



## NEWS RELEASE

### Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumíxw (Squamish Nation) closes Riverside Trailer Park

**SQUAMISH, B.C.** – (Sept. 29, 2017) – A portion of the Riverside Trailer Park located on the 9.54 acre property controlled by the Squamish Nation on what is known as Siyí7ch'em (Seaichem) Reserve is closing as scheduled on Sept. 30, 2017. More than a year ago, on Sept. 8, 2016, the Squamish Nation announced the closure of the trailer park for business purposes, a decision driven in part by health and safety concerns for the residents.

Squamish Nation looked at all of the options available to keep the park open but concluded that the operation of the trailer park was not a viable business, as the trailer park needed significant capital investment to replace outdated water and sewer infrastructure. The cost of capital investment was estimated at \$500,000 plus additional costs to connect the system to the District's water and sewage systems and to perform park upgrades. Rental payments for the units located in the trailer park were \$400 per month, which was not sufficient to pay for Squamish Nation's substantial expenses for the required water and sewer infrastructure as well as maintenance, office administration, property management and utilities.

The 19 tenants, who had been renting sites on Lots 6 and 7 of Siyí7ch'em Reserve on a month-by-month basis since December 2012, were provided with a full year of notice to relocate from the trailer park. The tenants were required to remove their mobile homes and any other leasehold improvements before the end of that one-year period at their own expense. Those who signed agreements to relocate by Sept. 30, 2017 were allowed to remain in the trailer park rent-free. Six tenants left early and received additional payments ranging from \$4,800 to \$9,600 for vacating the reserve.

As of Sept. 29, 2017, 16 tenants have vacated the trailer park. The remaining three tenants have indicated that they will be moving out by Sept. 30, 2017.

“The Squamish Nation has dedicated itself to treating all tenants fairly during the one-year, rent-free, notice and relocation period,” said Squamish Nation Councilor and Spokesperson Chris Lewis. “We wish to thank our former tenants for their understanding. We looked for ways to keep the park open but in the end, closing the park was the only option left for us.”

**For more information contact:**

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