



Sq'ewá:lxw Sqwélqwel





The Newsletter of the
Sq'ewá:lxw First Nation Vision Project
Issue #12 January 2019



The Vision Plan is a graphic interactive web-based plan that can be found at:
<https://prezi.com/p/fwtx0h2w4sji/sqewalxw-vision-project/>.

It is still incomplete but it has been available as it has progressed so that members can have a look at your leisure and help us get it right.

Inside this Sqwélqwel

-  Health Recap Video - P2
-  Weaving it all Together - P3
-  Culture - P4
-  Health - P5

Weaving our Future to Become
One Heart and One Mind



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



Sq'ewá:lxw Sqwélqwel

If you missed our November sq'ép on health you will find a summary video at this link:

<https://youtu.be/H-hv4FuNQWk>



Sq'ewá:lxw Sqwélqwel

Weaving it all Together

In sq'ép Jonathan presented the digital Vision Plan in its draft form. The plan is a depiction of Ruby Creek with various images representing important topics to the Sq'ewá:lxw community identified through the sq'ép process. Jonathan showed the group how to navigate through the different visual images. It was noted that as it is still in draft form, that more topics and images will be added.

Members can interact with the plan at the most general level or dive deep into the details to the degree that they may be interested.



Housing

While reviewing goals and action items for housing there was interest in environmental approaches to building homes. It was noted that this is a tough topic to tackle. The Sq'ewá:lxw Housing Policy identifies energy conservation and other practices as important but in getting homes built we have some very large financial and fiscal challenges.

Some environmental products may be expensive initially but would end up paying for themselves in the long-run. However, some products may need specialized service and we are looking at uncomplicated equipment that general maintenance workers could fix. We need to balance affordability and environmental approaches.

Fishing

Reviewing our work with regard to fishing, there was much discussion on fishing locations and rights to those locations. It was noted that the river moves and changes with time, and that the names and faces of the people fishing the river have always changed. Rather than look at the situation as ownership based, where there is cause for controversy, friendships and cooperatives should be formed so we can all work together on the river.

Fishing programs are for future generations. We need mentoring and equipment including a boat to share.

Chief Chapman made the recommendation that a separate meeting was necessary to address the issues and concerns regarding fishing.



Sq'ewá:lxw Sqwélqwel

Culture

We also reviewed culture. Members were given the opportunity to validate the contents of the plan and expressed satisfaction with the vision and action items for these important topics.



Leaving behind oppression, we envision a strong community of people who know where we come from, what has happened to us, who we are, and what we do. We are a people who listen to the ancient knowledge (sxwōxwiyám) and hear the wisdom in the stories of our lives (sqwélqwel).

Our culture is a gift from those who have gone before and is our way of life. The foundation of our culture is that which has been passed to us. That foundation supports us in holding up future generations. Culture sustains us in knowing what is good, knowing how to nourish spirits and our bodies, and knowing how to enrich our minds. Culture empowers us to acknowledge the gifts we have been given, do good, speak up, and make change.

Culture is practiced and sustained in language, ceremony, protocol, names, titles, art, music, singing, and dancing.

Culture is dynamic and growing and embracing.



Sq'ewá:lxw will be a full partner in all decisions made with regard to protecting and promoting our shared culture in all its forms.

Every person and every family will have the freedom to develop and express their culture in the way that is meaningful to them.

Future generations will have access to our cultural legacy as it has been handed down and developed across the generations.



Sq'ewá:lxw Sqwélqwel

Health





Elements of the plan with regard to health were also reviewed and validated by those in attendance

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. We envision our people having access to a full range of high quality health care delivered in a culturally safe and appropriate way.

Implementation

Sq'ewá:lxw will:






-  Continue to participate in leadership and governance of Stó:lō Health Services.
-  Actively advocate for the needs of our community at the federal, provincial political levels, through First Nations Health Authority, and directly with Stó:lō Health Services. Areas of particular interest to our members are:
 - Pre- and post-natal care
 - Diabetes and nutrition
 - Education and counselling (life skills, substance abuse)
 - Mental health
-  Report annually to the members on health related activities and accomplishments.
-  Explore ways of providing innovative and culturally based health services for our members:
 - Sweat lodge healing
 - Caregiver health
 - Staff self-care
 - Early child care and primary and secondary education
 - Suicide and overdose prevention



Sq'ewá:lxw Sqwélqwel

Prizes!





We have door prizes at each sq'ép. In addition we are offering a grand prize of \$1,000 at the end of the year with entries accumulated by members by:

-  Attendance at each sq'ép including attendance via Facebook Live;
-  Submission of the feedback form from each sq'ép;
-  Filling out surveys either online or in hardcopy;
-  Submitting pictures, stories, etc.; and
-  At the discretion of the planning champion in recognition of valuable contributions.

We also will be giving a guaranteed prize of \$50 for the ones who attend all meetings and complete all surveys.

Land Code Amendments

In sq'ép Councilor Schneider took the opportunity to remind the membership of the proposed amendments to the Sq'ewá:lxw Land Code:

-  Life Estate – This interest will allow a non-member to remain in a residence on reserve following the passing of their Sq'ewá:lxw member spouse for as long as they live.
-  Dispute Resolution – Implementation of the Sq'ewá:lxw Land code dispute resolution panel follows the traditional Stó:lō ways and principles of Qwi:qwelstóm.
-  Specific Listing of Laws Chief and Council May Enact – Without limiting other laws, provides a specific listing of the laws that Chief and Council may enact.
-  Gender-neutral Language – Gender-neutral language or gender-inclusive language is language that avoids bias towards a particular sex or social gender. Gender-neutral language will be used throughout the Sq'ewá:lxw Land Code.

Save the Date: Saturday February 16th, 2019

This will be our last sq'ép specifically focused on our Vision Project. We be finalizing our Vision of the future and prioritizing action items.

We will be celebrating our good work with cake and the final grand prize of \$1,000.

Stó:lō Government House

We will come together at 11:30 am, have some lunch, and finish up at 3:00 pm.

