



February 8, 2018

Update from Council

Dear Squamish Nation Members,

Since being elected on December 10th, 2018, your Council has been busy strategizing ways to create more trust between our people and Council. We are also working hard to become informed on all matters, issues, and projects that were under way when we began this term. One of our main priorities is to continually communicate our recent actions as well as our future plans. This is the first of many updates, thanks for your support and patience.

ACTIONS:

In the 27 work days since we signed the oath of office, we have taken immediate action on the following critical issues:

- Amended the existing *Governance Manual* to:
 - Go through a legal review by Clark Wilson LLP to address sections that were contradictory, inconsistent, and could be made simpler.
 - Allow individual Councilors to engage with Membership and to express their opinion on most matters except those that may require some confidentiality.
 - Require Council Minutes be posted online (starting Feb 13, 2018)
 - Require Council Meetings to be livestreamed (starting Feb 13, 2018)
 - Require attendance records for Council meetings and committee meetings be posted online every quarter (beginning April 2018)
 - Include rules for “in-camera” to limit the frequency, and that the minutes must record under which reason the meeting was held in-camera.
- Approved taking the Fraser River Sockeye Fisheries case to the BC Supreme Court of Appeal to defend our people’s rights to sockeye salmon from the Fraser River.
- Approved the appointment of Jacob Lewis, Carla George, Kristen Rivers, Dustin Rivers, and Marcus Wooden to the Council “Finance and Audit Committee” to help oversee our Finances and develop a proper Financial Management Policy in draft form for consideration.
- Approved the development of a Whistleblower Policy to encourage employees and others to make good faith reports of suspected fraud, corruption, or other improper activity
- Approved 15 housing allocations for the first time since 2011.
- Approved funding support for the Jr. All Native Basketball Tournament on March 19th-23rd, 2018 hosted by the Squamish Nation.
- Approved replacing Jacob Lewis with Taylor George-Hollis as Squamish Nation Trustee. Taylor was the existing alternative for the Squamish Nation Trust and we congratulate her on her appointment.
- Approved the development of an Economic Development Group so Nation-owned businesses and partnerships can grow our financial wealth.
- Approved the development of Council Committees and Community Advisory Committees, starting with an Elders Advisory, Youth Advisory, Housing Advisory, and Finance & Budget Advisory.

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UPDATES:

We have received updates on:

- Federal Fisheries court case regarding Fraser River Sockeye
- Financial reports from April 2017-December 2017.
- Additions-to-Reserve Lands around Squamish Valley
- **Wíw̓kəm** (Wiwikum) 13-plex Project
- McNab Creek Gravel Pit Project by Burnco
- Capilano RV Park Court Case
- Housing Development Project at **Señákw** (Kitsilano Reserve)
- Housing Development Projects with Michael Hutchinson
- **Xwmełch'stn** (Capilano Reserve) Housing Projects
- Cheakamus Forestry and Silviculture Projects
- Restructuring IRR&R into a new Economic Development Group

ORGANIZATIONAL REVIEW & RESTRUCTURING:

Recently, Council communicated to the Squamish Nation staff that the Executive Operating Officer of Program & Service Delivery, and Department Head of Finance, Accounting, and Technology no longer work for the Squamish Nation. These employees will be moving on to new opportunities and we thank them for their many years of service to the Squamish Nation. Our message to our community regarding these significant changes is that our Council is beginning a restructuring process of our leading management that includes restructuring the position of Executive Operating Officer of Intergovernmental Relations, Negotiation, and Business Revenue.

To assist with the interim transition period, Council Co-Chairs have asked Department Head Monica Jacobs to work with Co-Chairs and her fellow Department Head colleagues as

a temporary liaison between Co-Chairs & Council and the Departments. Monica Jacobs is the longest serving Department Head. She has been with the Squamish Nation for 25 years with 15 years of experience as a Department Head. We extended our deepest thanks to Monica for accepting this role and helping us during this restructuring.

In the coming years, the Squamish Nation will face growing challenges and we have begun a restructuring process to modernize our organization to meet these challenges. We see this as an opportunity for growth and to improve on the work done already. There are an immense number of opportunities for our Nation and our people and we have to restructure to maximize these opportunities. Our plan is to meet the growing demands, to grow our nation's revenue, and be a highly productive organization. Our staff is an integral part of this work and we'll continue restructuring, with community input, to make our nation successful.

Council met on February 1st to prioritize and strategize our Economic Opportunities



LOOKING AHEAD

For the next six months, Council looks towards the future to:

- Begin the development of a draft Financial Management policy to ensure our nation's monies are protected and well looked after, meeting reporting requirements, and requiring our peoples' consultation on the budget-making process.
- Continue the exploration and development of the Economic Development Group to grow our revenue and expand our success in business.
- Receive full and comprehensive orientations from all Departments.
- Develop more housing and more housing options for our people.
- Bring back General Meetings and support making General Meetings successful.
- Begin multimedia updates from Council to Membership on our activities and decisions.

We look forward to reaching out to you again soon and we thank you for taking the time to read our update.