



Q: What land are we getting? Is this all we get? Will fee simple land be included?

A: We will add a minimum of 24,463.43 acres of land, to our existing land, for which we will have full control and lawmaking powers. Nothing will happen on those lands without our full consent. There will also be a land acquisition fund, additional annual transfer payments for programs and services, and funding for self-government.

During Stage 5, a separate cash amount will be negotiated to acquire more land including fee simple lands, which may be included as Treaty Lands.

Q: What money are we getting? Is that all we get?

A: In addition to land, a \$150 million capital transfer has been approved as part of the land/capital transfer package with the knowledge that during Stage 5 a separate cash amount will be negotiated to purchase more land including fee simple lands. We will also receive transfer payments going forward, similar to other government bodies. Additionally, we will be negotiating Revenue Sharing on and off Treaty Lands.

Q: What about housing?

A: There will be more land, more money, and more opportunity to build our own housing and for communities to create affordable housing.

Q: What happens to reserve lands?

A: We keep all the reserve lands that we currently have. The lands will be retained and administered by the Stó:lō Xwexwilmexw National and/or Village Governments. After treaty, the Crown will have no say on your lands, which will have increased by over 1000%. Our reserves will become Treaty Lands, which we will own, control, and have full jurisdiction over.

Q: What happens to CP land holders?

A: CP Land Holders will keep their lands based on rules set out by each individual Village Government.

Q: What is the new governance model under self-government?

We are developing a governance model and a draft Shxwelméxwelh (Constitution) that includes the current First Nation/Villages, and establishes an overarching national structure.

Q: Are we ready to have a Treaty?

A: We have been working towards this treaty since 1969. Every improvement you see on our lands today, began with our work towards Treaty. We have been doing this work all along. With the SXG Treaty, we will be able make our own laws and we will no longer have to tailor our lives to British Common law and ideas.

We have the capacity, we have the understanding, and the cultural knowledge. Many of our people are educated and experienced. We currently care for our own communities, but are limited under the Indian Act on what we can achieve.

Q: Shouldn't all Stó:lō be included in negotiating a treaty? How can only part of a tribe be negotiating a treaty? Will Treaty divide our families?

A: At present, the SXG is negotiating for the six communities involved in treaty. We seek input from our communities and hope to reflect everyone's ideas in our final treaty. Please do not hesitate to ask questions and get involved! In the end, we are all still Stó:lō and we are all moving our nation forward in many different ways. The SXG is moving forward based on the principles of non-extinguishment of Stó:lō Aboriginal Rights and Title; modelling collaborative win-win solutions; and open mindedness.



UPCOMING EVENTS

No upcoming events at this time



HUMOUR

What did one snowman say to the other?
"Is it just me, or do you smell carrots??"



Sq'ewá:lw First Nation Skawahlook



A message from Chief Maureen Chapman

Season's Greetings!

I hope everyone enjoyed the beautiful long summer we had and are now preparing for winter.



In our work for self governance, we have found some negative connotations linked with the word treaty, and a lot of this is based on other First Nation experiences across BC and Canada. We are making efforts to focus on language that is more in

line with what we are striving to accomplish, which is our Self-Government Agreement. As we prioritized Land and Cash, the Lands Side Table has received land submissions from all six First Nations to be sent to BC, so they can purchase these lands for our communities.

I am very happy that we regained the roads in our community and now have control over the water systems as well. Our community is finally off the boil-water order after ten years!

As we move into the colder weather, please remember those less fortunate and donate your extra warm coats, socks, shoes, boots and blankets. Invite an elder, friend or neighbour for Christmas dinner. Take good care of yourselves and families during the winter season.

Merry Christmas and all the best in the New Year!

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CIRNAC- Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
<https://www.canada.ca/en/crown-indigenous-relations-northern-affairs.html>
ISC - Indigenous Services Canada
<https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada.html>
or 1-800-567-9604





A message from Councillor Debra Schneider

Christmas season is fast approaching, and I am looking forward to it. I managed to pick up a bug a couple weeks ago and it knocked me out of commission for about a week but I am on the mend.

The S'olh Temexw Stewardship Alliance (STSA) group came together for a couple of meetings this past summer, and from a side table meeting we met with the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure (MOTI). They are discussing ingress & egress lanes with Sq'ewa'lxw First Nation, and a left hand turn off lane to our Adventure Park heading east, so that members and the general public can enter and leave our community safely.

As the STSA group, we have talked to MOTI regarding the high volume of traffic on Highway 7 when there is an emergency, like the forest fires, slides etc. closing down Highway 1. Talks will resume in the new year.

On a personal note this past September I went away for a sisters weekend with all my sisters-in-law (11) from Dave's side, and had an amazing time getting re-acquainted. I look forward to the next one.

I want to wish all of you a wonderful Christmas season, and good health & wealth in 2023.



Sq'ewá:lxw First Nation is proud to partner with the Chilliwack Chiefs Junior A Hockey Club to support their Youth Program. Because of our support, the Chilliwack Chiefs are providing Sq'ewá:lxw First Nation with 10 tickets to each and every Chilliwack Chiefs home game for the 2022-2023 season and we would like to share these tickets with our members.

These tickets are available on a first come, first serve basis for Sq'ewá:lxw members and their guests. All other expenses (food, gas, lodging, etc.) will be the responsibility of the members attending the game.

The following dates and times are currently available. Please note available tickets will diminish throughout the season, but we will send out regular updates.



December 16.....Friday.....	7:00 pm -- 5 tickets available
December 17.....Saturday.....	6:00 pm -- 10 tickets available
December 30.....Friday.....	7:00 pm -- 10 tickets available
January 7.....Saturday.....	6:00 pm -- 10 tickets available
January 28.....Saturday.....	6:00 pm -- 10 tickets available
January 29.....Sunday.....	5:00 pm -- 5 tickets available
February 4.....Saturday.....	6:00 pm -- 10 tickets available
February 5.....Sunday.....	5:00 pm -- 9 tickets available
February 11.....Saturday.....	6:00 pm -- 10 tickets available
February 18.....Saturday.....	6:00 pm -- 10 tickets available
February 24.....Friday.....	7:00 pm -- 10 tickets available
February 25.....Saturday.....	6:00 pm -- 10 tickets available
March 17.....Friday.....	7:00 pm -- 10 tickets available
March 18.....Saturday.....	6:00 pm -- 10 tickets available
March 25.....Saturday.....	6:00 pm -- 10 tickets available
March 26.....Sunday.....	5:00 pm -- 9 tickets available

If you are interested in attending a game, please contact Dianna Umpherville at dianna@skawahlook.com or 604-796-9129 to arrange for your complimentary tickets.



High-Speed Internet

Sq'ewá:lxw First Nation is pleased to announce that we now have high-speed internet. There were some delays and issues beyond our control, but Telus was finally able to complete the high-speed installations on both Skawahlook IR #1 and Ruby Creek IR#2. Residents are now connected and able to enjoy this technology. We are happy to be able to provide reliable, high-speed internet for all of our future meetings and gatherings at Sq'ewá:lxw.

www.skawahlook.com



A message from Councillor Jenn Carman

Happy Holidays!

Peace and joy to you and yours this Holiday Season.

I was filled with the spirit of Christmas to see so many members come to our Community Dinner on December 1. It was lovely to gather with those who were able to attend and share a meal.

Reflecting over this past year, I have seen how our membership is supported with programs and events. We truly have a well run community. A huge thank you to our Sq'ewá:lxw office staff for all their hard work this year.

Seasons Greetings and best wishes for the New Year.



A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and Happy New Year!

Emergency Planning and FireSmart Assessment

As a relatively isolated community with access along only one road, SKFN is familiar with bad weather affecting our two reserves and administration building. We have emergency plans and ample supplies to protect residents and anyone who may be stranded on our territory. The ability to cope with an emergency allowed SKFN to host approximately 40 people last fall when an "atmospheric river" closed Highway 7 in both directions for the better part of week.

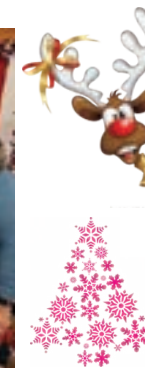
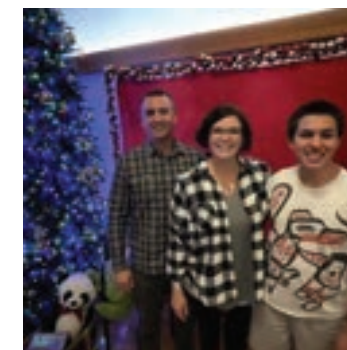


This year, SKFN has taken more steps to protect itself and the people living here. Emergency supplies have been replaced and increased. Four community volunteers are taking training to help with our Emergency Operations Centre when another emergency occurs.

Also, this summer, we had a FireSmart study by Lisa Axelson, a former Chilliwack firefighter now working with Lands Forest People, the company that helped create our emergency plan. Lisa did a full-scale review of both trailer parks and the administration buildings and has made a number of suggestions that will help further protect SKFN from wildfires. This mostly includes ensuring trees are well pruned and kept away from homes and power lines, that gutters are cleaned and siding is not easily flammable, and that any items that could fuel a fire – such as a wood pile - are removed or enclosed. We will continue to work with residents to address the issues Lisa has identified.

Community Christmas Dinner

On December 1, we gathered together to enjoy Christmas Dinner at the Sq'ewá:lxw Hall. We were delighted to have family join us, with some coming from as far away as Washington. We enjoyed a great meal along with great company. Merry Christmas to all!



Cemetery

After having the two cemeteries at Skawahlook IR#1 geoscanned last fall and discovering numerous anomalies, many of which were likely unmarked graves, SKFN administration has taken steps to ensure all potential graves are marked. We were fortunate to hire a local carver, Brandon Jimmie, to build crosses and those have been placed where it is likely people are buried.

Additionally, SKFN has now added a Columbaria to the cemetery. After waiting the better part of a year, the Columbaria was installed in September. The Columbaria will house the ashes of any members/members' spouses who wish to be interred at the cemetery. It has 48 spaces, each of which can hold two sets of ashes so that couples may be interred together.

There are a number of designs to choose from for the front plate of each Columbaria space to recognize the individuals who have been interred there. SKFN will provide space in the Columbaria without charge to its members and their spouse/partner. For more information, please call our offices and ask to speak with Sharron or send an email to sharron@skawahlook.com.



Roads and Water Pumphouse



Earlier this year, SKFN was able to reach an agreement with CP holder Todd Chapman to acquire a portion of the road on Ruby Creek No#2 as well as access to the water pumphouse. This followed a community meeting and an expropriation vote and, in the end, the two sides were able to find common ground and the purchase by SKFN from Todd was completed.

Since that time, SKFN has installed speed limit signs on the newly acquired roads, completed some minor upgrades such as filling potholes, and has installed a UV filtration system in the pumphouse to ensure a steady supply of clean, potable water.

Future possibilities include installing fire hydrants as well as further upgrades to the existing water system or a replacement system. These will be determined based on need and SKFN's ability to access funding that will allow the work to take place.

Highway 7/Lougheed Highway Improvements

As many are aware, there are some access issues regarding safely entering and exiting SKFN from the Lougheed highway. We have been in discussion with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) to strategize and partner on improving the access issues. The main access issue is for visitors to our Adventure Park. There is limited line of sight to see oncoming traffic and it is difficult to slow down on the highway to safely enter the park. MOTI has completed a study to understand issues on the Lougheed Hwy and they are prioritizing projects based on safety and understand SKFN's concerns.



Dealing with Grief During the Holidays

- 1. Feel Your Feelings** - All of your feelings are valid. Give yourself permission to feel without judgment.
- 2. Be Specific and Write Out Your Emotions** - identify the various emotions you feel when thinking about the holiday and make a list.
- 3. Do Not Resist the Grief** - Resistance reveals our fear of grief, loss, and change and can leave us feeling victimized so that the holidays take on a focus of avoidance, losing the light that they may still offer us.
- 4. Show Yourself Self-compassion** - Acknowledge that it is going to be hard to get through these holidays and that is okay.
- 5. Take Care of Your Body** - As much as you can, practice self-care. Get enough sleep, eat nourishing food and drink plenty of water.
- 6. Ask for Help and Support** - Shopping for presents or decorating may feel like too much, but if it is important to you, ask a friend or family member for help.
- 7. Do Something to Help Someone Else** - Visit a nursing home holiday event, help serve a holiday meal at a soup kitchen, donate gifts to a family in need. Bring over holiday pie to an elderly neighbour, invite someone who has nowhere to go to your holiday meal.
- 8. Surround Yourself With Those Who Love You** - Support can be found with people who can help you celebrate the spirit of the season.
- 9. Attend a Support Group** - Local community centers and religious organizations often offer grief support groups and can help provide a sense of understanding and mutual support.
- 10. Set Healthy Expectations and Boundaries** - If it seems impossible to think about getting through the holidays without shedding a tear, do not expect that from yourself. Practicing kindness and fairness to all parties will make the holidays more successful.
- 11. Talk With Your Children** - It is important to remember to talk to your children in ways that are developmentally appropriate. Do your best to model this for them as well. If you are able to acknowledge and communicate your feelings, children will feel safer in doing the same. This will help them feel heard and supported in their grief.
- 12. Opt Out of the Holidays** - if the idea of celebrating anything feels too overwhelming, consider opting out of holiday celebrations. Take a trip, have a movie marathon, or spend the day immersed in a favorite hobby. It is okay not to feel like celebrating.
- 13. Socialize as You Feel Able** - It might feel good to go to a big party with people you know and love, but it might also feel overwhelming. If you receive an invitation to a gathering, ask the host if it is okay if you accept or decline at the last minute.
- 14. Limit Your Amount of In-Store Shopping** - Limit your time in stores during the first and even the second holiday season while you are grieving.
- 15. Change Your Scenery** - When you change your scenery you now have to develop thoughts on how you will engage with the things around you that may be unfamiliar to you.
- 16. Be Aware of your Alcohol Intake** - When you are grieving, the intensity of your feelings may make alcohol feel like a particularly welcome escape, and the frequent abundance of it during the holidays may make it easier to indulge.
- 17. Do Not Rush Your Grief** - Try to remember that grief is not something you need to rush through or push away. Recalling fond memories of previous holidays can be a healthy part of this holiday.
- 18. Talk to a Therapist** - Talking with a therapist can help you identify and address any mental health concerns. A therapist can also provide a safe, non-judgmental space to process your grief, offering tools and perspectives that are tailored for your experience.
- 19. Honour Your Loved One** - Here are ideas for how to honour loved ones during the holidays:
 - Set a Place for them at the Table
 - Light a candle for them
 - Say a prayer for them
 - Visit their grave site or place of rest
 - Watch a holiday movie or TV show they loved
 - Set aside time to reminisce and share memories with family and friends
 - Create a holiday scrapbook of pictures or other mementos from past holidays
 - Make a toast during a holiday meal in remembrance of them
 - Make a donation in their memory to a cause that was important to them
 - Set up a memory table and place pictures, mementos, and/or notes to your loved one
 - Hang a stocking in memory of your loved one, and invite friends and family members to put notes to them inside.
 - Take a short walk
 - Set aside time to reminisce
 - Make memorial ornaments or wreaths
 - Make a favourite recipe of theirs



Wedding Announcements

Congratulations to our members who have recently been married. We wish you all the very best!!



Rachel and Calvin Tew
September 19, 2022



Zoe and Aynsley Hyndman
June 18, 2022



Madison and Christopher Perkins
September 24, 2022



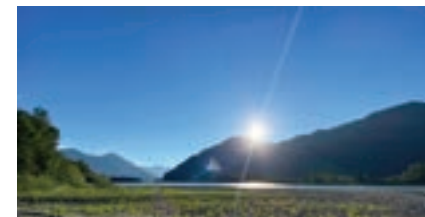
Syéxw Cho:leqw Adventure Park Update



This has been a busy year for the Syéxw Chó:leqw Adventure Park as SKFN and First Journey Trails continue with plans to expand amenities at the park and attract more visitors.

Power and water being are being installed in the park. Permanent washrooms with flush toilets are in place and will replace the port-a-potties that have been used since the park opened. Lights have been installed along several of the trails so they can be used throughout the year. Cameras are being added to address the issues of theft and vandalism. A new trail and an observation platform are being built. Interpretive signs have been strategically placed in the park and offer visitors a guided tour filled with information about SKFN history, the local environment, and the plant and animal life of the area.

Earlier this year, SKFN received a grant to recognize the children who went to Residential Schools and never returned home or whose lives were traumatized by their experiences. SKFN used its funds to purchase 2 pieces of musical playground equipment for visiting children to enjoy. We felt this was an appropriate way to pay tribute to those who never had the chance for a real childhood.



Historical Photo Contest Winner

We are pleased to announce that Carrie Tolley was the winner of our Historical Photo Contest! Congratulations Carrie!

Speedy Memorial

On September 17, SKFN was honoured to host a memorial service for Michael "Speedy" Christiansen, a member of the Hells Angels who was struck and killed in a hit and run accident outside the Adventure Park in September 2020. SKFN worked closely with members of the East Vancouver Hells Angels chapter and the RCMP to ensure a service that was well run and respectful.

Approximately 300 friends and associates of Speedy drove their bikes from Vancouver to near Sts'ailes and then on to SKFN. Once here, there were short speeches and tributes before the attendees visited the spot where Speedy was struck. Chief Maureen Chapman brought greetings and condolences from SKFN and also enlisted drummers for the event. Throughout planning for this event, we had an ongoing and excellent exchange of information with the organizers. As an Indigenous community with a cultural emphasis on remembering and honouring our friends and relatives who have passed on, we were pleased to be able to support this important event.

