



Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw

Squamish Nation



Ta na wa Téywilhaýlhem

The ones protecting
the descendants

Acknowledgements

Over the past year, the Public Safety Task Force learned about all the work S̄kw̄x̄w̄ú7mesh Úxwumixw – Elders, community members, staff, and Council – has already done to ground the work needed to undertake a future “Integrated Public Safety Action Plan” for the Úxwumixw.

They also learned that so many are already involved in prevention and early intervention programs and activities that enhance the overall strength and well-being of S̄kw̄x̄w̄ú7mesh children, families, Elders, and communities.

We raise our hands to each and every one of you for all you have done and continue to do.

Thank you also to everyone who has given their invaluable time to work with us on this important work and to provide us with ideas, feedback and inspiration.



Message About the Public Safety Task Force

Ta néwyap,

As part of Nexwsxwníwntm ta Úxwumixw (Council)'s "Integrated Public Safety Action Plan", we set up the Sḵwḵwú7mesh Úxwumixw's Public Safety Task Force (PSTF) to make comprehensive recommendations to the Úxwumixw on how to improve public safety in Sḵwḵwú7mesh communities. Beginning in December and over the next seven months, the PSTF listened to and sought to understand Sḵwḵ wú7mesh values, principles, and cultural practices related to community safety and the wealth of wisdom held by community members in order to tackle community safety and all that intersects with it.

The PSTF worked toward this report by combining research and expertise from across North America with feedback and ideas received in engagement with community members. Throughout the process, they were acutely aware of the importance of ensuring that community safety progresses alongside the Úxwumixw's continuing growth. Furthermore, they strongly emphasized the importance of focusing on prevention and community healing, with this report being one step in a longer journey.

The draft report and its findings and high-level framework and recommendations were presented to Nexwsxwníwntm ta Úxwumixw in early August 2023. Council approved both unanimously and then directed staff to adopt the framework and recommendations in their departmental work plans. Shortly afterward, the Public Safety Department adopted the framework and recommendations as its strategic plan for the next five years.

As a first step toward implementation, the Department has pulled out the key parts of the final draft report to Council, and created this report. Our plan is to share the 4 Xíxtsem and 11 Big Ideas with community members, staff, and partners in the upcoming months.

We look forward to working with everyone on this potentially transformative endeavour.



ínexw chexw ti ays

Contents

Contents & Key Definitions	2
Executive Summary	3
Introduction	5
What Do We Mean by Public Safety?	5
A Definition of Community Safety	6
Two Loops Model: A Theory of Change	6
What We Did & What We Learned	7
Timeline of Community Engagement & PSTF Activities	7
The Firelight Group Report: Crisis Prevention, Response and Recovery	8
Key Findings: 4 Essential Elements for Community Safety	9
Framework and Recommendations	10
4 Xíxtsem	11
11 Big Ideas	12
Conclusion & For More Information	18
Recommendations at a Glance	19

Key Definitions

- Sḵwḵwú7mesh Úxwumixw
- Nexwsxwníwntm ta Úxwumixw
- Ta na wa Téywilháylhem
- Xstem, Xíxtsem

Squamish Nation
Council
Public Safety Department
Cedar bentwood box(es)

Executive Summary

Skw̓wú7mesh communities have struggled to feel safe, as is the trend across Canada. Despite ongoing efforts to improve safety Skw̓wú7mesh communities, a shooting took place in Xwemelch’stn (Capilano Reserve) on May 14, 2022. This event catalyzed renewed action and Nexswníwntm ta Úxwumixw (Council) approved 13 concrete actions that aimed to provide immediate and long-term improvements to public safety conditions on Skw̓ wú7mesh lands. These actions became known as the “Integrated Public Safety Action Plan.”

This report is a culmination of research and expertise from across North America, as well as numerous engagements with the Skw̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw community. Both the Xíxtsem framework and 11 Big Ideas are rooted in Skw̓wú7mesh values, principles and cultural practices, emphasizing the importance of lands and waters, and stélmexw (people).

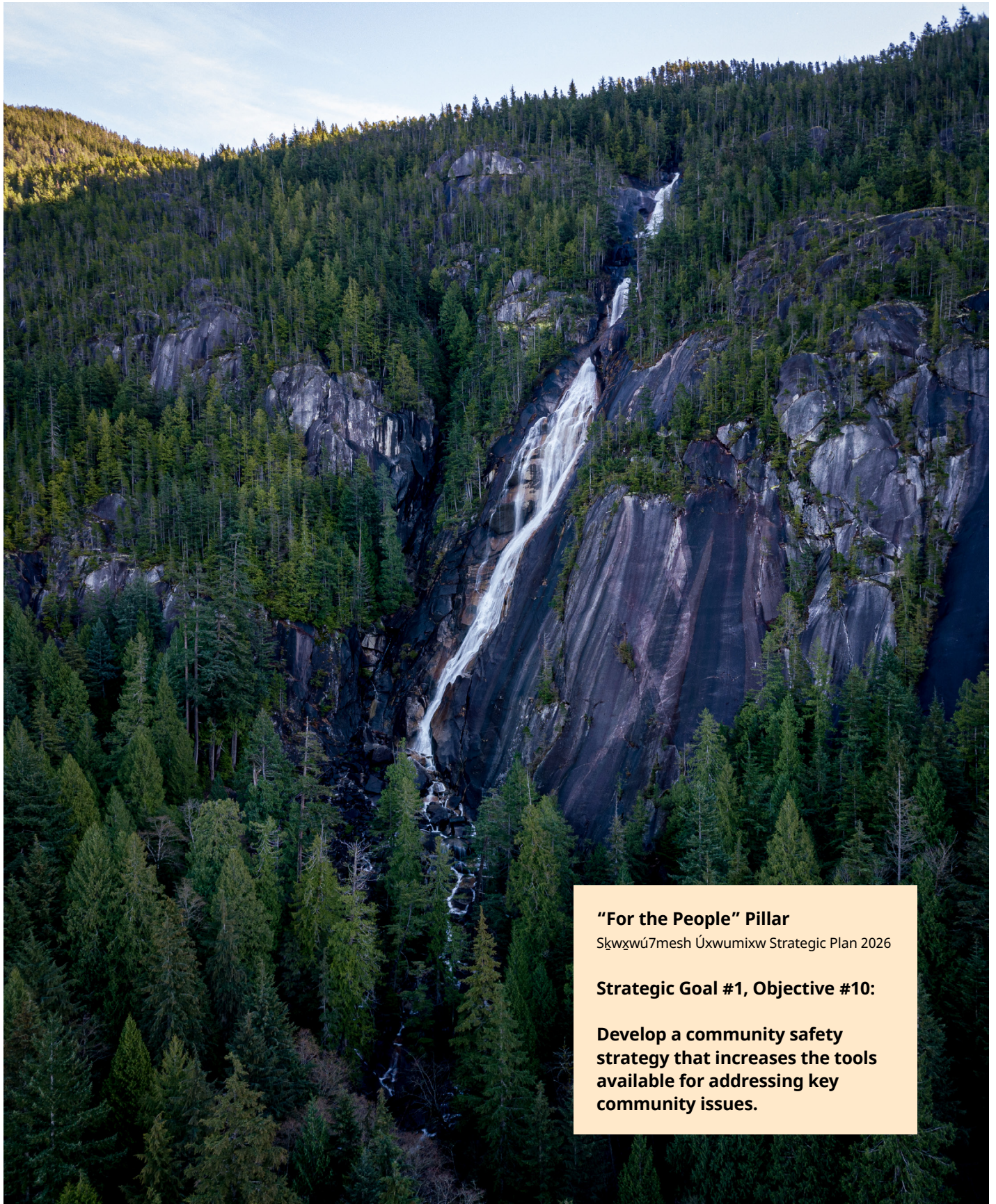
In the report, you will see 4 Xíxtsem with a vision for each one that together create the recommended framework for community safety planning moving forward. Xstem means “cedar bentwood box” and it was chosen because xíxtsem are used to safeguard precious things.

<p>1. Nexwníw Behaviour on the land and in the waters.</p>	<p>3. Téywilhntm na7 ta úxwumixw Be protected in the community/village(s).</p>
<p>2. Téywilhntm na7 ta eńut Be protected at home.</p>	<p>4. Téywilhntm na7 ta temíxw Be protected on the land.</p>

The 11 Big Ideas are rooted in the research and the engagement, and encompass a range of areas from housing to healing and wellness. Each Big Idea was checked with staff to ensure that moving forward, this work can be supported by the Public Safety Department, Ta na wa Téywilháylhem or by other staff in the cases where Big Ideas align with Skw̓wú7mesh strategic goals. Each Big Idea is connected to one or more xstem and altogether, the task force believes they provide the best near-term opportunities to advance the visions of the 4 Xíxtsem.

1. Establish a Community Justice System.
2. Increase capacity to enforce laws, bylaws, policies, and values.
3. Address disparities and ensure equitable protection.
4. Take immediate action to address toxic drug crisis.
5. Require an anti-racism and cultural safety course for external agencies and partners.
6. Develop a plan for safe transportation options that meet community members’ needs.
7. Design housing, infrastructure, and services for community safety from the start.
8. Address family violence and Elder abuse.
9. Create a trauma-informed Community Safety Team Program.
10. Build housing as fast as possible.
11. Outreach to those most at risk.

This important work is a part of the Skw̓ wú7mesh Úxwumixw’s “Integrated Public Safety Action Plan” and is meant to sit alongside other work done by staff and community members – both both in the past and the present – to improve community safety in Skw̓ wú7mesh Úxwumixw communities.



“For the People” Pillar

Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw Strategic Plan 2026

Strategic Goal #1, Objective #10:

Develop a community safety strategy that increases the tools available for addressing key community issues.

Introduction

Sḵw̓xwú7mesh communities have struggled to feel safe, as is the trend across Canada. Despite ongoing efforts to improve safety in Sḵw̓xwú7mesh communities, a shooting took place in Xwemelch'stn (Capilano Reserve) on May 14, 2022. This event catalyzed renewed action and Nexwsxwníwntm ta Úxwumixw (Council) approved 13 concrete actions that aimed to provide immediate and long-term improvements to public safety conditions on Sḵw̓xwú7mesh lands. These actions became known as the "Integrated Public Safety Action Plan."

Among the 13 actions was establishing a "task force on public safety" to investigate, seek expert advice, and make comprehensive recommendations to Council on how to improve public safety in Sḵw̓xwú7mesh communities. This action also aligns with Objective #10 in Strategic Goal #1 under the "For the People" pillar of the Sḵw̓x wú7mesh Úxwumixw Strategic Plan 2026.

Council approved the terms of reference for the Public Safety Task Force (PSTF) on August 11, 2022 and the first PSTF meeting took place in December. This report presents the process the PSTF undertook, key findings, and a conceptual framework for thinking about long-term community safety through 4 Xíxtsem (cedar bentwood boxes) and 11 Big Ideas. Council approved the framework and recommendations on August 4, 2023.

Council approved objectives of the Public Safety Task Force:

1. Improve the enforcement of Sḵw̓xwú7mesh laws, bylaws, and policies;
2. Develop a response strategy to critical incidents or urgent situations that could give rise to public safety concerns; and,
3. Develop a holistic and integrated approach and framework to preventing and reducing urgent situations that give rise to public safety concerns in the medium- to long-term.

What Do We Mean by Public Safety?

At the Public Safety Task Force's first meeting, we realized that public safety could mean different things to different people, so it was decided to create a definition for reference in the work.

Safety is highly contextual. You can be safe in one space, but not in another. One person can feel safe in a space while another person in the very same space may not feel safe. Both historical actions and personal experiences have a strong impact on these different experiences of safety. Systems themselves can make people feel unsafe and support actions that make people unsafe. For example, systemic discrimination experienced by Indigenous people in accessing government services continues to result in unequal access to health care, and high levels of Indigenous people represented in child welfare apprehensions and the prison system.

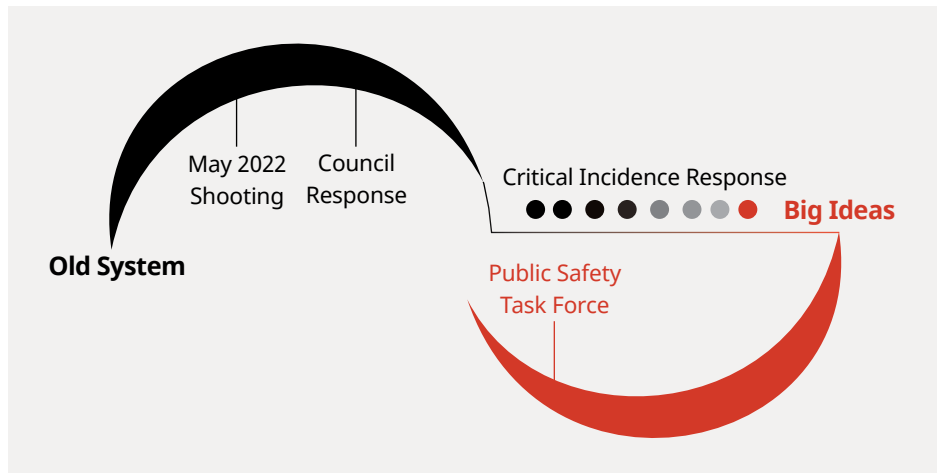
We learned that actions that endure are those that are community driven. As a result, the Public Safety Task Force felt the term "public safety" could be better served by centering community. So they recommended using "community safety" in order to bolster the drive and determination to strengthen a feeling of safety for Sḵw̓x wú7mesh people and communities.

A Definition of Community Safety

Communities that feel safe are ones in which individuals have trust, empathy, and community connections, and feel a sense of belonging and inclusion, as well as some control over the situations that they find themselves in. Community safety is achieved through the full participation of individuals, institutions, governments, and the justice system. Each one provides different actions that we associate with community safety.

Actions we associate with community safety	Who delivers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accountability, Reciprocity 	Individuals & Institutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education, Infrastructure, Prevention, Strong access to language and culture 	Government
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforcement, Intervention, Restorative justice 	Justice system

Two Loops Model: A Theory of Change



Two Loops

The purpose of the Two Loops Model is to show that the key to successful transformations is in identifying which parts of an old system need to be preserved and brought over to a new system.

In contemplating ways to think about how to transform the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw approach to community safety, the Two Loops Model from the Berkana Institute resonated with the Public Safety Task Force. The purpose of the Two Loops Model is to show that the key to successful transformations is in identifying which parts of an old system need to be preserved and brought over to a new system. This helps both stabilize and strengthen the transition process for the people and institutions in the old system, while recognizing that change needs to happen and not everything from the old system is desirable in the new system.

What the Public Safety Task Force Did & Learned

Over the course of the seven months that the PSTF did its work, the learning took a number of forms. First, the PSTF wanted to learn about what was being done in other places. The task force’s researcher was tasked with pulling together research from across Canada and the world to understand what best and leading-edge practices the PSTF could draw on. A full list of reference materials that were pulled together and reviewed is available upon request.

Second, the PSTF wanted to learn from Skwxwú7mesh community members about their hopes and aspirations for public safety, as well as their concerns. Meetings, town halls, and focus groups were held with community members on the North Shore, in Squamish Valley, and off-reserve, as well as with staff directors and managers, the Elders Advisory Committee and the Community Services Council Committee. These engagements informed the PSTF’s initial thinking and helped the PSTF in the later stages to see whether they were on track and where they needed more work. A full list of these meetings can be found in the “Timeline” section below. The report on the community engagements is also available upon request.

Finally, the Public Safety Task Force met with Tsawwassen First Nation (TFN) Community Safety Panel members who are engaged in a very similar process. It was helpful to learn about TFN’s community safety team and self-administered policing and to also learn that other First Nations in the Province were also zooming in on public safety.

Timeline of Community Engagement & PSTF Activities

2022	
July 4:	Public Safety Town Hall at CJMC on North Shore
July 7:	Public Safety Town Hall at Totem Hall in Squamish Valley
August 11:	Council approves Public Safety Task Force Terms of Reference
December 14:	Public Safety Task Force Meeting #1
2023	
February 13:	Public Safety Task Force Meeting #2 (with tour of some Skwxwú7mesh lands)
March 17:	Public Safety Task Force Meeting #3
April 19:	Focus Group on North Shore
April 24:	Technical Team Focus Group at Main Office (Directors/Managers)
April 24:	Focus Group in Squamish Valley
May 1:	Meeting with Tsawwassen First Nation Community Safety Strategy Panel
May 2:	Off-Reserve Focus Group (on-line)
May 11:	Public Safety Task Force Meeting #4
May 12:	Elders Advisory Committee Focus Group on North Shore
May 15:	Community Services Council Committee Focus Group at Main Office
June 9:	Public Safety Task Force Meeting #5
August 4:	Council approved the PSTF framework and recommendations

The Firelight Group Report: Crisis Prevention, Response and Recovery



In late 2022, Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw asked The Firelight Group, an Indigenous-owned consulting company, to develop trauma-informed and context-specific recommendations on how to improve the way Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw prevents, responds, and recovers from crisis situations. These recommendations are grounded in Skwxwú7mesh values and vision and greatly informed the work of the PSTF.

In addition to reviewing how other Indigenous communities in Canada deal with crisis situations, The Firelight Group also met with staff to understand Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw's current policies and crisis management protocols and existing programs and services. The main theme that strongly emerged from staff engagements was the need to develop a set of foundational principles. They recommended four: relationality, intersectionality, meeting people where they're at, and a trauma-informed approach.

They also recommended the development of a service delivery model grounded in the First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum Framework. This framework connects mental and physical health by building on community innovation and strengths, as well as a foundation of culture.

Some highlighted service examples included individual, family, and community wellness through prevention programming, life promotion/suicide prevention activities, mobile emergency mental health teams, and addiction support including peer/outreach/harm reduction teams and overdose prevention sites.

Key Findings: Essential Elements for Community Safety

In reviewing all these materials and community engagement summaries and feedback, four essential elements persistently stood out as critical to the success of any community safety plan.

1. Community Education on What Makes a Community Safe

When people hear the term “public safety” they often think about police, courts of law, and prisons. While these play a role in safe communities, strong relationships – between people, but also between people and places, and even institutions – are what builds the best safety response. Educating community members about this key aspect of community safety is a critical first step to mobilizing their active involvement in building relationships with people, land and the Nexwsxwníwntm ta Úxwumixw, and staff, which is a necessity for community safety programs to be most effective.

2. Educating and Engaging Partners

In addition to strong relationships among community members, effectively addressing community safety concerns requires many formal working partnerships among agencies including police, fire & rescue, emergency medical services and public health. By enhancing the knowledge of partner agencies through appropriate training about the context of Skwxwú7mesh community members and communities, they will be better equipped to be effective partners in community safety. With a focus on prevention and community-led responses, there is an opportunity to increase coordination and integration across first responders and incorporate better access to housing, mental health, and social service supports.

3. Staffing: Accountability and Capacity

Partners bring a lot of strength to a community safety response, but they also create a complex landscape and it can be difficult to know which agency is responsible for what. Effective community safety plans include a risk mitigation framework and a strategy that lays out clear roles and responsibilities, including guidelines for leadership involvement. This ensures that the community upholds ownership of their own affairs in the complex relationship with multiple partners. Staff capacity is also important to consider, both for what is traditionally viewed as public safety roles, but also for those supporting wellness through access to education, healthcare, affordable housing, intergenerational wealth, and ensuring the safety of their people and communities. People are better able to access supports when they have safe, stable housing, and their basic needs are met.

4. Meet Community Members Where They Are At

One of the themes that emerged in the community engagements was the need to meet members where they are at. While not surprising, the Public Safety Task Force thought it was important to unpack what this means in a Skwxwú7mesh context.

To start with, there are a number of different communities that Skwxwú7mesh community members live in, and each community faces different challenges, so there needs to be a tailored response to community safety. In addition, we know that community safety is enhanced when people are brought into the economic, social, and cultural life of the community, but for each Skwxwú7mesh member the starting point to access these may be different. A community safety plan grounded in a mental health and wellness continuum will help build on Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw care pathways. Ultimately, access to safe, secure, and affordable housing is a fundamental pre-requisite to personal and, thus, community safety. So identifying and meeting housing needs is a crucial place to start meeting people where they are at. The Public Safety Task Force was pleased to see the existing commitments by Nexwsxwníwntm ta Úxwumixw to create all types of accommodation with different types of affordable housing units.

Finally, language that is commonly used by people who identify as public safety professionals or first responders can be difficult to understand for those of us coming from a community perspective. Ensuring that ideas and plans are understandable for all is key.

Framework and Recommendations

The PSTF work took place alongside other significant work on public safety being done by staff. This is illustrated the Two Loops Model on page 6. As a result, the PSTF's recommendations are not a comprehensive community safety plan but are intended to complement staff's work by providing a high-level framework (4 Xíxtsem) to think about community safety planning moving forward and some specific big ideas within the framework (11 Big Ideas).



4 Xíxtsem

On this page, you will see 4 Xíxtsem with a vision for each that together create the framework and recommendations for community safety planning moving forward. Xstsem means “cedar bentwood box” and it was chosen because Xíxtsem are used to safeguard precious things.



Nexwniw

Behaviour on the land and in the waters

We will look to the past for the ways of being and to imagine the ways they might be expressed today and into the future.



Téywilhntm na7 ta emut

Be protected at home

Within a generation, we will house every Skwxwú7mesh person in appropriate and affordable housing and ensure adequate resources to support their health and wellness.



Téywilhntm na7 ta úxwumixw

Be protected in the community/village(s)

We will foster neighbourly relationships to strengthen a sense of belonging and increase our capacity to prevent and respond to crisis.



Téywilhntm na7 ta temixw

Be protected on the land

We will honour the land, and support people to connect to each other and the land and waters in a safe and healthy way.

11 Big Ideas

The 11 Big Ideas are rooted in the research reviewed by the Public Safety Task Force. They are also connected to the themes they heard from the community and to the current work being done by staff on community safety and in a range of areas from housing to healing and wellness. For each Big Idea, the PSTF checked in with staff to ensure that moving forward this work could be supported by the Public Safety Department [Ta na wa Téywilháylhem - the ones protecting the descendants], or by other staff in the cases where Big Ideas align with Skw̓wú7mesh strategic goals. Each of the 11 Big Ideas is connected to one or more Xíxtsem and the Public Safety Task Force believes that they provide the best near-term opportunities to advance the visions outlined in the 4 Xíxtsem.



1

Establish a Community Justice System.

A Community Justice System would be led and controlled by the Sḵw̱x̱wú7mesh Úxwumixw and is a coordinated and streamlined approach that offers mediation, conflict resolution, restorative justice, and alternative dispute resolutions.

Examples that inspired us:

- Indigenous Justice Centres in B.C.
- Community Justice Initiatives
- First Nations Court - Chet wa nexwníw ta S7eḵw'í7tel — North Vancouver
- Native Courtworker Services
- Mediation and Indigenous mediators

2

Increase capacity to enforce Sḵw̱x̱wú7mesh Úxwumixw laws, bylaws, policies, and values.

Having the Sḵw̱x̱wú7mesh Úxwumixw in control of enforcement is ultimately the best way to ensure the capacity to enforce and the appropriateness of the enforcement. A range of options could include community agreements, community standards, community safety officers and self-administered law enforcement. Education around different community safety issues can begin at any time.

Examples that inspired us:

- Aboriginal Community Safety Planning Initiative
- “Our Safety Captíkwl” Upper Nicola Community Safety Plan (CSP)
- Siksika Nation AISKSKATAKI Public Safety
- Samson Cree Nation Hub - Collaborative Risk-Driven Intervention
- Stl'atlimx Tribal Police Service

3

Address disparities and ensure equitable protection.

In pursuing community safety, adopting an approach that upholds the principles of fairness and justice in the access to resources, opportunities, and outcomes is crucial. Some individuals within the Sḵw̱x̱wú7mesh community face heightened vulnerability in their homes, communities, and natural surroundings. Disparities and discrimination lead to unequal outcomes. An approach that upholds dignity includes equal access and making accommodations alongside addressing unique circumstances and needs.

Examples that inspired us:

- City of Vancouver's Equity Framework - Getting Our House in Order
- Pathways to Safe Indigenous Communities Initiative - Indigenous-designed projects to improve community safety and well-being
- The Regina Intersectoral Partnership (TRiP) - Targeted collaborative risk-driven initiative for children 11 and under and youth 12 & up
- BC's anti-racism research priorities
- Achieving Equity (New Zealand Health) - Model and framework in the health and racial/ social contexts

4

Take immediate action to address toxic drug crisis.

It is impossible to address community safety without addressing the impacts of the toxic drug crisis head on. Drugs have become increasingly toxic and when combined with the unintended effects of the COVID-19 pandemic safety protocols and their aftermath, there has been a disproportionate increase in the number of toxic drug events and deaths among First Nations people in B.C., including Sḵw̓x̓wú7mesh People. The crisis affects both users and their loved ones, but also the wider community through criminalized activity associated with drug dealing and drug use. An immediate response that prioritizes keeping users alive while working to reduce harm to the wider community is a high priority.

Examples that inspired us:

- Mobile Outreach Unit for Health and Support Services (MOUHSS) – “The Moose” in the Campbell River area that offers a range of health and social services
- Cowichan Tribes’ Opioid Crisis Response – Ni tsun hwule’lum’ut ch’ - I take notice of you (I care)
- First Nation Health Authority’s Harm Reduction and the Toxic Drug Crisis and FNHA Policy on Harm Reduction and Framework for Action
- The City of Vancouver’s approach to the Overdose Crisis that is creating a recovery pipeline that starts at the Overdose Prevention Sites and links people to housing, food, and other supports

5

Require an anti-racism and cultural safety course for all first responders, front line workers and other partner agencies and institutions, and encourage them to audit their processes, policies, and laws to ensure that they honour and respect Sḵw̓x̓wú7mesh nexwníw.

While this is a very specific idea compared to the others on this list, the Task Force believes that it is an essential step in leveraging the capacity of community safety partners as well as reducing harm from service providers. Working relationships with the Sḵw̓x̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw should be rooted in a respect for and knowledge of who the Sḵw̓x̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw are and what they value. That is why we’re calling for all partners of Sḵw̓x̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw to take a mandatory Sḵw̓x̓wú7mesh- designed and led-course that will introduce them to your history, people, communities, culture, values, and governance.

Examples that inspired us:

- Indigenous Engagement and Cultural Safety Guidebook
- Sḵw̓x̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw Cultural Awareness/Cultural Orientation for Rights and Title Department (Designed by Elizabeth Ross)
- San’yas Indigenous Cultural Safety Training Program

6

Develop a transportation plan that provides safe transportation between and within communities, with connections to services and important cultural sites on the land.

Connecting Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh people with each other, their families, and their communities, as well as to the services and cultural sites they need, shows up as a major item in the Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw's strategic plan. This is how Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh people can feel included and a sense of belonging. However, we heard in the engagement that many people feel that their transportation options are unsafe. A plan would identify what is needed and make it possible to get support from neighbouring municipalities and districts, the Province, and potential partners, like BC Transit and TransLink, that could help make this happen.

Examples that inspired us:

- First Nation Student Transportation Fund Planning, and identified Guiding Principles for Developing Joint First Nation Student Transportation Plans
- Active Transportation Plan for Bonaparte First Nation
- 74 active transportation planning projects for Indigenous communities in B.C.
- Westbank First Nation Active Transportation Plan

7

Design for community safety and require planning for social infrastructure and services concurrently with all new housing and community infrastructure.

Research has shown that planning for the interconnectedness of housing, social services, and infrastructure is the most effective way to provide appropriate housing, especially to those with the most acute needs. With a range of Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw-led housing projects underway, the timing for this type of planning couldn't be any better. In addition, considerations about safety are best incorporated in the design phase. For example, what is the lighting like, are the building and units accessible for people with disabilities, are there sidewalks and green space, how will the entry and exit points intersect with traffic, where are the cross walks, are the hallways wide enough, and is there a place for garbage, recycling, and compost.

Examples that inspired us:

- Tsawwassen First Nation 2021-2026 Housing Needs Report and shared experiences with building a lot of new housing within a short time
- Indigenous Housing: The Direction Home addresses Indigenous -led effective housing initiatives that support wrap-around service delivery
- CPTED Principles

8

Address family violence and Elder abuse.

We learned that many community members do not talk about family violence, abuse, and neglect due to shame, a fear of being abandoned, or a fear of getting the people they love into trouble. Some community members also don't feel comfortable reporting to the police, and some don't believe anything can be done. Developing a plan, based on best practices in other communities, is an essential step to deal with this critical issue and would help end the stigma surrounding family violence and Elder abuse and neglect.

Examples that inspired us:

- Muskoday First Nation Intervention Circle – Community and Family Violence Elimination Initiative
- First Nation Health Authority - Elder Abuse Awareness and BC Elders' Guide

9

Create a trauma-informed Community Safety Team Program.

A strong theme we heard in both the research and from community members was the value of having a person to connect with during a crisis who understands the context. A Sḱwḱwú7mesh Úxwumixw-created team that is both a tool of prevention and crisis response, and that is trained in dealing with trauma survivors, would be one way to do this. Recognizing that this may take some time to create a good first step may be a Sḱwḱwú7mesh Úxwumixw 24/7 hotline that is safe, trauma-informed, and Sḱwḱwú7mesh-based for community members to report on what's going on and to be connected to the most appropriate service provider.

Examples that inspired us:

- We don't have to look far for inspiration and promising practices as there are more than 20 similar programs across Canada, including two in B.C. (Williams Lake First Nation / T'exelcemic and Westbank First Nation). We can also draw lessons from the Bear Clan Patrol in Winnipeg and the First Nations Community Safety Officer programs in Saskatchewan, Yukon, and Manitoba
- Kwanlin Dün First Nation Community Safety Officer Program

10

Build housing as fast as possible.

Every personal and community safety problem ultimately intersects with housing. The Task Force believes the Sḱwḱwú7mesh Úxwumixw has a role to play in facilitating safe housing for all Sḱwḱwú7mesh people and applauds the goal of the Sḱwḱwú7mesh Úxwumixw to house every Sḱwḱwú7mesh person in safe, affordable, and adequate housing within a generation. The faster that this housing is built – on reserve or with government partners off reserve – the faster the safety of every Sḱwḱwú7mesh person is achievable.

Examples that inspired us:

- Hiyám Housing, not-for-profit organization mandated to lead the development and management of non-profit affordable housing for the Sḱwḱwú7mesh people
- Nch'káy Development Corporation, economic development arm of the Sḱwḱwú7mesh Úxwumixw. Current housing projects include Sehákw

11

Outreach to those most at risk.

There are Skwxwú7mesh people living in situations away from Skwxwú7mesh communities that leave them very vulnerable. Relationship-based outreach to these people could be a catalyst to finding safe housing, culturally appropriate services, and accessing healing and wellness. Reaching everyone in this situation may seem daunting: starting close to home in the Downtown Eastside is an opportunity to have an impact while also developing the capacity needed to do further outreach.

Examples that inspired us:

- Kílala Lelum (Urban Indigenous Health and Healing Cooperative) – Health Centre and programs that provide “wrap around” care
- Vancouver Aboriginal Community Policing Centre and the DTES Circle of Grandmothers



Conclusion

We are deeply grateful to the Public Safety Task Force for supporting the critical development of a Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw community safety plan. We have treasured the relationships we've built with each other, as well as the ones we've deepened with Skwxwú7mesh community members, who have dedicated their time, perspectives, and resources into keeping Skwxwú7mesh lands and people safe over many, many years.

The draft report and high-level framework and recommendations were presented to Nexwsxwníwntm ta Úxwumixw in early August 2023. Council approved both unanimously and then directed staff to adopt the framework and recommendations in their departmental work plans. Shortly afterward, the Public Safety Department adopted the framework and recommendations as its strategic plan for the next five years.

As a first step toward implementation, the Public Safety Department has pulled out the key parts of the final draft report to Council, and created this report. The Public Safety Department is committed to working closely with staff to implement the 4 Xíxtsem and 11 Big Ideas, and we will continue to seek input on key projects and new initiatives to ensure the needs of the community are met. As opportunities arise during the next few years to develop and implement additional ideas other than those outlined in the report, we will be sure to provide community members and Nexwsxwníwntm ta Úxwumixw with updates along the way.

Public Safety Task Force

Members of the Public Safety Task Force included representatives from:

BC First Nations Justice Council
First Nations Health Authority
Atira Women's Resource Society
Nexwsxwníwntm ta Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation Council)
City of Vancouver

The task force was supported by a facilitator and research and the following staff and consultant team:

Chief Administrative Officer
Public Safety Commissioner
Special Projects Manager

For More Information

public_safety@squamish.net

Recommendations at a Glance

<p>4 Xíxtsem</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nexwniów [Behaviour on the land and in the waters.] 2. Téywilhntm na7 ta eńut [Be protected at home.] 3. Téywilhntm na7 ta úxwumixw [Be protected in the community/village(s).] 4. Téywilhntm na7 ta temíxw [Be protected on the land.]
<p>11 Big Ideas</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish a Community Justice System. 2. Increase capacity to enforce Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw laws, bylaws, policies, and values. 3. Address disparities and ensure equitable protection. 4. Take immediate action to address toxic drug crisis. 5. Require an anti-racism and cultural safety course for all first responders, front line workers and other partner agencies and institutions, and encourage them to audit their processes, policies, and laws to ensure that they honour and respect Skwxwú7mesh nexwniów. 6. Develop a transportation plan that provides safe transportation between and within communities, with connections to services and important cultural sites on the land. 7. Design for community safety and require planning for social infrastructure and services concurrently with all new housing and community infrastructure. 8. Address family violence and Elder abuse. 9. Create a trauma-informed Community Safety Team Program. 10. Build housing as fast as possible. 11. Outreach to those most at risk.

We would like thank Ta na wa Ns7éyx nitm ta Snewíyelh, the Language and Culture Department, for identifying the appropriate Squamish terms for our ideas. Also, thanks to the Print and Production team for designing this report and other materials we needed throughout the entire process. And, thanks to the Communications and Engagement team for helping with content and digital engagement. The collective effort of everyone made this work possible.

Copyright © 2023 by the Squamish Nation

All rights reserved. This report or any portion thereof may not be reproduced or used in any manner whatsoever without the express written permission of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw.







Skwxwú7mesh
Úxwumixw

Squamish Nation

Ta na wa Téywilháylhem | The Ones Protecting The Descendants