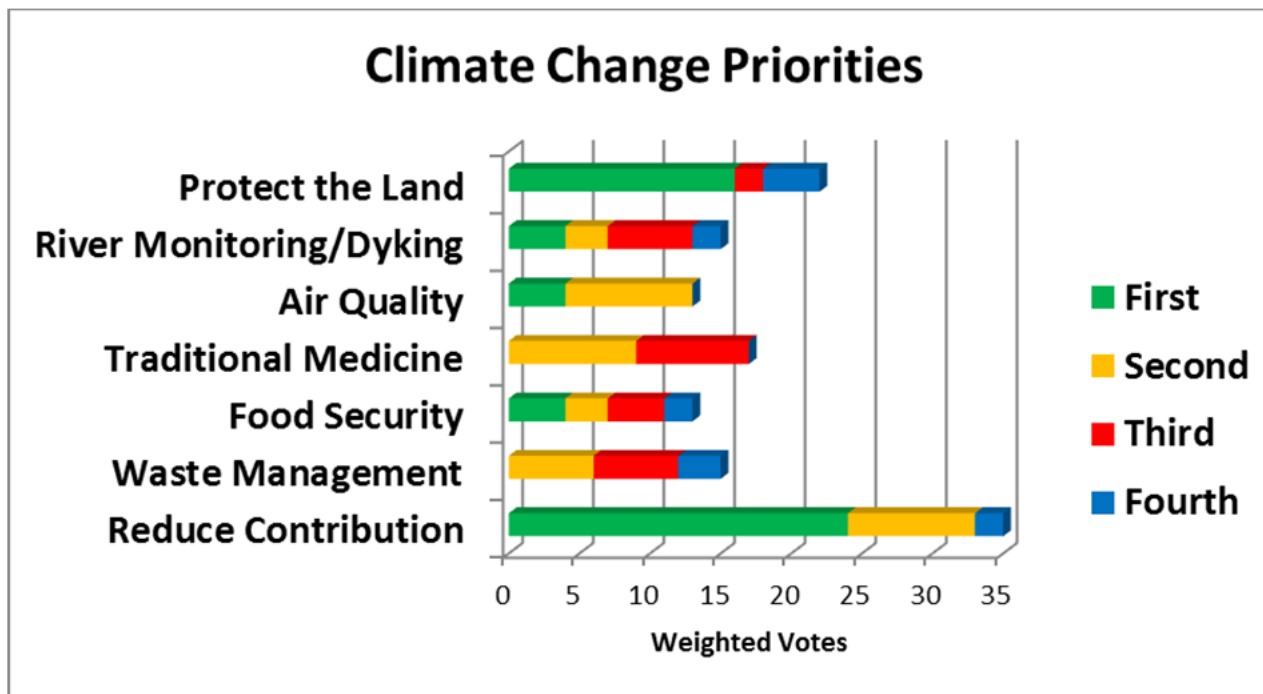




The following are our recommended action items (in no particular order):

-  Protect the land;
-  Participate in river monitoring systems and consider dyking to protect the land;
-  To address air quality issues look at use of air conditioners and supply masks;
-  Turn to traditional medicines for health and social wellness;
-  Establish a food security program and consider a community garden;
-  Investigate improvements to waste management; and
-  Reduce our own contribution to climate change through environmental protection and green infrastructure.

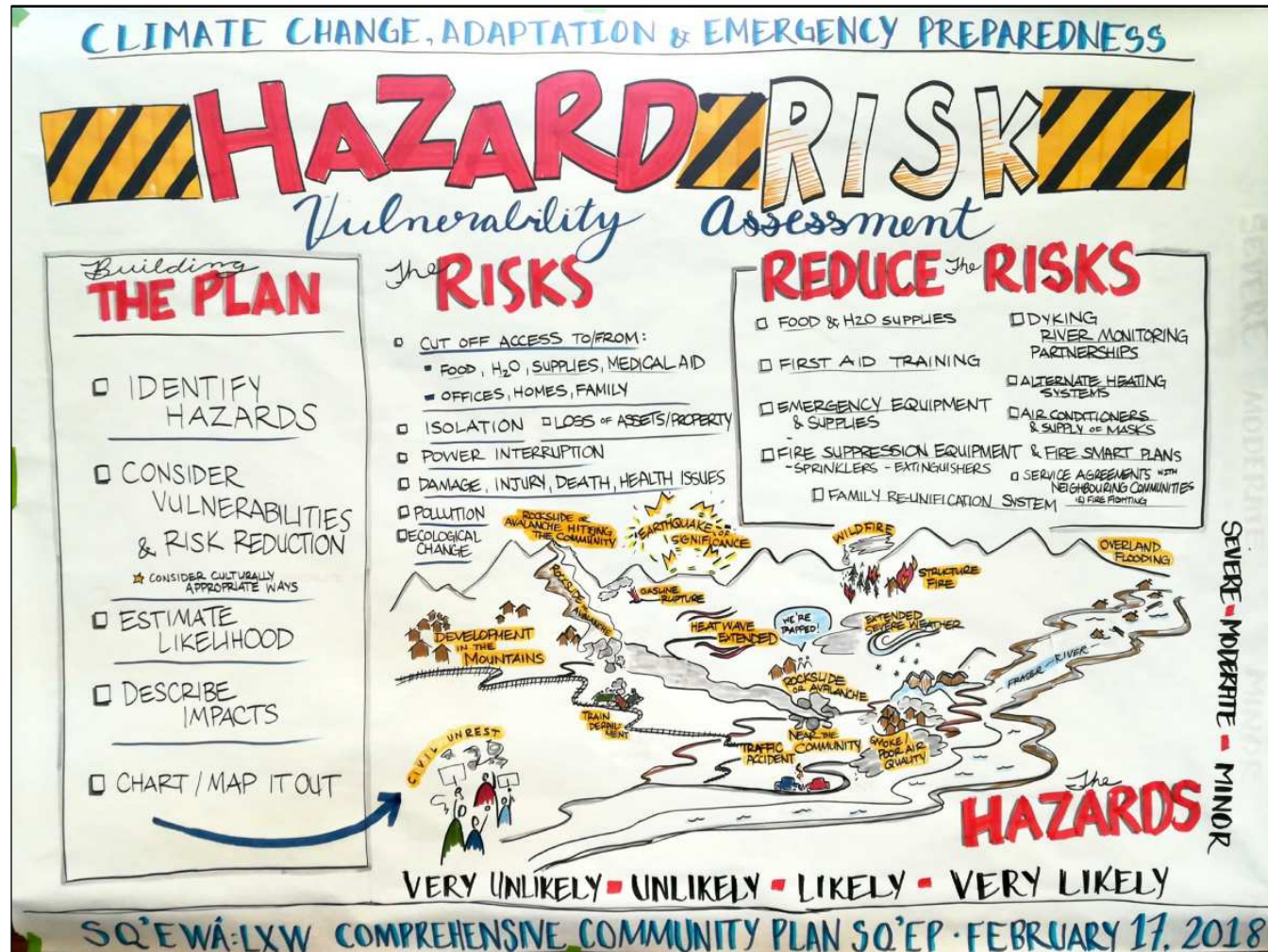
Our dotmocracy exercise resulted in the following prioritization of recommended action items.











EMERGENCY PLANNING

Emergency planning was addressed in a breakout sessions at the Climate Change and Emergency Management Sq'ép. At this session we reviewed the outcomes based on the graphic design document pictured here.

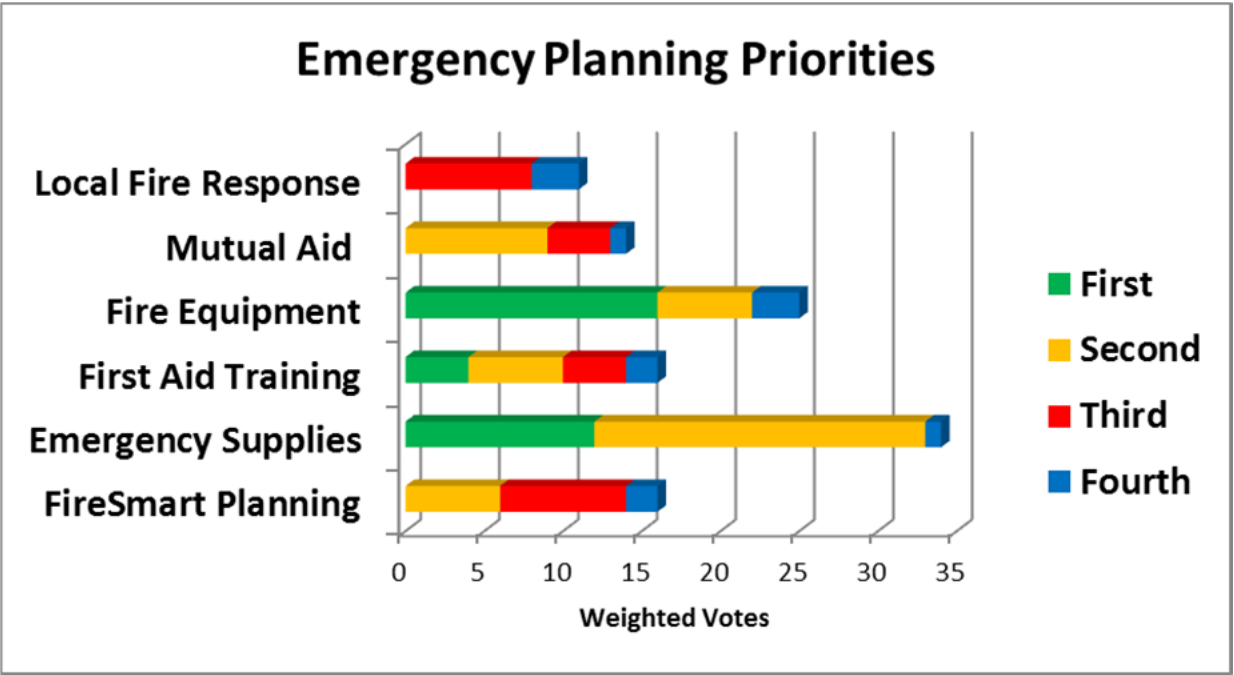




Our discussions resulted in the following recommended action items (in no particular order):

-  Consider a local fire response capability;
-  Establish mutual aid and service agreements with neighbouring First Nations and municipalities;
-  Install fire suppression equipment;
-  Promote first aid training;
-  Establish food, water, first aid, and emergency equipment supplies; and
-  Undertake FireSmart planning.

Our dotmocracy exercise resulted in the following prioritization of recommended action items.












HOUSING

The Sq'ewá:lxw Housing Committee has been active over the past few years taking the pulse of community needs and desires and building housing policy and procedures. Plans for a housing subdivision are advanced past feasibility study. A rendering of one possibility for the development is provided here.

Recognizing a range of needs and desires, the core housing product under consideration is a three bedroom single detached home.







Previous discussions at the housing sq'ép resulted in this policy advice:

-  Rentals and vacation homes are okay, just have a good system and protect community interests;
-  Require member commitment without adding cost;
-  Market housing is okay, again protect community interests, especially for the future;
-  Fair and transparent eligibility and lot/home selection;
-  Housing Committee to vet housing design to achieve community vision;
-  A portion of housing with emphasis on accessibility; and
-  Primarily single homes but options for different life situations.

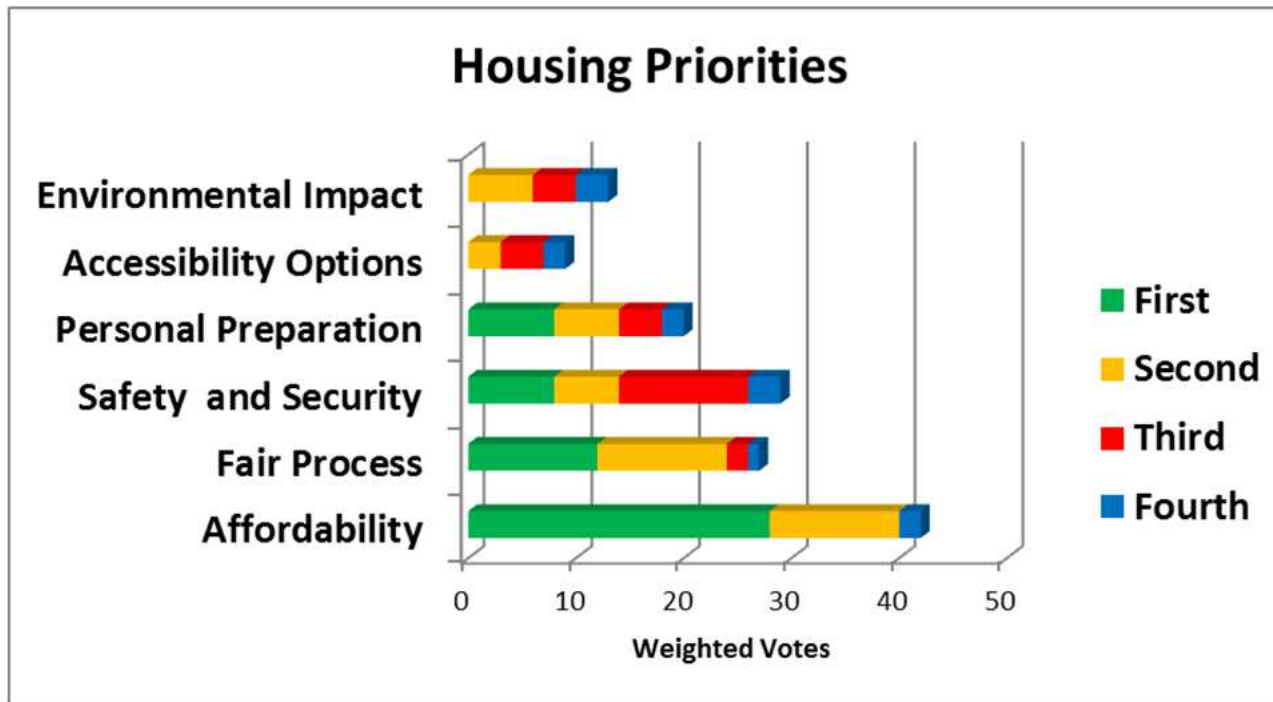




Our discussions at this sq'ép resulted in the following recommended action items (in no particular order):

-  Low environmental impact;
-  Options with regard to accessibility; and
-  Personal preparation for home ownership;
-  Safety and security;
-  Fair and transparent processes; and
-  Affordability.







Our dotmocracy exercise resulted in the following prioritization of recommended action items.








PROGRAM PLANNING

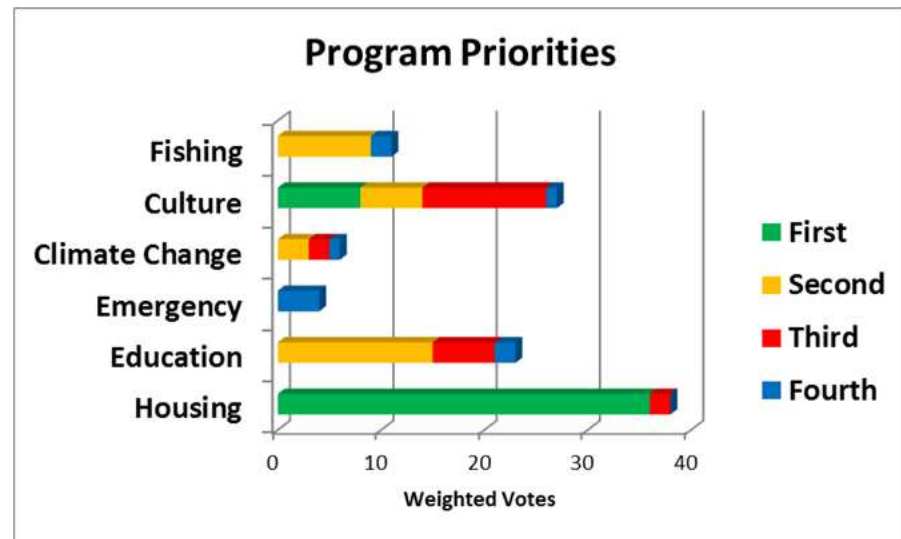
Through sq'ép we have addressed six elements of program planning:

-  Fish and fishing;
-  Culture;
-  Education;
-  Climate change;
-  Emergency preparedness; and
-  Housing.

Three program areas have yet to be discussed by the community:

-  Economic development;
-  Health; and
-  Governance.

In our validation sq'ép we addressed prioritizing of the programs we have discussed. Using the dotmocracy process we identified the following priority recommendations.





GOING FORWARD

Planning for year two of the process was discussed. We will have seven sq'ép in the coming fiscal year with the first three addressing specific programs - economic development, health, and governance. The remaining will be focused on finalizing the plan by once again reviewing, validating, and driving vision to action.

THANKS AND PRIZES

Through the year anticipation was building for the distribution of prizes. Six members were drawn from the attendees for gift cards. Members Julie Lungal, Jenn Carmen, and Charles Chapman were recognized for 100% participation (sq'ép and surveys) with \$50 gift cards. A grand prize of \$1000 was drawn from our prize box which contained a ticket for every instance of participation including attendance, completion of survey, direct contribution to program, etc. The prize went to Shannon Chapman.



The planning staff expressed our deep appreciation to the community for their support, advice, and understanding.



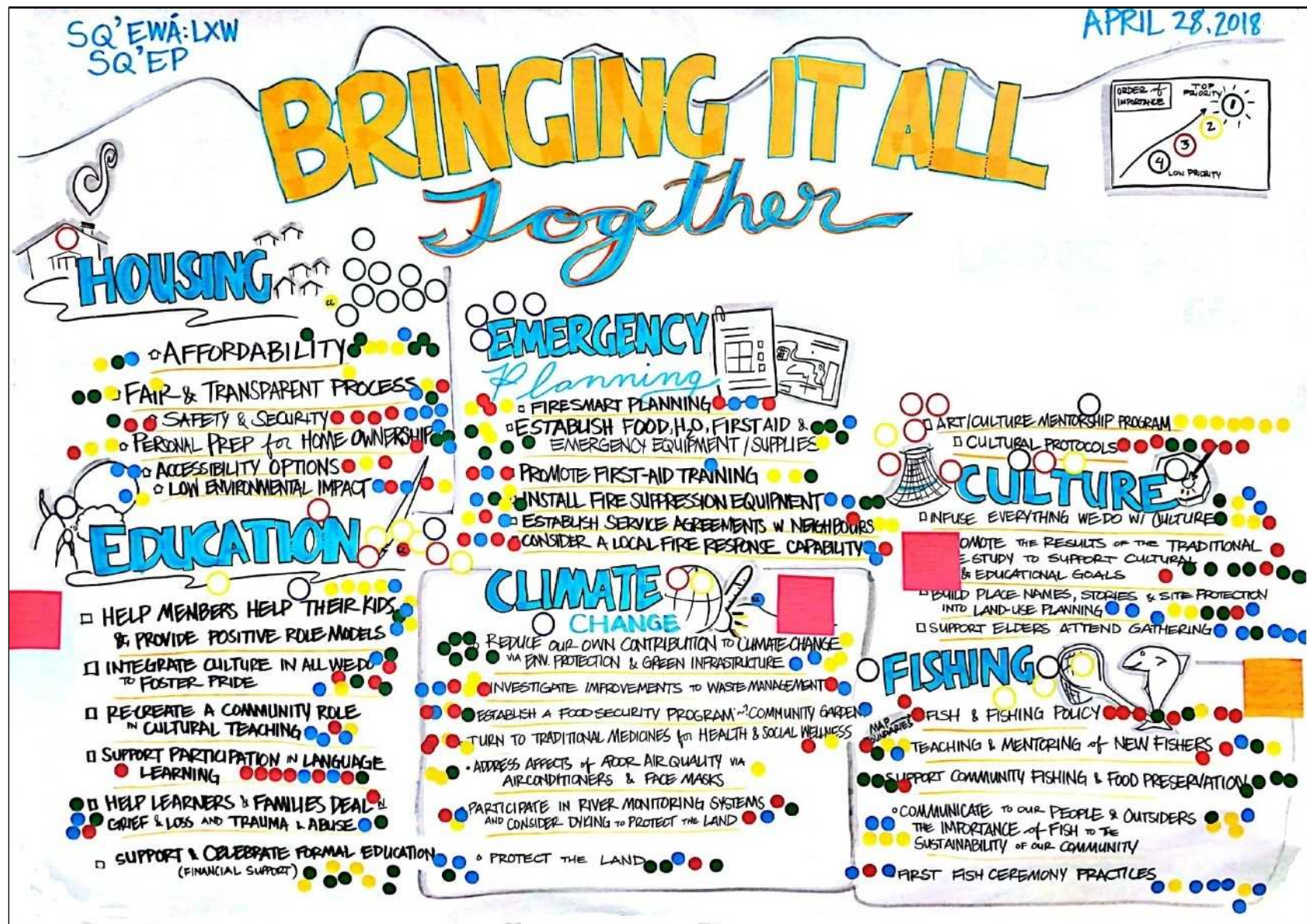


Figure 26 - Graphic Summary Bringing it all Together



7.0 WORK PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

The Sq'ewa:lxw Vision Project will ultimately lead to administrative and program planning. The information contained in this report will support preparation of the plan and in turn development of staff work plans.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Program/Activity	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
#1 - Housing					
	Housing program defines activities				
#2 - Culture					
	Implement TLUEK results into planning and programs including place names				
		Documentation of Protocols			
			Mentorship		
#3 - Education					
	SQFN education support program				
		Language training and role model program			
		Counselling and role model program			
#4 - Fishing					
	Fishing Policy				
	Communication				
		Mentoring			
			Community Fishing and Processing		
#5 - Emergency Preparedness and Climate					
	Emergency Supplies				
	Mutual aid and fire response				
		Climate change mitigation program			

SQ'EWA:LXW FIRST NATION VISION PROJECT REPORT



