

# SQUAMISH NATION MEMBERSHIP CODE UPDATE

October 2023 | Newsletter **#3**

Our Membership Code lays out the rules for becoming a Squamish Member based on our laws and traditions. We approved our current code in 2013, and are now engaging Members on potential updates.

## Upcoming Engagement

### Elder's Luncheons

**Wednesday, October 11, 2023**

12:00 pm lunch, with discussion to follow  
Elder's Lounge - Totem Hall, Squamish Valley

**Tuesday, October 25, 2023**

12:00 pm lunch, with discussion to follow  
Elder's Centre, North Vancouver

## Stay Updated!

To keep up with engagement opportunities with Elders, youth, staff, and families, visit our website:  
**[squamish.net/membership-code](https://squamish.net/membership-code)**  
OR scan the QR code!



## IN THIS ISSUE

This Newsletter focuses on answering some of the common questions we have heard at engagement sessions so far.

Q+A's in this newsletter include:

- The Engagement & Referendum Process
- The Current Membership Code
- Recognition of People From Other First Nations

We will continue to answer questions from the community in our engagement sessions and more Q+A's!



**Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw**  
Squamish Nation

# Q&A

## ENGAGEMENT & RATIFICATION PROCESS

### 1. What is the process to update our code?

We will be holding several rounds of engagement with Community Members before the ratification vote. This will include community forums, family sessions, Zoom meetings, youth events, online surveys, videos, off-reserve engagements, open houses, and more. We aim to make our engagement innovative, culturally safe, fun, and transparent.

If Community Members want to make changes to our Membership Code, a ratification vote will be held to pass specific amendments. The exact date of this vote will depend on the amount of time needed to engage with community. We want to ensure our Members have a complete understanding of the proposed changes.

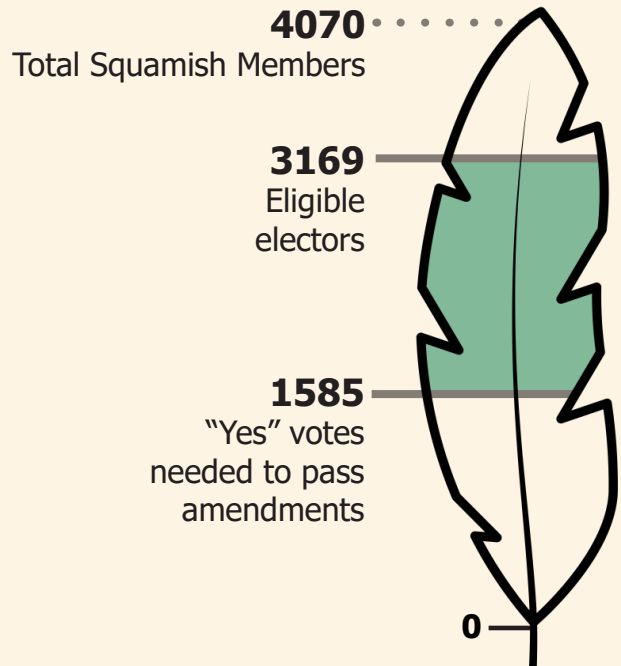
### 2. Who can attend information sessions and meetings about the Membership Code?

Anyone in the Squamish community is welcome to attend Membership Code sessions and provide their input. This includes Squamish Elders, Adults, Youth, Children, and family Members (whether they have Squamish Membership or not).



### 3. How many people need to vote to approve a new Membership Code?

According to our current Membership Code, **50%+1 of all eligible Squamish Electors** are needed to vote yes for each question on the referendum to pass. As of July 2022, we have 3169 Eligible Electors, so **we require 1,585 yes votes to pass any amendments**. This is a much higher threshold than other Squamish referendum processes that run under a simple majority (50%+1 of those that come to vote).



# “This is extremely important for us as a people”

## CURRENT MEMBERSHIP CODE

### 4. What are the different categories of Membership?

The Squamish community developed Lineal, Descendant, and Acquired Membership categories through engagement leading up to the 2000 Membership Code Ratification vote.

All Members receive the same services and financial benefits. The key difference is whether they pass Membership on to their children.



**DESCENDANT:** passes Squamish Membership to children regardless of other parent.



**LINEAL:** can only pass Squamish Membership to children if other parent is a Lineal or Descendant Member.



**ACQUIRED:** has married or been adopted into Squamish Nation, and does not pass Squamish Membership on to children.

“Our ancestors worked really hard to get each and every one of us here”

## RECOGNITION OF PEOPLE FROM OTHER FIRST NATIONS

### 5. If a Squamish Member has a child with someone from another First Nation, will the child have Squamish Membership?

If a Descendant Member has a child with someone with Indian Status from another Nation, the child is eligible to be a Squamish Descendant Member.

If a Lineal Member has a child with someone from another Nation, the child is not eligible for Squamish Membership. In 2013, we asked if the heritage of other First Nations Members should be recognized to allow Lineals to pass on Squamish Membership, but this amendment lost by 52 votes. If desired, we could ask this same question in the next Membership Code Ratification Vote.



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**“We need to share how important this is and encourage every voting age Member in our families to get out and vote”**

**6. Do we recognize Native Americans (USA) and Métis people in our Membership Code?**

To be recognized in the current Membership Code, Indian Status is required. Under the Indian Act, Métis people and Native Americans (USA) do not have Indian Status. For this reason, a child with one Métis or Native American parent would only be eligible for Squamish Membership if the other parent is a Squamish Descendant Member.



Descendant

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Non-Status  
(Métis OR  
Native American)

=



Lineal



Lineal

+



Non-Status  
(Métis OR  
Native American)

=



Non-Status

***We want to hear from you!***

Visit our website or contact **Member Services** for more ways to get involved.

**How Do I Get More Information?**

Information booklets are available at Member Services, at all our upcoming engagement events, and upon request digitally or as a hard copy.

**Next Steps**

- Newsletter #4 featuring more of the Q&A based on engagement so far!
- Information sessions and focus groups



**Contact Us**

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**Website:** [squamish.net/membership-code](http://squamish.net/membership-code)