



**Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw**

Squamish Nation

## **Message to Community – Papal Visit to Canada and Apology**

July 27, 2022

Ta newyáp Squamish Nation Members,

This week Pope Francis is visiting First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities across the country to listen once again and address the participation of the Catholic Church in the operation of residential schools throughout Canada.

On July 25 at Maskwacis, Alberta, the Pope acknowledged the many harms caused to generations of Indigenous People. He apologized and asked forgiveness for the ways in which members of the Church participated in cultural destruction and forced assimilation. If you would like to read the full text of the apology, it is available [here](#).

The Papal visit and apology on our territories is another important step forward on our path towards lasting reconciliation, as was the sorrow and shame he expressed to delegates in April at the Vatican. Chairperson Khelsilem and Councillor and residential school survivor Sempúlyan represented the Nation in Rome with a secondary group of delegates alongside the Assembly of First Nations (AFN). Sempúlyan presented a blanket to Pope Francis.

wa chexw yuusténa'mut. Take care of yourself. We understand that this week is difficult for some of our Members. Ayás Mé'nmen (Child & Family Services) and Yúustway (Health & Wellness) offer a variety of wellness and healing supports, including traditional land-based practices. You can find more information in the [Yúusnewas Wellness Guide](#).

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If you have any questions, information, or concerns, you can reach those working on the Yúusnewas Project by email at [yuusnewas@squamish.net](mailto:yuusnewas@squamish.net).

Chet wanáxwstúmi (respectfully),

Council Spokespersons  
Syexwáliya, Ann Whonnock and Sxwíxwtn, Wilson Williams