

Squamish Nation Budgeting Process

Opportunities to Engage

BudgetTalks

Every year, the Squamish Nation develops a budget to align its spending with its upcoming priorities. From programs and events, to capital projects, to staffing costs, the budget outlines all resources required by the Squamish Nation to provide programs and services to our members and to invest in our future.

Building on this formal budgeting process introduced last year, the Squamish Nation is engaging with members to understand what programs and services mean the most to the community. The Nation will then incorporate this input into the next cycle of budget planning.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, to keep our community safe we will not be conducting any in-person events this year. Instead the Nation will be hosting two live online events and a survey.

You can find all the details and information about how join the online events and access the survey at squamish.net/budgettalks. Your feedback is central to this process and will inform the next cycle of budget planning.

Online presentation and Q&A

Learn about the budgeting process through two online live events.

When

February 25, 2021 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm
March 3, 2021 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

More information about how to participate in the online events will be shared at squamish.net/budgettalks

Take the online survey

Engage with the draft budget by participating in an online survey. The survey will run from **February 22 to March 7** and is open to all members. Survey participants will be entered to win a \$150 gift card (a guaranteed prize for one youth, adult, and Elder).



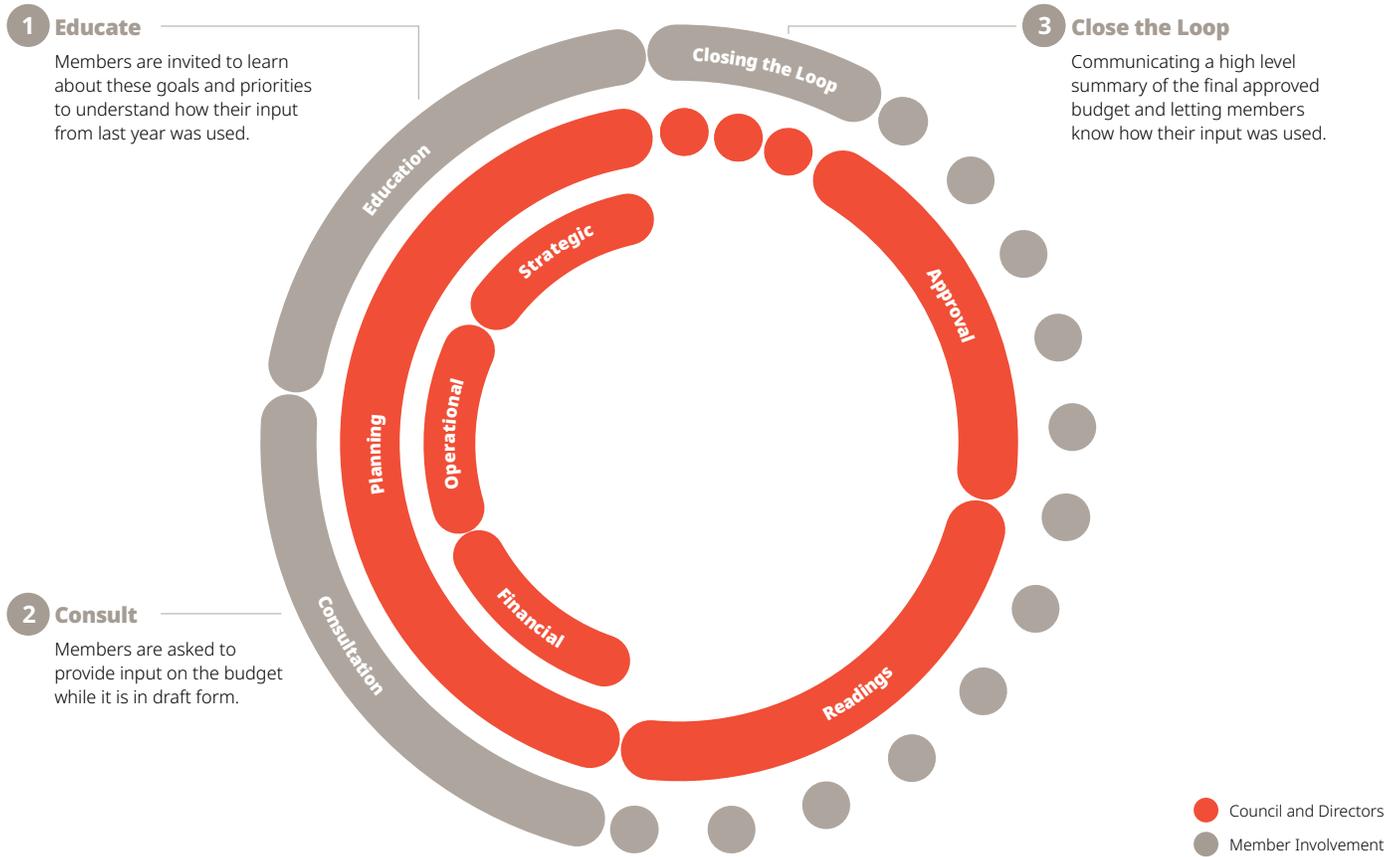
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Squamish Nation

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During the Education Phase last fall, you learned about the budget process through Facebook videos, a quiz, and the Squamish Nation newsletter. Now it's time to use that knowledge to inform your input on the budget while it's being developed.



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Frequently Asked Questions

BudgetTalks

Who is responsible for the budgets?

All budget owners are held accountable for budget development with ongoing monitoring by the Director of Finance, Managing Directors, the Finance and Audit Committee and ultimately Council.

This year our Director of Finance hosted budget refresher training for all budget owners and also hosted a session to train budget owners on a newly developed budget submission template. On an annual basis, budget owners are required to attend refresher training sessions. As members, you are also encouraged to tell us what departments and services you'd like to receive more or less funding.

What role do members play in the new budgeting process?

Included in our Budget and Planning Policy are guidelines for community input and engagement. Input and engagement is done in two phases, awareness and education, and gathering input.

Phase 1 focuses on public education regarding key planning documents, budget development processes, and department programs and services. Phase 2 focuses on gathering input on community priorities and resource allocation. We want to hear from all of our members during each phase, ensuring appropriate representation from our Elders, youth, advisory groups, and those living within and away from our communities.

How has the budget changed?

Gone are the days of 'turn-key' or 'roll-forward' budgets. We are now in the second year of our budgeting transformation process that began with Council's approval of our Budget and Planning Policy in November 2019.

The new model establishes a robust set of processes, responsibilities, and budgeting requirements that demand detailed analysis, planning, and justification for all spending. We have incorporated your feedback from last year and are asking you to share your thoughts on priorities for this year.

What will happen with the input received from members?

Input and feedback from members will help improve the Nation's understanding of the community's needs, values, and priorities.

It will also help to ensure that we have allocated resources to priorities that are most important to the community.

What we heard

Feedback from last year's BudgetTalks follow-up survey

Off reserve participation

Moving this year's engagement events to an online platform allows members, regardless of physical location, to engage with the same material while adhering to COVID-19 guidelines.

The views of Squamish Nation members — whether they be on the North Shore, in the Squamish Valley, elsewhere in North America, or around the world — are valuable to this process.

Continuing the conversation

While we have two scheduled engagement events and a two week long survey, the opportunities for providing feedback on the budget are not limited to these instances.

Understanding the needs, interests, and priorities of members is an ongoing and welcomed discussion by Council and all Department Directors.

To provide feedback on the budget throughout the year, email your thoughts to budgettalks@squamish.net.



Squamish Nation Budgeting Process

Updating the Squamish Nation's legal financial framework



The Squamish Nation is planning to transition from our Financial Administration By-law to a Financial Administration Law. As far as our financial management framework and policies are concerned, there will be no substantial change and we will continue to be bound to the benchmark standards set by the Financial Management Board. The opportunities that become available by adopting the Financial Administration Law are where things get exciting.

These opportunities include: 1) Access to affordable financing options available to other orders of government. 2) Access to a 10-year grant through Indigenous Services Canada (at our discretion). 3) Access to advanced training, workshops and advice as we strive to implement our Financial Administration Law.

Find out more

Join us for an online workshop on
March 9, 2021 from 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

See a presentation by the Financial Management Board (FMB) that includes:

- Features of the FMB's Financial Administration Law
- Potential benefits of adopting the FMB's Financial Administration Law
- What the FMB is and what it does
- How the FMB can support the Squamish Nation

You can also ask key questions of Squamish Nation staff and Council such as:

- Why are we changing the current by-law?
- How is the FMB's Financial Administration Law different from the Squamish Nation's current by-law?
- Why did we develop our own by-law in 2019 instead of adopting the FMB's Financial Administration Law at that time?

You can learn more about the Financial Management Board and the Financial Administration Law on their website at www.fnfmb.com.

Login information for the workshop on March 9 will be posted on the Squamish Nation website at www.squamish.net/budgettalks and on Facebook and Twitter closer to the date.

