



## The Squamish are Strong - na wa iylim ta Skwxwú7mesh

### Introducing our Comprehensive Community Planning Process & Team

Friday July 23rd, 2021

#### Dear Community Members,

Today we celebrate **98 years of Amalgamation**, signed by Skwxwú7mesh leaders on July 23, 1923. Amalgamation was established to guarantee equality to all Squamish people and to ensure good governance.

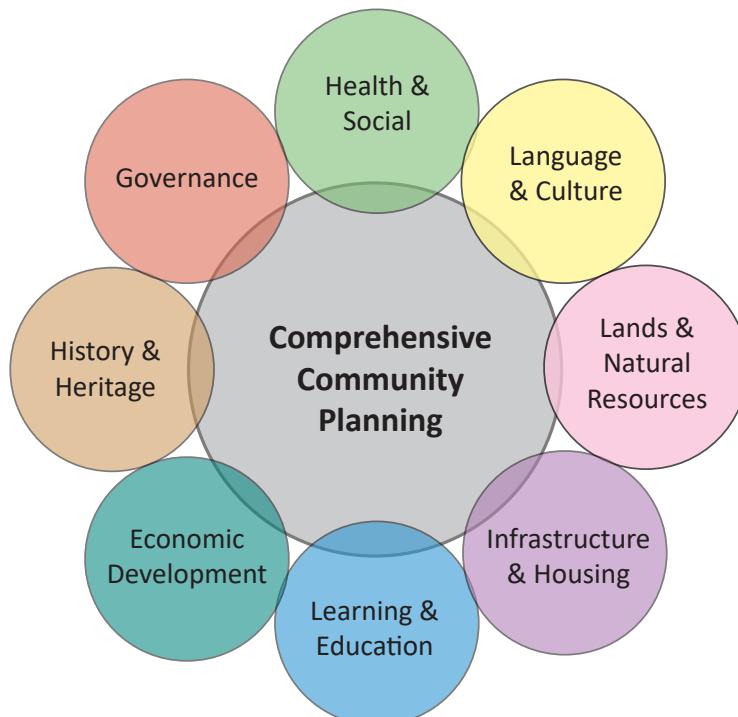
Building on our long occupation and history of planning and governance of our territory, we are embarking on a **Comprehensive Community Planning (CCP)** process.

**Our CCP will be developed through a community-driven process** and will tie together past and current priorities into our community vision for a stronger future. Our CCP will draw on our cultural values and traditions and support our Skwxwú7mesh's Úxwumixw to protect the Amalgamation.

**This newsletter provides an overview of our CCP process and an introduction to our awesome planning team.**



#### Overview of CCP



Our CCP process will bring our community together to think about all aspects of community life: **health, education, economic development, lands and natural resources, infrastructure, governance, language and culture**.

CCP will support us to build a road map to sustainability, self-sufficiency, and improved governance capacity. It is a critical step for achieving our community's vision for the future and improving the quality of life for our members.

CCP can help us link all our other plans together, identify opportunities, strengthen our governance and decision-making, support us to work together and build community unity, and make the best use of our resources.



## *Getting Ready to Plan*

The first phase of our planning process is called Getting Ready to Plan. An important focus in this phase is understanding where we have been and where we are now. Two common tools capturing information about our community related to CCP areas (e.g. culture, language, governance, education, etc.) include a **Historical Timeline** and a **Community Profile**.

Our planning team has been working to gather information about our past and present, including our community history and important events, people and achievements. The outcome will be a **summary of important events and dates** from our history and an inventory of all the **information we have about our community**, including:



Gathering and documenting this information honours our rich history, people, and achievements.

## Engaging with Community Members

As part of Getting Ready to Plan and to ensure a community-led, inclusive process, we want to connect with members about how to start. We will explore community **strengths, challenges and opportunities** with regards to community engagement. What has worked or not worked well in the past? What are the best ways to engage and communicate with members? **This information will help us capture the community's vision for an inclusive and respectful process.**

Our aim is to create a process that reflects community-driven values, priorities, and preferences to bring about our desired change.

We want to hear from members what teachings and values should guide the CCP process, how we can support strengthened unity and relationships during the CCP process, how we can honour and involve Elders and Youth, and what community members envision for our collective future.

We look forward to connecting with community members in the Fall and we hope that every member will have an opportunity to be heard as the community makes decisions about the future of Squamish Nation.

**Stay tuned for more information and opportunities to participate!**

## CCP Workshops - What We Heard

Our leadership, directors and staff gathered to participate in CCP workshops as part of getting ready to plan. Highlights from these discussions are below:

*"Another piece is the housing crisis. Planning is so crucial. We have to develop planning to address the highest need in the community."*

- Director Workshop

*"Gives a voice to the whole community. It's their input and values brought forward."*

- Staff Workshop

*"Having a good community profile leads to better budgeting you can see that things are changing."*

- Staff Workshop

*"On spiritual level, we can't start it (CCP) and then leave it. There's an intent we have, and how we leave it is important. How are we going to start it?"*

- Director Workshop

*"Nations want their information back, to control it, organize it on their own terms."*

- Staff Workshop

*"Kids are the future. Laying the framework for future generations."*

- Staff Workshop



*"Planning for action. To figure out what we are going to do. What will we do that will be different."*

- Staff Workshop

*"Culture being infused in the process. Create spaces to inspire people to show up."*

- Staff Workshop

*"People want to move home and they need supports. It's great this (CCP) is happening."*

- Director Workshop

*"We need all departments working together for our developments to be successful."*

- Director Workshop



## Our Planning Team

We are excited to introduce our Planning Team, including Bob Sokol, Lesley Campbell, and Marjan Navab-Tehrani. They bring diverse skills and planning experience to our community.

Our planning team will support our community to decide our vision for the future through a fun, inclusive and inspiring CCP process.



**Bob**

Bob Sokol is a certified planner (MCIP, RPP) with over 25 years of professional planning experience. He has worked for cities in the Portland, Seattle and Vancouver, BC metropolitan areas. Since 2017, Bob has worked as an independent consultant, providing planning assistance to municipalities and other agencies. His work has included rezonings, plan amendments, and design reviews of commercial, institutional and residential projects. He has been working with Squamish Nation as Director of Planning & Capital Projects since January 2020.



**Lesley**

Lesley Campbell is Mik'maq from Newfoundland (NL). Her family is from Miawpukek/Conne River (NL) and Antigonish, Nova Scotia and she was raised in Stephenville, NL. She has been living on Squamish, Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh territory since 2007. She has worked with the Urban Native Youth Association, Gitksan Government Commission, Skowkale First Nation, and the Vancouver Coastal and Fraser Salish regions with the First Nations Health Authority. Most recently, she was at the City of Vancouver (CoV). While there, she focused on urban Indigenous healing and wellness projects and supported urban Indigenous service agencies. In January 2021, Lesley started her role as Planning Manager with Planning & Capital Projects.



**Marjan**

Marjan Navab-Tehrani is a queer, Iranian, immigrant-settler, and non-binary person who originates from the Tehran region of Iran. Their family immigrated from Iran in 1997 and settled on various Coast Salish territories. Since 2015, Marjan has been on the territories of the Squamish, Musqueam, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations. They have worked with several Indigenous communities on Vancouver Island and the Central Coast of BC on environmental policy issues and archaeological digs. Most recently Marjan worked at the City of Vancouver's Cultural Services office on Culture|Shift, Vancouver's arts and culture plan. In July 2021, Marjan started their role as Planner with the Planning and Capital Projects team.

*"We want to set up the Nation today or down the road to be more proactive to opportunities, create our own opportunities, and take charge in planning for our future and strength of who we are."*  
- Chief & Council Workshop

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**Stay tuned for more information and updates on this process!**