



**Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumíxw**

Squamish Nation

## **Message to Community – Pope's Message to Vatican Delegation**

April 4, 2022

Ta newyáp Squamish Nation Members,

Last week, Indigenous delegates from across Canada met with Pope Francis at the Vatican in Rome as part of efforts to address the harms caused by Catholic run residential schools. We continue to promote the Indigenous right to culture, truth, and to heal in our own way. Chairperson Khelsilem and Councillor and residential school survivor Sempulyan represented the Nation with a secondary group of delegates alongside the Assembly of First Nations (AFN). Our delegates were sponsored to travel to Rome by the local Archdiocese.

In a general audience on April 1, after listening to Indigenous delegates, Pope Francis formally stated his sorrow and shame for the conduct of some members of the Catholic Church in the residential school system. If you would like to listen and reflect on this apology, it can be [viewed here](#).

This apology is an important step in our path towards lasting reconciliation for all Indigenous People. The Pope has stated his hope to visit Canada and we welcome a Papal apology in our territories as part of this ongoing dialogue.

Here at home, we are focused on the Yúusnewas project and the healing of our People. We are actively working to address the needs of our community and support each Member on their wellness journey. We remain committed to communicating to you as we move forward.

We understand that this past week has been difficult for many of our Members. Ayás Méńmen (Child & Family Services) and Yúustway (Health & Wellness) are here to offer wellness & healing supports.

Hannah Rushton – Team Leader, Wellness Services, Ayás Méńmen  
Phone: 778-233-4869 or 604-985-4111

Mackenzie Gomez – Community Health & Wellness, Yúustway  
Phone: 604-360-3911 or 604-982-0332

Chet wanáxwstúmi (respectfully),

Council Spokespersons  
Syexwáliya, Ann Whonnock and Sxwíxwtn, Wilson Williams