

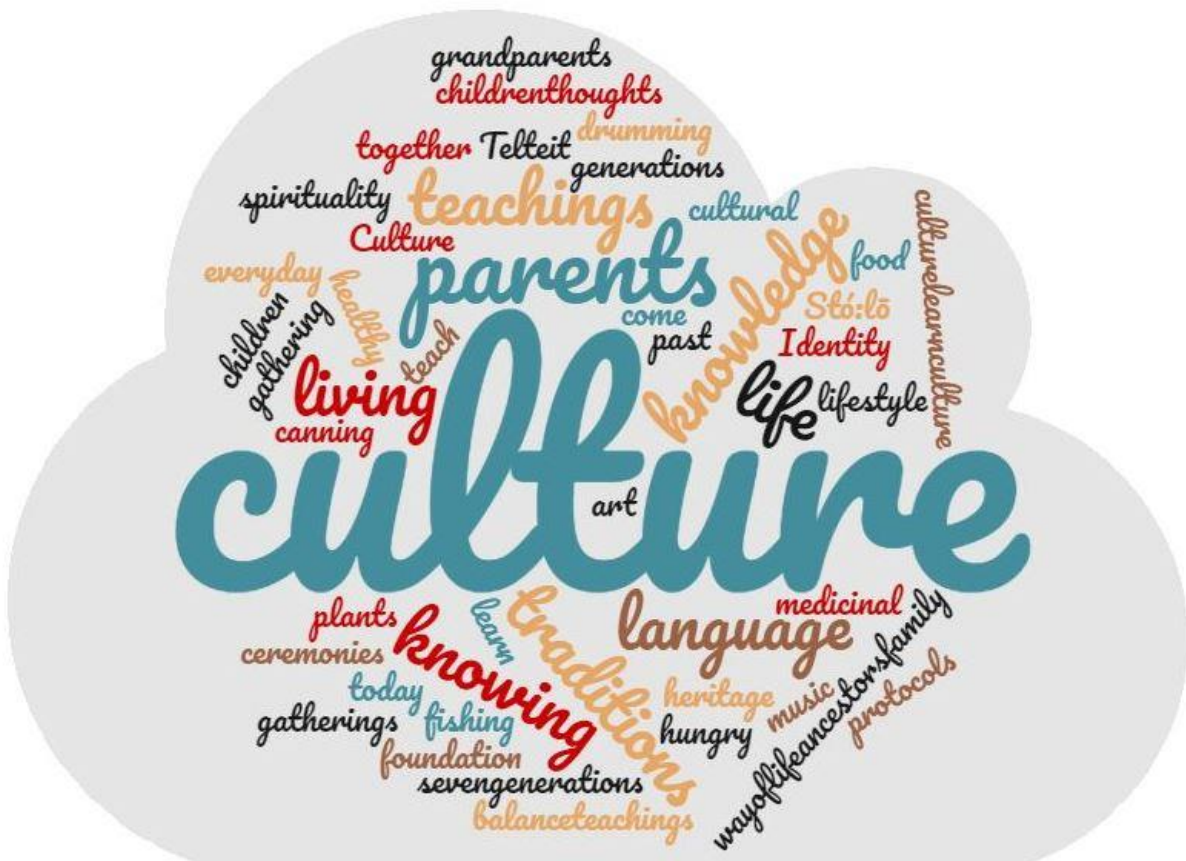


Sq'ewá:lxw Sqwélqwel

The Newsletter of the
Sq'ewá:lxw First Nation Vision Project
Issue #4 October 2017

October Sq'ép: Culture

Our gathering in October was dedicated to the discussion of culture!



Recap of our September Sq'ép

If you missed our September gathering, you will find a summary video at this link: <https://youtu.be/5yAicHo0Kmg>



For further information please contact Sharron Young our Sq'ewá:lxw Nation Vision Champion!
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Traditional Land Use & Knowledge Study






While the comprehensive community plan is ongoing, Sq'ewá:lxw is also undertaking a study of what is known about the land, including use and occupancy. This supports the title and rights approach to land stewardship that has driven Sq'ewá:lxw to take on Land Code and undertake land use planning across Sq'ewá:lxw shared interest lands.

Our land use plan identified the need to undertake a project to gather and record in a good way the traditional knowledge, stories, and places of the Sq'ewá:lxw people.

Please stay tuned for additional information.



Inside this Sqwélqwel

-  What is Culture? - P3
-  Plan Theme - P4
-  Places of Sq'ewá:lxw - P5
-  Our Video Products - P6
-  Save the Date - P6

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*.



Sq'ewá:lxw Sqwélqwel

Our culture sq'ép was led Charles Chapman who by having Delores Jim, Margaret George, and Lucy Chapman do the talking, reminded us that the family is matrilineal.



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 is:

- *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 grandparent 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 out 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.*



Sq'ewá:lxw Sqwélqwel

Our Plan Theme is Developing Well!








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.

We received very positive feedback at the sq'ép and in the survey for the theme message!

"It is nice to hear what everyone has to say. Today I noticed in the room that there is a lot of talent, knowledge, and leadership. If we stick together we can accomplish anything"

Prizes!

We have door prizes at each sq'ép. In addition we are offering a grand prize of \$1,000 at the March session 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.



Sq'ewá:lxw Sqwélqwel

Places of Sq'ewá:lxw

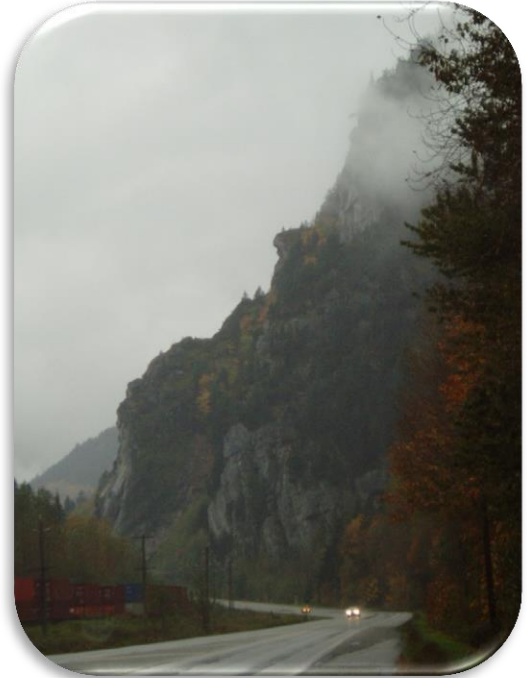
Sonny McHalsie joined us for our culture sq'ép and he shared his wealth of information on the names and places and stories of the land of Sq'ewá:lxw.

Figuring prominently was T'it'emtámex (or T'ámiya's home) the mountain behind the Sq'ewá:lxw reserves which is the place of a transformer event.



Naxaxalhts'i, Albert (Sonny) McHalsie

Cultural Advisor/Historian and Honorary Doctorate of Law, University of Victoria.



Located within T'it'emtámex and between the current Sq'ewá:lxw reserves are rock bluffs which present the profile of the Blowing Man (photo by Dr. Schaepe SRRMC).

How Do I Learn More?

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

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



Sq'ewá:lxw Sqwélqwel

Videos

You may have noticed that we are putting a lot of emphasis on video recording as a tool to support our work.

Follow the links to the right for a complete summary of what we have been doing.

The October sq'ép recap video will be available soon.

Project Vision Video

This is where we started.

<https://youtu.be/IBCv5maxLC4>

Introduction to CCP

Learn about the process.

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

Recap of our August Sq'ép

If you missed our August gathering on Fishing, Lands, and Resources, you will find a summary video at this link:

<https://youtu.be/IXHc8mMnk3A>

Recap of our September Sq'ép

If you missed our September gathering on Culture, you will find a summary video at this link:

<https://youtu.be/5yAicHo0Kmq>

November Sq'ép - Health and Education

At our next Sq'ép we will be discussing health and education. Our special guest will be Gwen Point.

Saturday November 11th, 2017

Noon at Stó:lō Government House

7201 Vedder Rd, Chilliwack, BC (Building 8B)

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

Save The Date!

