

# Squamish Nation Excellence Gala 2023 – Celebrating 100 Years of Unity

## Excellence Awards Nomination Guide & Tips

### **AWARDS OVERVIEW**

In the spirit of celebrating 100 years of Amalgamation, the Squamish Nation will be hosting an Excellence Awards Gala on July 15, 2023, as part of the Sk̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh Days Festival 2023. We want to formally recognize Squamish Nation Members who go above and beyond in their dedication and service to others. Each award will honour individuals who have demonstrated excellence in Arts, Culture, Language, Sports, Business, Community Service and Leadership. Squamish members who receive an award will have exhibited our Snewíyelh, our Squamish people's guiding principles of: Respect, Caring, Sharing, Nurturing, Love, and Humbleness in their areas of interest.

### **WHY NOMINATE?**

The Excellence Gala provides an opportunity to publicly acknowledge the transformative efforts of individuals who raise the quality and character of our community and, in doing so, inspire others to do the same.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Monday, March 13**

Nominations **OPEN (open for 6 weeks)**

**Friday, April 21**

Nominations **CLOSE at 11:59 pm**

**Last week of April**

Award Winners Notified

**Saturday, July 15**

**Awards Gala at the Westin Bayshore (details TBA)**

**The completed form and all nomination materials must be submitted by: April 21 @ 11:59 pm for the nomination to be considered.**

### **WHO CAN NOMINATE?**

Any Nation Member, community member, Squamish Nation staff member, and Squamish Nation business partner or schools may submit nominations.

### **ELIGIBILITY / WHO CAN BE NOMINATED?**

Squamish Nation Members aged 13 and up (must be 13 years old before the closing deadline to be eligible), who have made a significant contribution to their communities or have worked hard to become successful and inspire others are eligible. Their contributions must be through volunteer, education or professional work in the following categories:

2 - Arts

2 - Business Innovation

2 - Culture

2 - Community Service

2 - Sports

2 – Emerging Leader

2 - Language

### **Total of 14 Awards**

### **ARTS may include the following, but not limited to:**

- Carving
- Singing
- Dancing
- Painting
- Poetry

- Literature
- Digital / Graphic design
- Traditional or contemporary arts
- Visual performance

**CULTURE may include the following, but not limited to:**

- Ceremonial work
- Traditional knowledge sharing
- Working on land, long house, storytelling, singing
- Teaching other Members

**LANGUAGE may include the following, but not limited to:**

- Sharing knowledge of language
- Formal / informal teaching
- Documenting the language
- Revitalizing the language
- Promoting the language
- Creating / developing curriculum
- Language learners (beginners to fluent speakers)
- Innovation

**SPORTS may include the following, but not limited to:**

- Recreation
- Professional athletes
- Decorated or Elite Athletes
- Mentoring / Coaching
- Members dedicated to their sports
- Community focused
- Lifetime achievement specifically in sport

**COMMUNITY SERVICE may include the following, but not limited to:**

- Exhibits Squamish values of pride in community
- Community projects promoting and organizing
- Volunteer for community
- Taking care of our community
- Land guardians
- Organizing significant events, such as 2SLGBTQIA+, MMIW, or more

**EMERGING LEADER**

- Demonstrates initiative
- Showing leadership
- Having passion for projects of Squamish Nation initiatives
- A member who displays commitment for their field
- Motivational speakers
- Shows mentorship to others

**BUSINESS INNOVATION may include the following, but not limited to:**

- Business impact
- Entrepreneur
- E-commerce
- Youth entrepreneur
- Self-employed
- Mentorship
- Aptitude in sales, marketing, finance
- Small to large businesses

**The following nominations are not eligible:**

- Self-nominations
- Posthumous nominations
- The Award Gala Selection Committee members
- Groups of 2 or more people
- Current elected Council, Chair or Band Manager
- Incomplete nominations

**Note: Nominations of any individual under the age of 19 must include the written consent of the individual's parent or guardian.**

## HOW TO NOMINATE / APPLY

Apply online at [www.squamish.net/excellence-awards](http://www.squamish.net/excellence-awards)

We encourage applications to be submitted through our online form with attachments, however we will accept your completed handwritten nomination package if you are unable to apply online (print online nomination form). Completed nomination packages can be mailed to 320 Seymour Boulevard, North Vancouver, BC V7J 2J3 and it must be addressed to the "Squamish Nation Awards Gala Selection Committee".

**Nominator** – the person who wants to stand someone up and recognize them for their good work. This person must complete the nomination package, write a letter and include any optional materials to their nomination.

**Nominee** – the person who is to be recognized for their hard work if they are chosen to win an award. The nominee does not need to fill out any paperwork, however they need to give the nominator their contact info etc.

**Nomination supporter** – a person who is not a direct relative of the nominee that wishes to support the nominator and their nominee choice. This person must submit a nomination support letter.

The Nominator must complete the **online Nomination form** and include the following:

**Nominator name & contact information and statement about the length and duration of the relationship with the nominee** (max 175 words)

**Nominee name & contact information** (i.e., street & mailing address, phone number and email)

\*Nominators are encouraged to provide the nominee's website and social media handles, if applicable.

**Nominator Letter** detailing the contributions of the nominee and reasons for the nomination (max 450 words)

**One Nomination support letter** with written summary/letter that describes the value and impact of the nominee's contributions (max 450 words)

### **The Nomination Support letter should:**

- Be written by an individual (cannot be written by the nominator) who is able to speak about the impact of the nominee's achievements from first-hand experience
- Come from outside the nominee's immediate family (e.g., colleagues, teacher, other Squamish Nation Members or community members) in other words; cannot be a parent, uncle or aunty, sibling, grandparent, or child.
- Be current and *written specifically* for the Award Gala.
- Include the supporting nominator's name, address, phone, and email

***\*All letters should be addressed to the "Squamish Nation Awards Gala Selection Committee"***

### **Additional Materials – *Optional, but strongly recommended***

- Nominators have the option to submit materials such as biographical overview, newspaper articles, video or recorded testimonials, additional support letters, links to YouTube videos, photos, website links etc.
- A maximum of five items (10 pages total and five minutes of video) will be accepted
- All materials must be submitted electronically
- Note: each link submitted is considered one additional material

**Selection committee members are asked to review up to a maximum of 10 pages total and five minutes of video – anything beyond that may not be reviewed.**

## **TIPS FOR SUBMITTING A COMPELLING NOMINATION**

**A compelling nomination presents concrete examples and details about what makes the nominee 'outstanding' and how the nominee has gone above and beyond to raise the quality and character of their community.**

**The Nominator Letter should explain how the nominee has:**

- Been an advocate or champion in their work- or volunteer-related endeavors
- Enriched/touched the lives of others in their community
- Shown leadership, courage, and dedication
- Devoted or given their time and expertise to voluntary service
- Become a role model or mentor in their field
- Demonstrated excellence, innovation and/or creativity

**Other suggestions:**

- Provide an outline / summary of the nominee's life experiences, background, education, and training
- Address the length of time of the nominee's work- or volunteer-related experiences (months or years)
- List special appointments, awards or postings the nominee has received as a result of their contributions

**A compelling nomination letter may include other details such as:**

- How things were or the situation in the community prior to the nominee's efforts
- The sustainability of their contribution/s
- How their efforts have positively impacted the community
- Any extraordinary circumstances or challenges the nominee has faced
- Why the selection panel should select this submission above the others

**The Nominee Support letter should:**

- Provide examples of how the individual takes their role (job/profession) to a whole new level (i.e., describe their vision; explain how the nominee has 'unlocked doors that need to be unlocked' and/or what's the legacy of their work)
- Not simply state that an individual 'supports' the nomination

Strong nominations often use descriptive words to describe the nominees such as: advocate, innovator, leader, mentor, silent hero, supporter, trailblazer, unsung hero, visionary; admired, exemplary, extraordinary, inspirational, motivated, passionate, persevering, resilient, resourceful, tireless etc.

## **BEFORE YOU BEGIN**

- Ensure that you have ALL nominator and nominee contact information on hand (full name, street & mailing address, email and phone number)
- Have all documents ready to upload (i.e., letters, additional materials)
- Budget 15-20 minutes to complete the online form

## **REMINDERS**

- Request Supporting Nominee letters early on so they have time to write a strong letter of support (allow at least a week for someone to write the letter)
- Keep explanations clear and to the point when describing the nominee

## **SELECTION OF AWARD RECIPIENTS**

The decision of the SN Awards Gala Selection Committee is final. Nominees are notified only if selected for an award.

## **RECOGNITION OF AWARD RECIPIENTS**

Awardees will be recognized at a formal ceremony, the Excellence Awards Gala held at the Westin Bayshore in Downtown Vancouver on the evening of Saturday, July 15, 2023.

**Award winners, their nominators, and supporting nominators may be contacted by BrandLive in cooperation with the Squamish Nation to contribute to a short video filming session. We would like to capture a few words from each person to put together a short presentation during the awards ceremony, as part of the evening.**

PRIVACY POLICY: Photographs and information about the award recipients may be used for the promotion of the Award and other promotional activities (i.e., Squamish Nation's website, social media channels, in media releases etc.).

If you have any questions about the online nomination form, please contact **SquamishDays@squamish.net**