

SQUAMISH NATION MEMBERSHIP CODE UPDATE

August 2023 | Membership Code Newsletter #2

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.

Family Sessions

Interested in a family meeting to discuss the Membership Code?

Contact Member Services
(604-982-7610)
with this information:

Family Name: _____

✓ *your preferences:*

In-person Zoom

Monday - Friday Evenings

Monday - Friday Daytime

Weekends

Preferred date: _____

Contact Information:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Information Sessions – Fall 2023

Attend to learn about our current Membership Code and discuss your thoughts or concerns related to Squamish Membership. All Community Members are welcome to attend.

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Elder's Centre, North Vancouver

Thursday, September 28, 2023

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Totem Hall, Squamish Valley

Thursday, September 21, 2023

7:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Via Zoom – Please register on our webpage

Visit our
webpage
here:



squamish.net/membership-code



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Squamish Nation

What We've Done So Far

There will be many opportunities for Members to provide input on potential changes to the Squamish Membership Code.

We are here

Council Endorsement



March 2023

Information Sharing



Spring / Summer 2023

••• So far, this has included:

- Community Newsletter 1
- People Services Open Houses (3)
- People's Assembly Presentation
- Engagement Questionnaire
- Background Information Packages
- In-person Information Sessions (4)
- Online Information Session

RECAP: SPRING 2023 INFORMATION SESSIONS

Five information sessions were held in May and June 2023: 2 in the Squamish Valley, 2 on the North Shore, and 1 online via Zoom. In total, **82 people attended** these sessions.

Key Themes from Discussions

Engagement and Voting Process

- How to engage a wide variety of Squamish Members
- Importance of building Members' understanding of topics and referendum questions prior to the vote

Current Membership Code

- Types of Membership
- Results of 2013 Membership Code Referendum

Potential Changes to Membership

- Marriage to people from other First Nations
- Gender equality in acquired Membership
- Changes as a result of Bill S-3

Connection to the *Indian Act*

- Remaining injustices regarding status (e.g. descendants of people who enfranchised)



Discussing Key Issues

Developing Referendum Questions

Raising Awareness of Referendum

Holding a Ratification Vote

Applying Code & Exploring Next Steps



Fall 2023

Early 2024

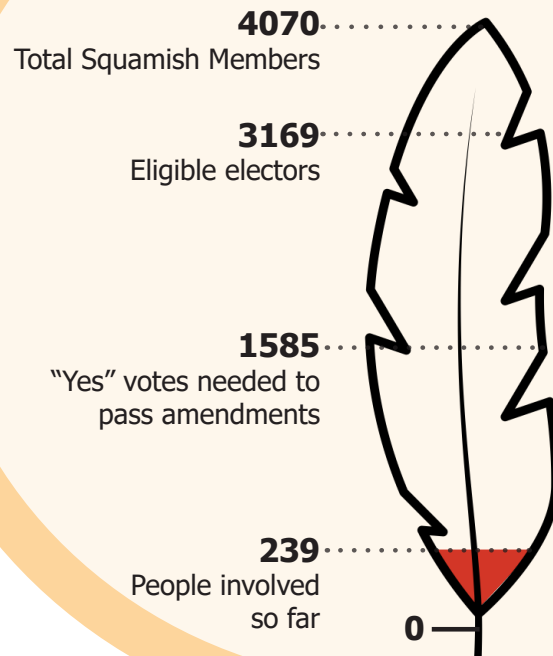
2024

2024

2024

We will need about 1585 Eligible Electors (voting Squamish Members) to vote YES in order to pass any amendments to our Membership Code

Our Engagement Feather tracks how many Members have been involved so far!



Engagement Questionnaire Results

The engagement questionnaire was completed between April to June of 2023 online and in paper at engagement events. We asked 10 questions to determine the best way to engage and communicate with Squamish Members. This will inform the Membership Code engagement and referendum process.

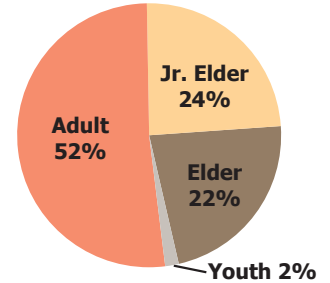
WE HEARD FROM:

165 Members!

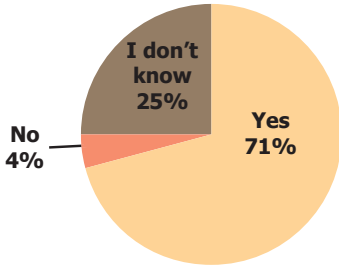
53% In Community in North/West Vancouver

12% In Community in Squamish Valley

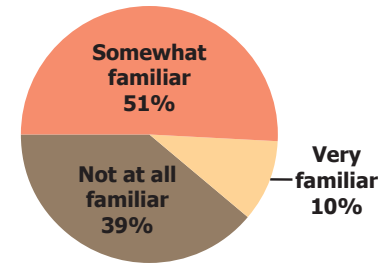
35% Away from Community



BASED ON WHAT YOU KNOW, DO YOU WANT TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE MEMBERSHIP CODE



FAMILIARITY WITH CURRENT MEMBERSHIP CODE AND BILL S-3



TOPICS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT

72% Scenarios showing potential Membership Code updates

70% Recent amendments to the Indian Act

53% Squamish Membership Code terminology

TOP COMMUNICATION METHODS

81% Email

33% Facebook

30% Phone

19% Newsletter

TOP METHODS TO GATHER FEEDBACK

55% Surveys / Questionnaires

45% Community Feasts

39% Open Houses

33% Online Meetings

33% Family Meetings

TOP OBSTACLES TO BEING INVOLVED

30% Not enough notice or reminders

21% I don't know how to get involved

19% I live far from community

18% I don't have time

TOP STRATEGIES TO SUCCESSFULLY RATIFY A NEW MEMBERSHIP CODE

72% Frequent updates and reminders leading up to voting

67% Online voting

65% Detailed/clear information about the referendum questions

HUY CHEXW A FOR YOUR INTEREST IN BEING INVOLVED!

31% People want to be part of a community outreach committee

27% People want to share a personal story about membership

25% People want to be considered for the Membership Appeals Committee



Contact Us

Phone: 604-982-7610

Email: membership@squamish.net

Website: squamish.net/membership-code

Next Steps

- Newsletter #3 coming this Fall
- Information sessions and focus groups with youth and Elders this Fall