



**Sk̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh
Ú̓x̓w̓ú̓m̓ix̓w**

Squamish Nation

Sk̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh Ú̓x̓w̓ú̓m̓ix̓w

Ta na wa Yúus ta Stitúyntsám'-Rights and Title Department

**Ancestral Remains Interim Policy for
External Stakeholders**

Ancestral Remains Interim Policy for External Stakeholders

Date of Approval: 2021-04-30
Date of Next Review/Review Cycle: TBD
Supersedes: New
Policy Owner: Peter Baker, Director, Rights and Title Department

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Role	Responsibility:
Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final Approval
Peter Baker, Director, Rights and Title Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review, implementation, and management of Ancestral Remains Interim Policy for External Stakeholders
Nick Weber, Archaeology Manager, Rights and Title Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First point of contact upon stopping work due to Chance Find• Advise and oversee all archaeological procedures
On site archaeological field director/supervisor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify human remains• Communicate nature of remains to Archaeology Manager, Rights and Title Department

Introduction

This Ancestral Remains Interim Policy for External Stakeholders is a supplementary and supporting document to the Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw Heritage Policy.

Areas of the Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw territory may have overlap territory with neighboring First Nations. The Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw shall endeavor to follow any relevant intergovernmental agreements with neighboring First Nations.

Ancestral Remains Policy for External Stakeholders – Archaeological Procedures

Stop Work: In the event that suspected human remains are encountered, all work in the vicinity of the remains will stop. The on-site archaeological field director/supervisor will examine the suspected remains and determine a) if the remains are human, and b) if the remains are from an archaeological or forensic context.

- If the remains are found to be human, but cannot be confirmed as archaeological (or are confirmed as forensic), then the proponent, RCMP, BC Coroners Service, participating First Nations, and BC Archaeology Branch must be notified.
- If the remains are found to be human, and are confirmed as archaeological (Ancestral Remains), then the participating First Nations, proponent, and BC Archaeology Branch must be notified.

Limit Access: Uncovered Ancestral Remains will be protected from general viewing and weathering with a suitable ground-based (e.g., soil) barrier, and foot traffic in the area will be immediately limited to required archaeological field personnel and representatives of involved First Nations. Only these individuals will work to further identify and manage the remains as is necessary and appropriate.

Develop Work Plan: On-site archaeological field director/supervisor will communicate the nature of the remains to the Squamish Nation Archaeological Manager (Nick Weber) and/or Cultural and Technical Manager (Ray Natraoro). Pertinent information will include:

- Specific location of remains
- Archaeological context (intact vs. disturbed deposits)
- Degree of integrity (complete individual/burial, or isolated element)
- Number of individuals represented (if possible), and number of identified elements

Where necessary for communication purposes, and with the permission of all participating First Nations, photos may be taken of the Ancestral Remains and sent to the Squamish Nation Managers by email or text for further examination, during the initial notification period. Squamish Nation Archaeological and Cultural Managers will

work with the on-site archaeological field director/supervisor to determine a manner of Ancestral Remains removal and transport in a culturally-sensitive manner. **Once the Work Plan is set, the on-site archaeological field director/supervisor will notify all participating First Nations and the BC Archaeology Branch prior to activating the Work Plan.**

Cultural Time and Space: Prior to starting any work, time and space will be made available for any appropriate cultural ceremonies that may be required before further disturbing the remains. The appropriate collection of Ancestral Remains may require cultural ceremonies such as cleansing. Time and space will be provided to prepare both materials and workers chosen to handle the remains. Materials may include cedar boughs, red cotton blankets, wool blankets, paper bags, and cardboard boxes.

Squamish Nation will have ochre, Labrador Tea, or cedar boxes on hand. Squamish Nation will discuss procurement of these items with First Nations as part of the work plan. While these materials are not provided, time and space to prepare and utilize these materials will be provided.

Once the Ancestral Remains leave the site, time and space will be provided for discussion and ceremony as required.

Previously Disturbed Remains

If Ancestral Remains have been identified as isolated / highly fragmented elements within a highly disturbed context, additional work may be increased to 100% sampling of the surrounding area to maximize the recovery rate. Once this Work Plan is in place, identification of additional Ancestral Remains in the same state, from the same location and context do not need to be immediately communicated – they may be communicated at the conclusion of the field day. Squamish Nation expects that the on-site archaeological field director/supervisor will maintain a close communication with the on-site Squamish Nation representative, so that the representative comfortably understands the situation.

Estimated Time Requirements: Time requirements are based on the Field director/supervisor communicating the nature and context of the Ancestral Remains to the Squamish Nation by phone, the development of an appropriate work plan for recovery, and coordination of any required cultural ceremonies/processes. Estimated Time Cost 1-8 hours.

Intact Burial Features

If Ancestral Remains are identified as potentially from an intact burial feature:

- The Squamish Nation expects that the on-site archaeological field director/supervisor will communicate this to the Squamish Nation, and will be prepared to: a) examine the surrounding area and anticipate whether or not

additional burial features may be present, and b) record in as much detail as possible the burial feature prior to excavation (feature measurements, surrounding sediments, identified elements and precise element disposition)

- The remains will be recorded as set out in the work plan, and in regard to obligations as specified in the Squamish Nation Heritage Policy and Permit requirements along with any associated requirements related to the issued British Columbia Heritage Conservation Act permit. This can be done through the use of notes, mapping and sketches. Photographs may be taken with permission of all participating First Nations. Excavation and collection of the remains will be carried out according to the agreed upon work plan.
- When approved by the Nation, careful hand excavation will commence to remove the elements. The on-site archaeological field director/supervisor will work with the Cultural Manager to place the remains into a culturally-appropriate container that includes additional culturally-appropriate materials (e.g., cedar boughs, blankets, etc.)
- The Ancestral Remains will be removed to a secure location that is mutually agreed upon by the participating First Nations, the Squamish Nation, and the archaeologist.

Estimated Time Requirements: Time requirements are based on the Field director/supervisor communicating the nature and context of the Ancestral Remains to the Squamish Nation by phone, the development of an appropriate work plan for recovery, and coordination of any required cultural ceremonies/processes. Estimated Time Cost 8-24 hours for an intact burial of one ancestor.

Curation: Once collected, the Ancestral Remains will be transported to the repository stated in the Squamish Nation and BC Archaeology Branch permits. If remains cannot be transported directly to the repository from the site, they will be kept in a secure location on or off site until they can be appropriately delivered.

Analysis and Reporting: With permission from the Squamish Nation, at the conclusion of the fieldwork, the on-site archaeological field director/supervisor may obtain access to the recovered Ancestral Remains for detailed analysis to be included in the final permit report delivered to the Squamish Nation. The Nation will communicate to the archaeologist the degree of detail/information that is appropriate to report on.