

# CHIYÁXW

## CHILD AND FAMILY LAW



Skwxwú7mesh  
Úxwumíxw

Squamish Nation

### ADVISORY GROUP OVERVIEW

The Chiyáxw Child and Family Law Project is guided by the **Knowledge Keepers Advisory Group** and **Members Advisory Group**. Members of these groups have been selected for their experience and interest in Squamish ways of caring for children, as well as their involvement in the Nation. Both groups meet monthly to advance their responsibilities, which are described in this overview.

### Knowledge Keepers Advisory Group



**Back L-R:** Kathy Nahanee Kwaltenat, Orene Johnston Stl'alalu, Henry Williams Chap7lana, Linda George Nekwsaliya, Dianne Natrall Skawlkin Tanat

**Front L-R:** Dave Jacobs Paitsmek, Andrea Jacobs Sla'wiya, Roberta "Jackie" Williams Tiaoutenaat

**Missing:** Kathy Carpenter, Kanani Nahanee Kelkach

**The Knowledge Keepers Advisory Group** is made up of ten Elders, Hereditary Chiefs, and traditional / cultural Knowledge Keepers.

#### Responsibilities include:

- Describing the traditional laws and models that keep children safe and support families (i.e., the teachings of the Longhouse)
- Providing Squamish cultural teachings related to family support practices (i.e., ceremony, healing, spiritual knowledge and practice)
- Advising on the impact of Residential Schools and need for healing as part of our services

#### Core recommendations so far:

- Need for Elders to support Members to understand the strength of our language and culture
- Healing as the first step towards positive life changes



**Some members will not know the strength of our language and culture, and our Elders will need to help with these teachings.**



**Chiyáxw was what we did and how we did it when a child, parent, or family needed help.**



## Members Advisory Group

**The Members Advisory Group** is made up of six Squamish Nation Members who work together to develop solutions to child and family needs and challenges. Their input is key to developing our future Child and Family Services Chiyáxw (law).

### Responsibilities include:

- Providing recommendations on how families can be supported to keep children safe
- Advising on the transition of child protection services to Squamish jurisdiction
- Identifying ways to change and improve our programs and services consistent with Squamish traditional practices
- Ensuring Squamish ways of being are at the core of our Law, policies, programs, and services

### Core recommendations so far:

- Chiyáxw must apply to all Nation members wherever they live
- The foundation of Chiyáxw must be centered on Squamish knowledge, culture, protocols, and support practices including ceremony and spiritual guidance
- Family will always be involved in making decisions about child safety



### Members Advisory Group and Secretariat

**Back L-R:** Susanne Paull (Secretariat), Jessica Natrall, Evelyn Lamont, Anjeanette Dawson Spelexilh, Renee Campbell (Secretariat)

**Front L-R:** Glen Newman, Steve Kozey (Secretariat)

**Missing:** Lorna Joseph, Lenore Baker



**Chiyáxw is about  
reclaiming our inherent  
rights to care for our  
children in a Squamish way.**

## Accomplishments So Far

The following changes have already been made to Ayás Méńmen services in response to Advisory Group recommendations:

- Information on Squamish history, culture, and family support practices is now included in the mandatory training for Ayás Méńmen staff
- Elders and Knowledge Keepers have been hired as part-time staff to help embed cultural teachings in all Ayás Méńmen programs and services (including Infant Development, Daycare, Guardianship, etc.)



### STAY CONNECTED!

**Website**  
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